

INFORMING MEMBERS SINCE 1988

# MEMMO

OCTOBER  
2025

VOL. 37, NO. 8

EDITORIAL  
The Joy of the Harvest

FEATURE  
The Last "Amen"

NEWS  
Feeding Paw Paw?



## The Joy of the Harvest

I don't know of anyone who grows a garden so they can have the joy of pulling weeds. Weeding, tilling, hoeing, watering—they are all a part of gardening, but the real joy in gardening comes in harvesting. Whether it is picking that first juicy tomato, carefully watching over the blueberries until they are plump and perfect or waiting until the corn is full, tender and sweet, harvesting is what we anticipate.

**W**hen we taste the sweetness or the abundance of flavor that simply cannot be found at the grocery store, then it is that the endless battles with bugs or weeds fades into insignificance for the joy of the harvest.

There are no unpleasant jobs in soulwinning. Every phase of soulwinning is special and wonderful to see people advancing in their walk with Jesus. Yet, nothing can compare to the joy of seeing someone make a public stand for Jesus through baptism—this is the joy of harvesting! What a privilege we have as a conference, then, to collectively engage in the ministry of harvesting in this conference-wide year of public evangelism. To be clear though, public evangelism is not just about harvesting. In public evangelism, seeds of truth are sown, Bible study interests are cultivated, those who have already accepted Jesus are established and preserved in their faith. This is one of the reasons why I believe that the public proclamation of our message is “the greatest and most efficient mode of witnessing to the truth and making it impressive.”<sup>1</sup>

This fall will be a very exciting time for us across our conference—we can all work together in the harvest field! Around 150 churches and schools throughout Michigan have either held or will be holding events to publicly proclaim Jesus and His last day message. Most of these public evangelistic meetings will be beginning on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are excited for what the Lord is going to do across our state as the message



Cody Francis



INFORMING MEMBERS SINCE 1988

# MICHIGAN MEMO

Copyright © 2025 • All Rights Reserved  
October 2025 | Vol. 37, No. 8

The MICHIGAN MEMO, published by the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is a monthly publication, with the exception of June/July and a combined issue for November/December that totals nine publications per year. Correspondence mail can be sent to P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Printed and shipped from Seminars Unlimited, Keene, Texas.

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

# In soul winning, we don't worry about the time, effort or cost that went into seeing souls saved for eternity.

## God is on the move throughout Michigan!

is shared. You may have already seen yard signs, banners, billboards or social media advertisements sharing about the Keys to Revelation Bible prophecy seminars. With hundreds of thousands of invitations going out across the state, we want everyone within Michigan to have an opportunity to hear the three angels' messages.

God has already been working in mighty ways. This spring and summer there have been meetings where hundreds of people have come to study the Bible and learn the truths for this time. In the Upper Peninsula, both Marquette and Munising held meetings this spring. In the Berrien area, there were a couple of churches that both held meetings with solid interests who continue to study and grow in their faith. Over in the thumb, Port Sanilac and Bad Axe held meetings with dozens of non-Adventists coming to these small churches. In central Michigan, the little church of Marion held meetings that filled up their fellowship hall. The church was excited as more people from the community came than anyone could remember before and more than doubled their meeting attendance. In Brighton, on the outskirts of the metro-Detroit area, they held a free AMEN dental clinic and then began their meetings with several that have now committed to the Lord through baptism. In the western Michigan town of Ludington, there are several people that they are working with and seeking to lead to baptism. This summer, the First Flint church held a joint evangelistic series and VBS together with messages presented to both parents and children. Our schools also joined in the efforts with students from our various academies and elementary schools proclaiming the message, as well. This spring, most of our Spanish churches held small groups in their communities that then culminated in weeklong evangelistic efforts. God is on the move throughout Michigan! People are hearing the message of hope in Jesus. People are committing their lives to Jesus through baptism. People are learning deep truths from the Bible that they have never heard before.

People are joining God's remnant church. God is working! But this is just the beginning of what God is doing here in Michigan!

This spring and summer there have been 30 to 40 meetings, but this fall, we are looking at 100 plus meetings taking place in most churches throughout Michigan. God has blessed abundantly this spring, and we look forward to the joys of harvesting even more!

How can you be a part of the joys of harvesting this fall? If your local church is holding meetings (and it probably is), you have a wonderful opportunity to work together in sharing the message. I am sure that people are needed to serve on the prayer team, greeting ministry, registrars or visitation teams. Even just being there for the meetings is a tremendous help. If you are there, you will be blessed by hearing the message, but you will have opportunity to meet and engage with the guests. If every guest had a friend sitting by them and developing a friendship with them, so many more would be baptized!

If your church already held meetings this year or is planning to another time, you can still join with the entire Michigan family in praying that God will bless as we proclaim His message throughout our state. You might be able to find a church that is livestreaming their meetings to join virtually and invite your online friends to study the Bible this way. Whatever way you can, God has a place for your gifts in His harvest field! You can pray for God's special blessing, you can invite people to participate, you can be actively involved in the meetings, and you can develop friendships that will lead people into eternity. When you pick a ripe, juicy tomato (or whatever your favorite harvest is), you don't think of all the work and effort that went into that tomato, you think of the joy of the harvest. In soulwinning, we don't worry about the time, effort or cost that went into seeing souls saved for eternity. We rejoice with heaven in the joy of the harvest! 🍅

---

*By Cody Francis, Ministerial Director*

#### **Endnotes**

1 White, A.L., *Ellen G. White: The Australian Years: 1891-1900*, vol. 4 (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983), p. 427.

A family photo from 2005, with Bomki Kim's parents, older sister, and her spouse. From left to right: Gyungsil Park, Yejin Kim, Hyangsook An, Jungchul Kim and Bomki Kim (infant).



A screenshot from the Zoom call during which Jungchul Kim (center, waving) was baptized.

## The Last “Amen”

**“Miles apart, I watched God do what I could not—bring my father into His kingdom.”**

Over the years, ministry in Michigan has given me countless moments to reflect on God’s leading in my life. Yet some of the most powerful lessons have come, not through the pulpit, but through deeply personal experiences that tested my faith and shaped my walk with Him. This is one of those stories—told not from the vantage point of a pastor, but as a fellow believer learning to trust God’s heart, even when His answers look different than I expected.

I grew up with a mother who was a second-generation Adventist believer and a father who denied believing in Jesus more than anyone else. I always had two different ways of thinking battling in my mind. My mom taught me to love God through the Adventist faith, while my dad always emphasized worldly teaching. It was confusing

trying to figure out which way to go. Thankfully, the God within me always won that temptation.

From a young age, I had always admired my father. He was dedicated to family and always respected by others. Whenever there was a survey in school asking for the person I respected most, I always wrote my father’s name.

But at some point, I found my love for God growing stronger. I began to prefer listening to God’s Word more than my father’s advice. When I graduated from high school and went to college, my father wanted me to choose a better path in the world, but God guided me to study theology. And when it came to choosing my profession, my father wanted me to choose an easier path, but God led me to the path of ministry—a difficult and challenging one that requires complete humility. I chose to be a missionary in Japan during

my ministry, then decided to come to America to study theology. God always answered my prayers and guided my steps.

Every moment when I chose to live for God, I prayed for my father’s acceptance of faith in Jesus. I always prayed that if God would give me the opportunity, I could share the gospel with my beloved father. So, whenever I talked to my father on the phone, I always said, “Dad, do you know how much I truly respect you and love you? And I really wish you would believe in God.” My father never answered and just hung up, saying, “Take care of yourself, son.” Each time, I thought, “God will surely answer my prayers.” I always imagined the moment I would baptize him myself. My wife and I prayed for my father, waiting for that moment to arrive.

Then, in January 2022, I received a call from my father in the middle of the night. I groggily answered the

phone. But no sound came through. "Hello? Dad, did you call me?" Still no sound. After about a minute, I suddenly heard my father's voice. "Are you asleep?" "Yes." "Okay, sleep well. Son, I love you and I miss you." Then he hung up the phone. My dad was a very direct person; he wouldn't be the first to say "I miss you."

Feeling something was off, I immediately called my mother. "Hello?" Through the phone, I heard my mother's voice, trying to hold back tears. "Mom, what's wrong?" "Nothing, go to sleep quickly." My mother couldn't finish her sentence and was crying. "Mom, why are you crying?" After some minutes passed, she answered. "Well... your dad is a bit sick." My mother was crying again. "Mom, don't cry, calm down and tell me." "He... he has about three months left." I couldn't say anything, just listened to my mother's sobs for a minute. My hands were trembling so much I couldn't hold the phone. My mother hung up, saying we'd talk again tomorrow.

I had never experienced such a dark and desolate night. I couldn't do anything. As soon as morning broke, I called my mother again. My mother told me the cancer had already spread throughout my father's body, and there was nothing they could do. As soon as I hung up, I ran to God. "God, I clearly know what I should be doing at this moment. I know I should pray more for my father's healing. I know I should comfort and teach my struggling family Your Word. I know I should convey God's promises to my father. Lord, I know everything. But I can't do anything. I know it all in my head, but God, why can I not understand?"

As soon as I finished praying, I called my lawyer. I asked if it was possible for me to go to Korea. The lawyer's answer was "No." They said a crucial document was still under review, and I had to wait. As soon as I hung up, I went to the immigration office in Detroit. I explained that I had a truly urgent matter and needed to go to Korea, asking if there was any way. The answer I received was "No." I called my father again. I explained my situation. He said he understood, and we still had time left. But his words only caused me more pain.

There was only one way. There was no other way but to cling to God, who possesses all power and for whom nothing is impossible. I searched for every possible promise in the Bible. Philippians 4:13 (ESV): "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Mark 9:23 (ESV): "All things are possible for one who believes." Matthew 7:7 (ESV): "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." These were the scriptures I always used to encourage struggling believers.

I tried to encourage myself. "I believe God will

answer my prayers, so I'm not worried." Every day, I called my father and said, "Dad, I believe in my God." But time passed without any answer. My father's body grew weaker and weaker. Each time I hung up the phone, I repeatedly questioned God. "God, are You listening to my prayers?" But I grew increasingly anxious. COVID-19 was spreading, and immigration offices closed. Visa issuances were suspended. My situation showed no signs of improving, just like my father's illness. But I still had to preach about hope and faith every Sabbath.

Then May 2022. My father, who was given only three months to live, had survived for five months. Eventually, he was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit. One morning, he called me. "Son, I miss you. But even if I can't leave the hospital, don't forget that I love you." All I could say to my father was, "Father, I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry." I had read the promises of God countless times; I had preached them every week—none of this made sense. I knew everything in my head, but my heart simply couldn't accept it. I began to ask the Lord if I had done something wrong. Was my faith lacking? Was there a sin I hadn't repented of?

A week later, my father called me at night. "Son, I don't want you to regret your choices because of me. I miss you so much, and I miss my beloved grandchildren so much, but it's okay. I understand." I couldn't say anything. At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to me: "Now is the time. This is the very moment your prayer can be answered." I didn't understand what it meant. The Holy Spirit kept speaking to my heart: "Now is the time. Don't hesitate."

I said, "Dad, you can't imagine how much I miss you. I love you. But as you know, I cannot come to you. However, Father, our God can bring us together again. You must believe in Jesus. That's the only choice we can make right now. That's the only way I can meet you again."

My father, who had answered 'No' hundreds of times over decades, said, "Son, can I believe in your God now, too? Can someone like me be saved?"

I told him the story of the thief on the cross. I told him that the Lord was waiting to save him right now. And then I asked my father, "Father, do you



Bomki Kim poses for a photo with his father in 2017, shortly before his father moved to America.

**(continued on page 7)**



This outreach activity serves up to 230 households a month and has given the Paw Paw church a profound sense of working together for a good cause.

## Feeding Paw Paw?

If you were to drive into the parking lot of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Paw Paw, Michigan, on the second Wednesday of any month between April and November, you would notice several cars and pick-ups lined up in front of the church. You would also take note of the message on the electronic church sign: *Feeding America at Noon Today*.

Before long, volunteers begin setting up traffic cones in a go-kart track pattern. You soon realize this is designed to organize the growing line of cars into a manageable flow. One by one, additional cars arrive and are directed into formation to patiently wait for the distribution to begin. The “early birds” have arrived before sunrise.

Soon there are greeters at the entrance and along the route, welcoming each driver with a warm smile and kind words. Seeing these vehicles in position hours before the event begins tells a deeper story – some offer their unique and often difficult reasons for coming.

“I came today because my spouse lost his job and we have nothing to eat without this assistance; I have several children, and we just can’t keep up with the cost of food; I am dealing with a major health issue and can’t support myself; our electricity has been cut off and our living conditions are deplorable.” Each car represents real struggles, and appreciation is often voiced for the Adventist church’s help.

Not all those who enter the parking lot come with needs. Early one morning, a nice-looking pickup truck drove in and the driver approached one of the

organizers with a message: “I want you to know that the people of the community have taken note of what your church is doing, and we are so grateful. Here is a little something (\$100). We want to support what you are doing.”

As the morning passes, the lines of cars increase and fill the entire lot with rows of vehicles, each awaiting their turn for the process to begin. At 11:00, the activity really picks up as 25–40 volunteers arrive and take their positions. Although most of these volunteers, young and old, are church members, several community individuals have joined the effort. Church members relish the opportunity to work side by side with these caring people. Some of those receiving food have subsequently attended church functions and meetings.

About 11:20, the Feeding America truck arrives and positions itself for unloading. Volunteers encircle the truck and pull up tables to each side. Some items are prepackaged, while others are in bulk containers and need to be bagged. Once everything is ready, a parade of wagons—often pulled by the youth of the church when school is out—begins circling the truck, loading items for each family. At that point, the line of cars begins moving forward, and each vehicle is loaded with its allotment of food. The process is well managed, and the choreography of movement is a sight to behold.

From the loading zone you’ll hear: “Thank you,” “God bless you,” “You folks are wonderful,” “See you next month!” Big smiles and friendly waves are exchanged as each vehicle leaves the parking lot and blends back into the community.

This outreach activity serves up to 230 households a month (as many as 650 individuals) and has given the Paw Paw Adventist Church a profound sense of working together for a good cause. The fee to host this event is built into the local church budget, and the message of Acts 20:35 is experienced by all participants: the blessings of giving outweigh those of receiving.

The entire church family experiences God's presence on the second Wednesday of each month. Even those members who have work obligations during the distribution time and cannot participate feel a sense of pride and ownership for what their church is doing for the community.

In addition to the Feeding America events, the Paw Paw Adventist Church supports the local United Christian Services, Bethany Christian Services, and other community outreach programs. They are known in the area for getting involved and supporting others who make life better. 🙏

By David Burghart

### **(continued from page 2)**

believe in Jesus who is waiting to save you today?" My father answered, "Amen." I will never forget his "Amen." I immediately called my pastor friend who lived nearby. That pastor rushed to my father and right there, he baptized him. Our entire family watched my father's baptism via Zoom, shedding tears and singing hymns. After the baptism, my father came out of the water, smiling, and said, "Son, see you in heaven!"

I started to cry. But my crying was not the hopeless crying of the past. It was tears of joy, the tears of someone who had found hope. "Yes, Father, see you in heaven." And three days later, my father passed away in the Lord.

I believe 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

I now understand the true meaning of the words, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." I now understand that the second coming is our hope, and this hope is our true comfort.

There may be times when we know God's command but do not understand it. There may be moments when we have knowledge from studying the Bible daily, preparing sermons every week, and reading countless books about the Bible, yet we still don't understand God. Even in those moments, trust Him. Our Lord answers our prayers in ways we do not expect. Although He did not answer my prayer to heal my father's illness, and He did not answer my prayer to grant me a visa to go back to Korea, He did answer my prayer for my father to believe in the Lord and receive salvation.

I now realize that everything He did was for me. 🙏

By Bomki Kim, Pastor, Detroit Korean church and Troy Korean company

www.misda.org

"The message of Acts 20:35 is experienced by all participants: the blessings of giving outweigh those of receiving."



Youth from the church load wagons with items for each family.



## CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF THE MICHIGAN MEMO

Since 1988, the Michigan Memo has connected our church family across the state, sharing stories of God's work, ministry updates, and inspiration. For nearly four decades, it has been an important way of keeping our members informed and encouraged.

As times change, many of our members now turn to digital platforms for timely communication. With this in mind, we are prayerfully considering the possibility of retiring the print edition of the Memo sometime in 2026, while strengthening our online presence through our website, e-newsletter, and social media.

We would greatly value your input as we consider this transition. Please share your thoughts with us by emailing [communication@misda.org](mailto:communication@misda.org) or calling 517-316-1586.

Whatever the outcome, our mission remains the same: to highlight how God is blessing His work in Michigan. We also encourage you to sign up for the Michigan Conference e-newsletter at [www.misda.org/sign-up](http://www.misda.org/sign-up) to continue receiving updates and stories.

Thank you for journeying with us as we seek the best ways to connect and inspire our church family.



# Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

P.O. Box 24187  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-316-1500 | Fax: 517-316-1501  
communication@misda.org  
www.misda.org  
www.facebook.com/miconf

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## NATURE NUGGET

### The Wolves of Yellowstone

Gray wolves are one of Yellowstone's most iconic species, and their story is one of remarkable ecological restoration. Originally native to the region, wolves were eradicated from Yellowstone by the 1920s due to hunting and predator control efforts. For decades, their absence disrupted the natural balance of the ecosystem. In 1995 and 1996, a groundbreaking reintroduction program brought 31 wolves from Canada into the park. Since then, wolves have played a critical role in restoring Yellowstone's ecological integrity, particularly by regulating elk populations, which had grown unchecked and overgrazed key areas of vegetation.

This natural regulation triggered a powerful chain reaction known as a trophic cascade. With fewer elk over-browsing willow and aspen stands, these plant communities began to recover, allowing habitats for songbirds and beavers to flourish. Beavers, in turn, built dams that slowed water flow, encouraged wetland growth, and even helped restore the meandering patterns of rivers. During our recent Camp AuSable Nature Tour to Yellowstone, we were privileged to observe six members of the 20-member Hayden Valley pack—an unforgettable reminder of how nature can heal when given the chance. Watching them move through the valley and interact with a Grizzly underscored the profound impact these apex predators have had, not just on the wildlife, but on the very landscape of Yellowstone itself. Witnessing the wolves of Hayden Valley was more than just a natural encounter—it was a spiritual moment, a living parable of restoration and balance. Just as the wolves brought healing to a broken ecosystem, God can bring restoration to our lives when we allow Him to reclaim what's been lost or damaged.

The story of Yellowstone's wolves reminds us that even after long seasons of imbalance or absence, renewal is possible. When we trust the Creator's design and timing, healing can ripple outward—restoring relationships, renewing purpose, and reviving the beauty in our lives. 🐾

Dr. Gordon Atkins, Head Naturalist, Camp Au Sable  
Photo by Dr. Gordon Atkins

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### October

- 3-31** Keys to Revelation
- 3-5** UP Public Campus Ministries Retreat
- 5-9** LIFT
- 31 - Nov 2** Public HI-C (CAS)

### November

- 7-9** Northwoods Family Retreat (CAS Northwoods)
- 7-9** Lay Advisory Retreat (CAS)
- 26-27** Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

\*CAS = Camp Au Sable