



## Jesus *on* Prophecy

www.JesusOnProphecy.com

**Begins September 23, 2019**

### JESUS ON PROPHECY: THE HARVEST IS RIPE!

**U**nlock Revelation demonstrated the dynamic power of a unified effort in public evangelism. With more than 150 churches participating in 2016 and 2017, the Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of more than 5,000 guests and 10,000 members as over 100 lay people preached nightly. The results were hundreds who gave their lives to Christ and joined God's remnant church, while members were revived and renewed as they labored for souls and studied our message.

Now 2019 is a fresh opportunity to collaborate in sharing Christ through *Jesus on Prophecy*, a Grow Michigan harvest effort in the "GROW Your Church" initiative of the General Conference ([grow.adventist.org](http://grow.adventist.org)). The GROW initiative reminds us that evangelism is not merely an event for some churches, but a cycle and culture to be developed and grown in every church. The *Jesus on Prophecy* (JoP) series will culminate almost two

years of personal labor from churches in the Prepare, Plant, and Cultivate phases of the cycle. JoP will begin September 23, and every church has the privilege of participating. Already, more than 100 sites have registered from Michigan and other conferences.

#### **Become a Participating Site!**

The main website for JoP is [www.JesusOnProphecy.com](http://www.JesusOnProphecy.com) and is currently running. Guests can find more information, locate the JoP location nearest them, and pre-register to attend the series. Participating churches can login to receive the latest updates, download resources, and order materials. If your church is not yet registered as a site, visit [register.jesusonprophecy.com](http://register.jesusonprophecy.com) or contact the Evangelism Department at 517-316-1500. Once you register your church, you will receive a link to obtain your login account information to access resources and upload your website information.

*(continued on page 6)*





*“God can do nothing for us until we realize our utter need and are willing to exercise unquestioning and unconditional faith.”*

## EXERCISING YOUR FAITH

**H**ave you ever been in a situation where you were totally dependent on God? A situation where you knew that no one but God could help you? Maybe it was a life or death situation, or some circumstance that was beyond your control. You might not realize it, but every one of us are in that very condition . . . each and every day. We have an opportunity on a daily basis to do the impossible! Every day, we encounter evil and if evil is not overcome, it will consume us. Although we have no power within ourselves to resist sin, God has promised victory over every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). In other words, with God, we can do the impossible!

In Mark 9:14-29 (also in Luke 9:37-42, Matthew 17:14-21), the Bible records a living example illustrating this very concept.

After Jesus led His disciples to the base of a mountain, He asked Peter, James, and John to accompany Him while the rest of the disciples were instructed to wait. It wasn't the first time Jesus had singled out those three disciples and, once again, the others were disappointed that they had not been included. Satan saw an opportunity and capitalized on the situation. Instead of being content to wait as Jesus instructed, the disciples allowed their minds to be manipulated by the deceiver. Satan easily provided questions designed to cast doubt on the fairness of Jesus and to arouse jealousy

and contention among the disciples. They didn't realize that questioning God and His instructions weakens faith in Him. The disciples were being tested. Would they trust Jesus and willingly carry out His instruction without complaining? If they had asked God to direct their thinking and to give strength to resist the negative thoughts of jealousy and criticism, they would have gained the victory through God's power.

Satan's aim is to discourage our faith in God. When that happens, we lose our connection with Him and then we are powerless to resist temptation. Our thoughts provide the foundations for our attitudes, which fuels our emotions and in turn influences our actions. Repeated actions form habits, and over time, habits become character traits. It is character that will determine our destiny. God is giving all of us an opportunity to form Christlike characters here on earth. Our characters are reflections of our thoughts, actions, and emotions. Since thoughts are the building blocks of character, we experience victory or failure in this battle one thought at a time.

While the disciples were engulfed in discouragement and feeling sorry for themselves over their perceived injustice, a man arrived looking for Jesus. His son was controlled by an evil spirit and this father came to ask for healing. Jesus had earlier given the disciples power over unclean spirits (Mark 6:7, 13), so they thought they could handle this situation

themselves. But when they attempted to heal his son, they could not. The disciples were embarrassed and bewildered. On his journey to find help the father had attracted a group of people eager to see what Jesus would do. Seizing upon an opportunity, the ever-present scribes who shadowed Jesus stepped up to cast doubt in the minds of all who were present in the crowd. They acknowledged that Jesus had limited power over weak demons, but they pointed out that He did not have enough power to contend with the strong ones. The disciples were speechless, and due to their own inability to cast out the demon, it seemed that the accusation made by the scribes had merit.

Just then someone from the crowd saw Jesus and the three disciples coming down the mountain. Each of them still had a glow of God's glory on them, and as Jesus approached, the crowd drew back. Jesus asked the scribes what they were discussing with His disciples. The scribes were silent. The father of the boy came forward, knelt down, and told Jesus what had happened. Sadly, the disciples' failure and the scribes' accusations had weakened the father's faith to the point where he wasn't sure Jesus could heal his son.

Jesus looked at His disciples, then at the crowd, and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?" Jesus had already made divine power available to the disciples, but they had carelessly lost



the connection with their power source. They had failed to recognize and value the importance of faith. They forgot that in our own strength we can do nothing, but the prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven. (*8 Manuscript Releases*, 196.2)

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, “Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Knowing how essential trust is to our salvation, God has dealt to each one a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). However, faith must be exercised to be of any value. And unless we choose to exercise it, that seed of faith will shrink into nonexistence.

“Bring him to Me,” Jesus commanded. When they brought him, the demon exerted its power by convulsing the boy and throwing him to the ground. All eyes were on the boy as he wallowed and foamed at the mouth, but then they slowly turned toward Jesus. What would He do? What could He do? Jesus then asked the father to give a description of the disease, and its effects on his son. He wanted all who were standing by to fully appreciate the boy’s grave condition.

As the demon continued to exert power over the boy, the father pleaded with Jesus. “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus responded by saying, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

God can do nothing for us until we realize our utter need and are willing to exercise unquestioning and unconditional faith. A person can go from unbelief to exercising faith in a matter of seconds. It starts with a choice followed by the exercise of the will. Exercising faith involves three components. One first has to choose to believe - to know that in the Word of God there is power. That leads us to expect the Word itself to do the

very thing spoken, and then there is a sense of depending on the Word itself to do that which the Word says.

By bringing his son to Jesus, the father showed that he had a measure of faith. He now realized that this may be the only chance for healing and immediately exercised every ounce of that faith by crying out, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit. “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more.” And immediately, the boy was healed. Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they were powerless to cast the demon out. Jesus told them it was because of their unbelief (Matthew 17:20). The disciples had given the devil access to their minds to the point where their thoughts made it impossible for God to work through them.

Then Jesus said, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” What did He mean by this kind? Was He referring to a specific classification of demon? No, He was referring to this intense confrontation with satanic forces. We must maintain a relationship with God at all times. Whenever we are distracted, Satan will succeed in getting us to yield to his temptation. But when we have a firm connection to Christ, we cannot fail.

Jesus’ admonition to His disciples is also for us today: “Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation” (Mark 14:38). Paul proclaims this promise in Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Jesus Himself said in Mark 10:27, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”

Oh friends, if we exercise our faith today and every day by choosing to believe, and then expecting and depending on God to do what He says He will do, we will be able to do the impossible...one thought at a time.



## PRAYER FOCUS

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

### APRIL 1-5

Cedar Lake  
Pastor Jacob Gibbs  
Cedar Lake Elementary  
Heartland Community Services  
Women’s Ministries Retreat - 1

### APRIL 8-12

Bay City/Vassar  
Pastor Taylor Hinkle  
Vassar Community Services  
Women’s Ministries Retreat - 2

### APRIL 15-19

Grand Ledge/Holt  
Pastor Chuck Hanlon  
Greater Lansing Adventist School  
Grand Ledge Community Services  
Women’s Ministries Retreat - 3

### APRIL 22-26

Livingston/Waterford  
Pastor Todd Ervin  
VBS Workshop  
Pathfinder Bible Experience Division  
Level

### APRIL 29 - MAY 3

Harbor of Hope  
Pastor Taurus Montgomery  
Ruth Murdoch Elementary School  
Berrien Springs Village Community  
Center  
Neighbor to Neighbor  
*Jesus on Prophecy* Training

*“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers.”*

*—1 Peter 3:12, KJV*



## TAKING UP THE SWORD!

An enthusiastic group of over 90 participants, representing 35 churches gathered together for the 2019 Spring Personal Ministries Weekend, sponsored by the Michigan Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department. Titled “Taking Up the Sword,” the thrust of the weekend was primarily an advanced course in Bible studies although other aspects of personal ministries were highlighted.

Upon arrival at Camp Au Sable, attendees were greeted with low temperatures, snow-covered icy roads and snow banks several feet high. After registration, however, the cold atmosphere was tempered by the cozy fireplace in the lobby as well as hot soup, salad, and cornbread for supper.

Following supper, the first of seven sessions in this seminar began in the auditorium. Each participant sat at the round table of their choice. This format was designed to promote interaction, unity and fellowship. Every session began with praise to God through singing and heartfelt prayer.

Mark Howard introduced the weekend by reviewing the *GROW* method of evangelism: **Prepare** the soil of the heart through kind deeds and friendship evangelism; **Plant** the Word through active literature and media ministry; **Cultivate**

spiritual interests through personal Bible studies; **Harvest** decisions for Christ through appeals for baptism; **Preserve** new believers through systematic discipleship. It was suggested that each church prepare comprehensive plans which involve the whole *GROW* cycle. If that were implemented, then total member involvement (TMI) would equal total church growth. Howard focused on the point that the most neglected area of the growth cycle was **Cultivate**, giving Bible studies. He showed us from Scripture that we are admonished to “rightly divide the word of truth”, that there’s a famine in the land for the word of God, and that Jesus, our example, taught the people. He reminded us that though the disciples lacked a formal education, they were bold for the Lord and effective witnesses because they had been with Jesus. In other words, we are to share what we know and not wait until we have a certain level of knowledge before telling others about Jesus.

Vicki Griffin followed with a presentation entitled “The Empowered Witness.” Admonished by Christ to be a light to the world in Matthew 5:14, Griffin inspired us to bring value to the people’s lives every day. She reassured us with a passage from *Desire of Ages*, p. 827, “All who consecrate soul, body and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental

power.” Jesus died not only for our sins, but to beautify our characters. He gave us not only the gifts of the spirit, but the fruit of the spirit. Just as fruit grows from seeds, so we are to take the seeds of the fruit of the spirit and grow. Temperance is not something we do, it’s a trait. We were challenged with the closing question, “How carefully are you protecting the fruit God has given to you?”

During the first half of the Sabbath School portion of the seminar, Wes Peppers, in answer to the question, “Is public evangelism relevant today?” opened the scriptures to Revelation 14 and directed us to the Three Angels’ Message. He explained that just as that is a proclamation to the world, so public evangelism proclaims to the world and is relevant till the end of time.

The Sabbath sermon, presented by Kameron DeVasher, was titled, “The Demoniacs.” Looking closely at Matthew 8 and Mark 5, DeVasher brought out the point that God’s wisdom is infinite and even when we don’t see beyond our immediate circumstances, we can trust His leading. Furthermore, just as Jesus sent out the former demoniacs as soon as they were converted, the Lord expects each of us to share what we know of Him to those He brings into our lives.

On Sabbath afternoon, Howard, Peppers, and DeVasher led us deeper into the core focus of the weekend, Bible studies. They explained that Bible study lessons were not intended to be comprehensive, but to give enough information for the student to grasp the concepts. Through role-play, Howard demonstrated the importance of interactive Bible study. He showed us how to initiate participation by inviting the student to read from the Bible, asking him the question in the lesson and then being certain the student has a clear understanding of what he just read. Later in the seminar, he pointed out the significance of paying attention to the sequence of the Bible study series. He

emphasized the value of being prepared to present the Bible study by knowing the main points of the lesson and the need to make direct, clearly stated, personal appeals.

Sabbath evening, Wes Peppers called attention to the fact that we should tell what we know and then seek more knowledge. There's both a local and personal work for us to do. "You'll grow when you go," was his theme for this session. Peppers stressed the need for covering our church territory with regular, systematic contacts. He declared that every department in the church should be trained to be individual soul winning units. He shared ideas on how to get a drop off Bible study to become a one on one study.

Finally, on Sunday morning we closed with a question and answer period that gave the attendees and presenters an opportunity to speak directly and candidly about a variety of issues related to making our soul-winning work more effective.

People attended the seminar to support their church leaders and to learn how to give more effective Bible studies. They came away with a knowledge of how to give more interactive studies. Mary Jo said it helped her to define personal ministries. Walter was inspired of the importance of knowing the points of what one is teaching, be it Bible studies or the Sabbath School lesson. All came away better equipped to share the gospel with others.

---

**Deborah Blosser**, Workshop Attendee



## BUT WE SEE JESUS

Many times, we hear the same thing over and over again: within Christianity, as a whole, it appears that the youth are leaving the church, and for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is no different. Time and time again, we see our young people leaving the church, but as much as we may try to keep them by getting them involved in the local church as much as possible with Sabbath School, Pathfinders, and/or Adventist Youth, they always seem to leave. It's a problem that many local churches cannot seem to solve: how can we prevent our young people from leaving the church? But what if the answer was not that difficult? What if the solution was simply Jesus? Now, I know this sounds kind of cliché, but I am serious.

February 15-17, CAMPUS, the Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students, organized their annual Winter Retreat at Camp Au Sable for public university students and young professionals. This year's theme came from Hebrews 2:9 and the focus of this retreat was to know who is Jesus presented by our guest speaker, Dr. Erhard Gallos.

The weekend was filled with many activities, but above all, students and young professionals had the opportunity to really dive deep into the first few chapters of Hebrews. If only time was not a restraint, I assure you that we would all still be there today studying the rest of the book of Hebrews. We started off Friday night with an introduction of the book of Hebrews by Gallos, where we really just discussed the background of the book. We continued reading and dissecting the book of Hebrews all day Sabbath.

While it may seem difficult to get our young people involved in the church, this weekend was proof that all young people really need is to know who Jesus is. The lack of knowledge of who Jesus really is and what His sacrifice really means is all that we need to really understand to fully accept the love and sacrifice that God made in giving His only begotten Son to save our lives.

---

**Alma Galindo**, CAMPUS Missionary



(continued from front page)

## New Sermons and Graphics

A new set of evangelistic sermons are being developed that will uplift Christ as the focal point of every message. Multiple prayer and Bible study sessions in Michigan have led to a renewed understanding and application of Righteousness by Faith. This has led to powerful revival with a deeper conviction to uplift Christ as the hope of all humanity in all our evangelistic efforts. However, it is impossible to separate Him from the beauty of Bible truth (doctrine) and prophecy, for He is the author and core of both. Our 28 fundamental truths are beautiful revelations of Christ that unite us as a world church. Though we have always preached Christ in every evangelistic series, we want to preach Him more fully than ever before. Hence, the title, *Jesus on Prophecy!*

## Prayer Focus

A special prayer focus is always vital for every soul-winning effort. A JoP prayer card is currently available for every member that contains a personal and church prayer plan. The personal side contains blanks to write down five people you would like to pray for and invite to the meetings. The opposite side contains suggestions for a corporate plan to pray together from now through September. Your prayer coordinator will guide your church in local prayer initiatives in preparation for the series. The 23rd of every month (JoP starting date) from now through October is designated for conference-wide prayer and fasting. Please pray each day for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

## Resources and Advertising

Advertising will take place both personally (through you) and publicly. Several personal JoP resources are available on the website for members to share including:

- GLOW Tracts
- Personal Invitation Cards
- Yard Signs
- Personal Invitation Plans - a seven

point plan to effectively invite people to the series

A public advertising campaign including billboards, internet, radio, social media, newspaper, and texting will also be used mainly in August and September.

## JoP Trainings and Rallies

- Sabbath, April 27: GLAA, 10 AM-4:30 PM. Every person in Michigan is invited to attend for inspiration, training, and resources to make your series successful. No registration is necessary, but bring a sack lunch.
- May 3-5: Camp Sagola, Upper Peninsula. Contact Jim Nephew for registration: 906-250-2980.
- June 17-20: Camp Meeting Training Seminar

## Form Your Team and Work the Cycle

Your JoP team should already be formed and scheduling planning meetings. If not, begin as soon as possible! You can find the team member list and descriptions on the JoP website. It is vital that before we harvest, we prepare, plant, and cultivate. Continuing the initiatives for each phase is crucial to have success. If you don't GO, it won't GROW!

- Prepare - continue community based compassion, health, and service projects to build relationships and bridges for opportunities to share truth and offer Bible studies.
- Plant - continue literature initiatives including planning church outreaches, missionary Sabbaths, and personal sharing that leads to Bible studies. April is the conference-wide literature emphasis month. Think of creative ways and outreaches to share the JoP GLOW tracts as well as the other ten top selling GLOW Tracts with JoP advertising. Bags from the Publishing Department will allow you to place them in 30 packs, one for each day of the month!
- Cultivate - continue the Bible

Study Ministry in your local church, taking advantage of tools such as Bible Study Offer mailings and resources to cultivate Bible studies.

- Harvest - participate in JoP beginning September 23.
- Preserve - disciple new members with the *Discipleship Handbook*.

Strive to involve every department of the church in the planning of, preparation for, and execution of the meeting!

## Special Consecration and Offering

More than money, God wants our hearts. We have the privilege and joy of surrendering our life to Christ, and He will re-create us clean and righteous. His promise is for you today. Would you make the decision now to give yourself fully to Him and receive His Spirit? Do not delay in the decision to re-commit yourself to Him and be used by Him to labor for souls during the JoP preparation and series. You also have an opportunity to help support financially through a special offering for *Jesus on Prophecy*. You can give online at [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org) and through your local church under "Michigan Conference Evangelism." There will also be special offerings during camp meeting. Pray and ask the Lord how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity to reach Michigan with the Three Angels' Messages. Precious souls in heaven will thank you for sacrificing for their salvation!

## Important *Jesus on Prophecy* Dates

- Today: Register your site and order supplies
- 23rd Monthly: Prayer & Fasting
- April: Literature Emphasis Month
- April 27: GLAA Rally
- May 3-5: Camp Sagola Rally
- September 23: JoP begins
- See website for full calendar of dates

---

**Wes Peppers**, Evangelism Coordinator

## NEWS BRIEF



Sabbath, March 2, General Conference president Ted Wilson took part in a Question & Answer session on the campus of Andrews University at Pioneer Memorial Church. He spoke about mission, unity, and other various topics. For more, visit: <http://bit.ly/TedWQ-A>.



Chad Bernard now serves as the youth director for the Michigan Conference. He will oversee youth and young adult ministries. Ken Micheff will continue to serve as camp director in a new department, which is no longer under the auspices of the youth department. For more, please access the link at: <http://bit.ly/MIDept19>.



Camp meeting will take place from June 14-22. For the latest information and updates, you may visit the following link: <http://bit.ly/CMInfo19>. See you there!



Interested in serving as a missionary this summer? Consider Michigan Youth Rush! Through canvassing you will make friends that will last a lifetime and enjoy a power-packed spiritual experience! Must be at least 15 years old. To watch inspiring stories and apply visit: [miyouthrush.org](http://miyouthrush.org).



April 27 at Great Lakes Adventist Academy:

Is your church participating in *Jesus on Prophecy* (previously named *Prophecy Unfolds*), the conference-wide evangelistic effort beginning September 23? Or, are you potentially interested in participating? We invite you to attend a special training and resource rally that will give you the inspiration and tools to prepare your church for an inspiring harvest.

Who should attend? Church elders, Personal Ministries directors/team members, departmental directors, members planning to help with the meetings, every member - bring the whole church!

Do you want to receive the weekly e-newsletter of the Michigan Conference for the latest in news and upcoming events? Subscribe now by copying the following link to your browser: <http://bit.ly/MISDA7>.

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5801 W Michigan Ave

Lansing, MI 48917

PHONE 517.316.1500 FAX 517.316.1501

commdept@misda.org

www.misda.org

www.facebook.com/miconf

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

### April

- 2 MI Conference Executive Committee
- 5-7 Women's Ministries Retreat 1  
Camp Au Sable
- 9 District Superintendents
- 12-14 Women's Ministries Retreat 2  
Camp Au Sable
- 19-21 Women's Ministries Retreat 3  
Camp Au Sable
- 21-24 Secretariat/HR Conference
- 21-23 LE Retreat
- 22-28 GLAA Home Leave
- 23 Prayer and Fasting
- 26-27 Pathfinder Bible Experience -  
Division Level
- 26-28 VBS Workshop - Camp Au Sable
- 28 Adventurer Fun Day

### May

- 1 Camp Meeting Directors
- 3-5 *Jesus on Prophecy* UP Rally/  
Training (Camp Au Sable)
- 5-9 Camp Au Sable Work Week
- 14 District Superintendent
- 17-19 Pathfinder Fair - Camp Au Sable
- 23 Prayer and Fasting
- 24-26 GLAA Graduation
- 24-26 Hispanic Camp Meeting - Camp  
Au Sable

## DEBRA BARR RETIREMENT

JUDY SHULL , Member, Grand Rapids Central Church

All are invited to honor the retirement of Debra Barr, teacher and former Grand Rapids Adventist Academy principal.

Debra Barr joined Grand Rapids Junior Academy in 1994 as their new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. After finishing her master's degree in Educational Administration four years later, she became the school's vice principal. As the junior academy grew into a full day academy, Debra filled the position of principal for six years until an accident required her to spend time recovering. When she returned to the Academy she covered the position as the academy English teacher, school registrar, librarian, yearbook advisor, and graduation coordinator.

Before moving to Grand Rapids, Debra filled many of these same responsibilities for fourteen years at Maplewood Academy.

There were times when Debra's Grand Rapids home was full of people. Her mother moved to Grand Rapids from Colorado to help her daughter with her busy life. Her brother, a Gulf War veteran, and his family also lived with Debra for a lengthy stretch of time.

Debra has been generous with her time, talents, and home for many years. The Grand Rapids Adventist Academy staff

and students would like you to join them in this celebration of service on Sunday, May 5 from 3:00-6:00 PM in the Grand Rapids Adventist Academy Commons, 1151 Oakleigh Rd NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-3716. For questions, please call 616-791-9797.

