



COVID Blessings



Live-streaming church services is the new norm for many churches in Michigan.

While most of us could not have imagined missing worship services for months before COVID-19 hit, there have been blessings that we didn't anticipate, as well. As church services became online services, as vespers programs became Zoom meetings and prayer meetings became conference calls, a new sense of community began to develop. Church members started calling and checking up on each other more often. More prayer requests came in, and the church prayed more for each other than before. A new ministry was born—a community prayer hotline with an 800-number manned by church members for those in our community desiring prayer.

A new witnessing method became reality. While some of our community events had to be postponed, the mission did not stop. We joined *It Is Written's* "Hope Awakens" program and discovered that the same principles of evangelism apply to online evangelism, as well. Personal invitations are what bring people. As members shared with their friends and relatives through texting, Facebook, and other means, their contacts viewed the messages and were blessed. The same was true of our church services. We had members who barely came to church now joining us in worship every week. Family members who bitterly opposed the church, sat in their living room and worshipped with their family

When we pull into church on Sabbath morning, we can almost always count on Iris's white car being parked in her spot. For over sixty years, she has lived outside Petoskey and during that time, she can hardly ever remember missing church.

She tells of one Sabbath in which a blizzard had hit the night before, leaving six-foot-tall drifts in the roads, trapping plow trucks. Even that did not keep her husband and her from church. Not wanting to sit at home all Sabbath, they donned their snow attire, climbed the drifts and made the three-mile walk to church. To someone who walked through impassable roads to come to church and barely missed a Sabbath, not being able to come and worship in-person for nearly three months has been almost too much to bear. It has been that way for many of us. Yet, in "man's extremity is God's opportunity!"¹

members sometimes for the first time! Friends and family from out of state were able to join in worship, as well.

As the date for reopening drew near, we assured our contacts from a distance—non-Adventist family members and even a friend who is a Methodist pastor—that we will continue the online ministry that has begun. Through this experience, we have broadened our plans and have scheduled an evangelistic series this fall that will be both in-person (hopefully) and fully integrated online. Witnessing is still the same, but while some are reached through being personally given a GLOW tract, others are reached through a Facebook invite.

(continued on page 7)

JIM MICHEFF, PRESIDENT



“How do we grapple with the current volatile situations that threaten our nation and even the unity of the Church and our ability to carry out its mission? These are questions that have been racing through my mind.”

THE POWER FOR CHANGE

Our nation and Church are currently facing an unprecedented storm of strife, with winds blowing from every direction. The pandemic and fear of an invisible enemy, the threat of economic demise, civil unrest spilling into our streets, racial tensions at an all-time high, and our highest courts trampling the law of God underfoot—all of these events speak to the unraveling of a nation.

How do we as Seventh-day Adventist Christians relate to such things? How do we grapple with the current volatile situations that threaten our nation and even the unity of the Church and our ability to carry out its mission? These are questions that have been racing through my mind as I have watched the events unfold here in Michigan.

As the number of cases of Covid-19 began to rise in Detroit and sprout up in other areas of our state, I wondered where this would go. Schools and businesses were shuttered, and lockdowns were put into place. These were just the beginnings of sorrows.

I watched as our nation’s focus shifted from the pandemic to racial tensions, with people protesting and marching in the streets. Cities erupted with violence and destruction from Minneapolis to Los Angeles and right here in Michigan.

Things have changed and are still rapidly evolving. We need to step back to gain a better perspective on how to navigate “the distress of the nations” lest we are swept away by it unaware. Depending on how we approach such things our hearts will either be *“failing us from fear and the expectation of those things coming on the earth”*¹

or they will be guarded by *“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding...through Christ Jesus.”*²

We are all on a spiritual journey, not measured in distance or time so much as in character. Every journey has a starting point, and our spiritual beginning starts in the heart. It begins with recognizing the condition of rebellion against God and His authority and ends in our allegiance to Him.

In order to begin our journey, God had to overcome an obstacle that only divine power could conquer—sin. Sin has severed our connection with God and twisted and distorted our senses to the point where we are slaves to its dictates. The control center of the brain designed by the Creator to govern the body came under the control of the carnal nature, a force not governed by the law of the Universe but one that is driven by feelings and selfish desires.

Sin has caused a separation from God that leads to eternal death. Divinity devised a plan to redeem sinners. Jesus became a human—in the likeness of sinful flesh—and was subjected to temptation, but sin couldn’t force, coerce or lure Him from allegiance to God.

By not yielding to these temptations, Jesus overcame the power of sin. Then He willingly accepted all the sins ever committed by humans and the penalty for them. Jesus died the eternal death for all sinners. But because He Himself had not sinned, death couldn’t hold Him in separation from His Father. Divinity raised Him up from the grave. Jesus offers that eternal life to everyone who accepts

His death for them and chooses to surrender their will to Him. Then He teaches them to exercise their will—the power of choice—for righteousness and allegiance to God.

God’s plan of salvation is being played out in our lives. Justification entails God reestablishing a connection with our hearts, breaking the power of the carnal nature and restoring our power of choice—the will. Sanctification describes the process of cooperating with God as He teaches and works in us to exercise our power of choice in keeping His law. *True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God.*³

God’s plan is to rescue us not only from the presence of sin in this world, but also from the attraction and desire for it. The Bible says that God is not tempted by evil.⁴ He knows what it is, and the pain and sorrow it causes. He is able to give us that same enmity and hatred for sin even while we are living in a world where the very presence and power of sin reigns. As He works in us, sin will no longer have any appeal or power over us. He does this by reestablishing God’s authority and love for His law in our hearts and minds.

Part of our journey requires us to encounter defects and consequences of sin that overpower human abilities and moral power. By learning to submit to God’s authority, which results in trusting and obeying, divine wisdom and power are given to navigate

through this maze of moral dilemmas and the swamp of social degeneration.

The pen of inspiration reveals to us that, “When Christ came to the earth, humanity seemed to be fast reaching its lowest point. The very foundations of society were undermined... The idea of duty, of the obligation of strength to weakness, of human dignity and human rights, was cast aside as a dream or a fable.”²⁵

As John lifted his voice as one crying in the wilderness, “Satan feared for the safety of his kingdom.”²⁶ John pointed to Jesus as the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. His day was, like ours, filled with the strife and passion of human woe. And he knew that there was only one answer—one remedy—to break the power of sin in the life.

The power of John’s message radiated out of him because he allowed the Holy Spirit to live the message out in his own life. He understood that Christ must always be increasing, and he must be decreasing. In fact, “He distrusted his own power to withstand temptation, and shrank from constant contact with sin, lest he should lose the sense of its exceeding sinfulness.”²⁷

John was on constant guard and did not allow himself to get too close, comfortable, or careless in his association with the routine of life. His message revealed that the way of righteousness would bear the fruit of righteousness in the life because God Himself is embodied in the message—it is His power that keeps us from sin.

*In Hebrews it is stated of Christ that He was exalted above His associates because He loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Righteousness is simply loving and doing that which is just and right to every soul with whom we have to do. Iniquity means perverting the right. Crooked practices, selfish plans, are instituted, that self and certain ones may be benefited while, in order to secure these ends, others are oppressed. All this is robbery toward God and toward man. True principles are forsaken; things are twisted out of God’s line in order to gratify selfishness. Wrong means turning things out of the straight lines in which God designs they should go. Fraud is a transgression of God’s commandments, and all who profess to be Christians and do not obey the commandments of God, misrepresent the character of Jesus. Those who believe the truth for this time will practice it voluntarily, at any cost to themselves. Sound doctrines will be represented by sound practice.*⁸

Just as John was raised up to draw people to the Messiah with a message of repentance, the Seventh-day Adventist movement was raised up to give the same message to prepare a people for Jesus’ second coming.

The Holy Spirit drew the people to the message. The only remedy to the chaos, fueled by societal degradation, is for the multitudes to surrender their lives to God’s will. His power alone will enable our higher natures to govern our collective actions. When

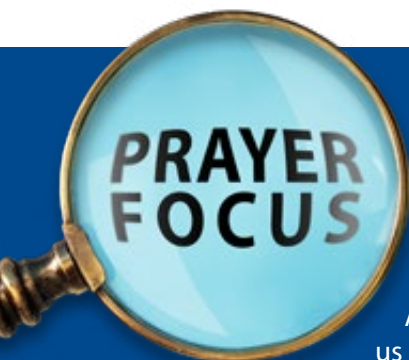
we are submitted to Him, racism, the abuse of power, greed, pride, and all the elements of selfishness will be eradicated from our lives.

When the people asked John what they should do, he answered them in practical terms and stated, “Bear fruits worthy of repentance.”⁹ And to the civil authorities he stated, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”¹⁰ All this is righteousness exemplified in practical lived-out Christianity.

In the same way that John applied this message to the issues of his day, we must apply the everlasting gospel in our day. Today the trend is to issue public statements signaling how a person or group should relate to important issues. As Seventh-day Adventists, the doctrines grounded in Scripture should stand as our statement, accompanied by our actions. Then the message will be more than a mere profession, it will be an extension of the life and ministry of Christ to those around us.

By the grace of God, may we let this message be the power for change in our own hearts.

1. Luke 21:26
2. Philippians 4:7
3. *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 97
4. James 1:13
5. *Education*, pp. 74-75
6. *Desire of Ages*, p. 224
7. *Desire of Ages*, p.101
8. *Letter 31a*, 1894, pp.10-11
9. Matthew 3:8
10. Luke 3:10-14



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.

AUGUST 3-7
Battle Creek Korean
Pastor Jinwon Lee

AUGUST 10-14
Detroit Metro/Metro Junior Academy
Pastor Darryl Bentley

AUGUST 17-21
Manistique/McMillan Northwoods/Sault St Marie
Pastor David Austin

AUGUST 24-28
Grayling Elementary & Grayling/Houghton Lake/Mio Churches
Pastor Jay Clough



Keynote speaker, Chad Kruezer, sharing the Adventist message with clarity and tact.

Rest and Renew

Retreat Hits A Sweet Spot

By Wes Peppers,
Evangelism Director

In early March, before COVID-19 closed everything down, several hundred people participated in the Rest and Renew Retreat at Camp Au Sable. The weekend was an experiment that ended as a divinely innovative break-through in personal and public evangelism. Focused on “Christ’s Method Alone” for reaching the heart, it created an opportunity for Michigan lay members to bring non-Adventist friends and enjoy a relaxing retreat where they could also study the Bible together.

The registration fee was simple: invite and bring a non-member friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker, or church attending visitor, and both would enjoy the weekend for free. For the first time in history, Camp Au Sable was closed to church members unless they were accompanied by someone not of our faith!

I was hoping for 50-75 people total. The Lord brought almost 300, with nearly 200 non-Adventists! For some, this was the first “vacation” they had ever taken in their lives. Attendees ranged from lifelong Christians of many denominations to agnostics and even atheists. Some had read the Bible through every year of their life while others were reading it for the first time. Camp Au Sable was packed to capacity for Jesus!

The weekend began on Thursday evening and went through Sunday lunch. There were three key areas of focus:

1 Physical Rest - Restful and renewing activities including free massages, good food, horseback riding, guided nature hikes, wagon rides, bonfires, games and more.

2 Emotional/Mental Rest - Balanced living presentations and live demos with Vicki Griffin that gave simple but effective lifestyle principles for stress, disease, trauma, depression and addiction.

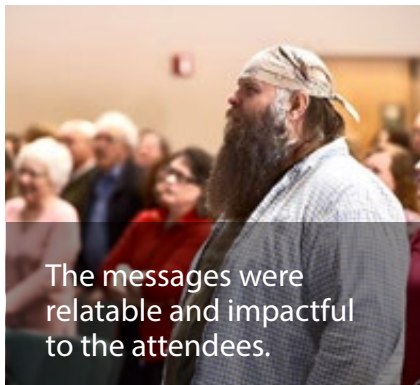
3 Spiritual Rest - Eight morning/evening Bible study sessions with Chad Kruezer from Anchor Point Films that focused on the Three Angels’ Messages.

On Thursday evening, most of the attendees weren’t sure what to expect. They settled into their rooms, then transitioned into the auditorium for orientation and the first meeting. They sat in awe as the Bible came to life during the message. The next morning

was the same. After a day of activities, they came to the Friday evening meeting refreshed. The day of rest had completely eradicated any reservations they had about the weekend.

Guests willingly kept coming back to the meetings, which is significant because meetings weren’t required. The auditorium was packed every session. People were hungry for the Bible truth they were learning, and the friendship they had with those who brought them broke down most every barrier. They were in a relaxed environment without the stress of daily life, and they received the truth presented to them.

As Christ’s method was followed and members ate, lived, fellowshiped and studied the Bible together throughout the weekend, the trust and confidence that often takes weeks or months to gain was accomplished in a few short hours. Why? Because people knew that we cared about them, and they were ministered to physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. This readily opened their hearts to the messages. It was a mini Acts 2!



The messages were relatable and impactful to the attendees.



Vicki Griffin provides practical health tips to the attendees.

A young adult member from mid-Michigan invited several family members. They asked if they could also invite others, so a crew of about seven ladies came! Throughout the weekend, they were amazed as they learned Bible truth that they had never heard before including the Sabbath, the heavenly Sanctuary, and several prophecies. They were especially thankful as each topic was completely Bible-based and Christ-centered. Several of the ladies made commitments to follow Jesus fully and decided to begin keeping the Sabbath. Many others experienced miracles and freedom from many challenges from their past as they yielded their lives to Christ. The weekend was filled with the Holy Spirit and God's grace.

Through each meeting, Kreuzer called for decisions and people responded.

Invitations to enroll in Bible Study Offer were also extended. Appeals were made to the members to continue studying with their friends once they returned home. By the end of the weekend:

- 21 people had accepted Christ for the first time.
- 35 people made decisions to be baptized.
- 52 people decided to begin keeping the Sabbath.
- 28 people enrolled in a Bible Study course.
- We broke the ice in Lake Shellenbarger to baptize a sister who was ready for baptism!

As we closed the final meeting, no one left early, and no one wanted to go home. The Spirit of God was in every heart, and people rejoiced in their

new walk with Christ. Many asked the person who brought them if they could also visit church with them. One young guest actually asked the older man who brought him to give him Bible studies when they returned home. Miracle after miracle took place, and it was truly inspiring.

This is a model that can be duplicated in every local church. It doesn't take much to create an environment where people can be ministered to and open their hearts to truth. We will plan to do more of these weekends, but you can reach people personally wherever you are. Use your talents for Him, whatever they are! As we follow Christ's method through the cycle of evangelism in personal and public ministry, the Holy Spirit will empower us to lighten the earth with His glory as we share His message of hope and truth with the world.



"We had viewers joining our Michigan family from across 27 states and 28 different countries."

Forward to the Finish - Virtual Camp Meeting Report

Registration had already closed, plenary and seminar speakers were set to go, plans for the divisions were finalized, and then the unthinkable happened. Michigan was faced with a pandemic that began limiting social events statewide. We thought maybe camp meeting was still out far enough to keep pressing forward, but with each passing day, it became clear that the Lord was closing the door for us to have our regular Michigan Camp Meeting.

But when the Lord closes one door, He opens another. That other door was to partner with the Village church in Berrien Springs, to hold a virtual camp meeting that would be live-streamed to our churches here in

Michigan and far beyond our borders.

As our prayers continued to ascend to heaven for wisdom and guidance, the momentum built up quickly, and we could see the Lord's hand opening the way before us. Our theme was "Forward to the Finish." Advertising went out through regular conference channels and the Internet and social media. Even Strong Tower Radio joined the team to broadcast the meetings over the airwaves and their new online platform.

The Lord blessed in incredible ways as His message of truth was preached. Even with significant streaming problems beyond our control, the Lord provided a creative workaround for our A/V team—an

amazing team comprised of members from the Village and Stevensville churches and the Conference.

As the signal finally went out strong and clear, thousands tuned in from Michigan and all around the world. There were about 4,000 views each night for the main session meetings and a combined total of around 4,200 each day for the early morning session and daily seminars. Our first Sabbath service had over 12,000 views, and the second Sabbath had well over 6,000. Each "view" could represent multiple people. The children and youth programs also had several hundred views each day as they joined in for "Camp Wanna Go" and "Courage: A conversation with God and each other."

We had viewers joining our Michigan family from across 27 states and 28 different countries. Hundreds of comments from around the world flooded in, stating: “Good morning! Happy Sabbath brother! Watching from Trinidad and Tobago!” “Watching from the Philippines!” “Good afternoon, Happy Sabbath from London UK!” “Watching from Brazil!” “Watching from Oakville, Ontario

Canada!” “From Jamaica, good singing!” One individual thoughtfully expressed, “I want to thank you very much for making this camp meeting available to me and thousands of other people around the world. It has been a huge blessing to me. God bless you.”

Isn't it wonderful that the Lord has given us the ability to preach the gospel to every nation, tribe, tongue,

and people? We want to share this message with a loud voice and hasten the coming of Jesus as we press forward to the finish! At the end of it all, we praise God for, “This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes” (Psalm 118:23).

By Justin Ringstaff,
Executive Secretary



Ithaca church members prepare to distribute food and other necessary items to those in need.

“We're blessed by doing, and we're being a blessing by meeting the needs of the people in our communities. Does it stop there? No!”

COVID Report: Adventist Community Services

Adventist Community Services & Disaster Response (ACSDR) has been busy—extra busy—serving the Lord during this time of COVID-19. Around 20 food pantries in the Michigan area have kept their doors open, serving close to 5,000 families. As stressful and uncertain as this time has been, it has opened many opportunities for us as a Church to serve.

Our Escanaba center in the Upper Peninsula not only opened their doors to their local community, but offered several mobile food pantries where cars lined up for miles. In the southern

part of the state, Neighbor 2 Neighbor and Harbor of Hope offer food and counseling to their communities, sharing their care and support.

I don't want to forget all the centers in between with faithful directors and volunteers serving on the frontline in the cause of Christ. The principle of Matthew 20:28 is written in their hearts: “For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve...” (NLT)

The Michigan Conference office family felt impressed to ease the stress in refugee communities and pulled together to help Rwandan and Burmese refugees resettle in the Grand Rapids area. They collected 6,800 pounds of food and delivered it to two locations, providing food for almost 100 families!

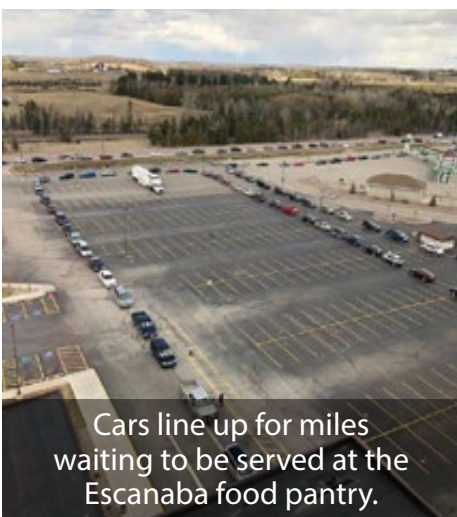
When the dams failed, affecting Midland and surrounding towns like Edenville, Beaverton, Saginaw, and Sanford to name a few, many families lost all their belongings and even their homes. ACSDR has worked and is still working closely with state and local officials to clean and help in any way we can.



Flood impact and the aftermath in the Beaverton area.

Volunteers, hoping to take some of the burden off of these devastated communities, have stepped in, offering supplies and assistance to get homes to a place where owners can rebuild. Along with the Disaster Response volunteers, Fieldwork took some teams into Saginaw to help many families whose homes were severely damaged by the flooding.

Serving our communities in the name of Jesus is a blessed work: a twice blessed work. We're blessed by doing, and we're being a blessing by meeting the needs of the people in our communities. Does it stop there? No! This is a work of personal ministry in action, a work that softens the heart for the Three Angels' Messages, for the gospel, and for the truth!



Cars line up for miles waiting to be served at the Escanaba food pantry.

It is a work that changes us and those we meet. We are all called to this work to redeem souls that may never set foot in our churches. Our community services leaders, volunteers, and churches are committed to this end-time work.

Ellen White states in the book *Welfare Ministry*, “Earnest, persevering effort must be made for the salvation of those in whose hearts an interest is awakened. Many can only be reached through acts of disinterested kindness” (p. 81).

This is not just a hand-out work, it is a hand-up to the kingdom of heaven. Thank you all for your support, time, and prayers! God bless you.

By Chelli Ringstaff,
Adventist Community Services Director

TRANSITIONS



Pastor Jeff Akenberger is the new chaplain at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. He will also teach Bible for the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes. He previously served as lead pastor for the Traverse City and Kalkaska churches, in addition to serving as a district superintendent.



Pastor Jarod Thomas is the new pastor of the Oakwood and Monroe churches. He comes to us from Egypt, where he served most recently as a missionary. Pastor Thomas was also a pastor in Michigan with the Grand Haven and Wright churches prior to receiving a call to serve with the General Conference as Communication Manager for the Ministerial Association.



Pastor Jermaine Gayle is the lead pastor of the East Lansing University and Lansing Spanish churches. He previously served as assistant pastor of the East Lansing church and as director of the missionary training program with CAMPUS (Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students). He will continue to serve and partner with CAMPUS moving forward.



Giancarlo de Miranda is the new pastor of the Warren Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prior to Michigan, he served as the religion chair for Hartland College. He also founded the Santo's Evangelistic Training Institute (SETI), a missionary training school in Brazil.



Pastor Ariel Roldan is the new pastor of the Cadillac and Lake City churches. He previously pastored the Oakwood and Monroe churches.

NEWS BRIEF

U.P. Camp Meeting will take place as scheduled from September 3 – 7.

Pastor Chris Holland will be the keynote speaker for the extended weekend. Pastor Holland serves as World Evangelist for Adventist World Radio and Associate Director for the Living Hope School of Evangelism in Haymarket, VA.

For the latest news and info, we invite you to subscribe to the

Michigan Update, the weekly e-newsletter for the Michigan Conference. You may subscribe by accessing the following link: <http://bit.ly/MISDA7>.

Virtual Camp Meeting Offering Update.

We featured two offering goals during virtual camp meeting. The first goal is to raise \$150,000 (\$11,000 raised) for *Michigan Conference Evangelism*, and the second goal is to raise \$50,000 (\$8,000 raised) for the *El Salvador Disaster Relief and Ford Mission College*. We praise the Lord for the generous offerings so far and pray that we reach both of these important goals. For those who would like to donate, you can give to *Michigan Conference Evangelism* through your tithe envelope or online giving and for *El Salvador Disaster Relief and Ford Mission College*, you can visit www.villagesda.org and click the green online giving button.

(COVID Blessings)

COVID-19 has been a blessing. No one has enjoyed the isolation and homesickness (sick of being at home), but as with Joseph, what was meant for evil became “for good... to save many people” (Gen. 50:20). This pandemic has brought untold evil, but God can bring good even out of evil. As Paul reiterates, “We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Cor. 13:8). As we now begin to enjoy worshipping together in person, we are not leaving behind our online worshippers, either. As we are able to fellowship together in person again, we do not want to leave behind

the community that has grown from this experience.

As we now pray together in person, we cannot afford to allow our quarantine prayers to wane, either. Yes, there is a new set of challenges. Not everyone has the same perspectives regarding safe practices, timing, etc., but we are united in message and mission and community. The Lord has been with us and taught us through the quarantine, and now He will guide us and give us patience with each other as we return to the joy of in-person “fellowship of the saints.”

That first Sabbath we reopened, I was looking for Iris's white car. I knew that

someone who wouldn't allow three miles of snowdrifts to stop her from worshipping at church, wouldn't miss being there as we reopened, either. No, there were no welcoming hugs in the foyer nor aromas wafting from the fellowship hall (yet), but there was Iris as close to her normal place as the cordoned off pews would allow. The joy of worship transcends welcoming hugs and potlucks—it is the joy of fellowship with our God and one another!

By Cody Francis,
Pastor, Carp Lake, Cheboygan,
and Petoskey churches

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 2-3 New Teacher Orientation (virtual)
- 3-5 Ministerial Retreat
- 5-7 Teacher Convention (virtual)
- 7-9 iShare Conference
- 9 Lay Advisory Coordinating Committee
- 14-16 Adventurer Leadership
- 21-23 Pathfinder Leadership

SEPTEMBER

- 3-7 UP Camp Meeting
- 7 Office Closed – Labor Day
- 11-13 Adventurer Family Camp
- 13-17 Golden Years Retreat
- 18-20 Pathfinder Camporee
- 27-Oct 3 Emmanuel Institute Training Session

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NATURE NUGGET

The Dragonfly

By Bethany Neitling,
Intern, Camp Au Sable



Photo: Dr. Gordon Atkins,
Nature Director, Camp Au Sable

Zooming by on paper-thin wings, with agility matched by few, is the dragonfly. Their iridescent colors and uncanny flying ability make that stand out from other insects. Creeping up on a dragonfly is quite difficult to do because not only do they not stay in one place for very long, but their huge eyes allow them to see in almost all directions.

Upon taking a closer look at a dragonfly, you will see that their eyes make up most of their head. The dragonfly's eye is made up of about 30,000 lenses called ommatidia. Their eyes are divided into upper and lower regions. This allows them to see what is above and below them at the same time. Human eyes have only three photoreceptors that are sensitive to green, blue, and red light, but dragonflies have between fifteen and thirty photoreceptors. This means that they can see colors that humans and many other animals cannot.

Even though their compound eyes take up most of the space on their head there is still room for three little eyes called simple eyes or ocelli. These eyes have only one lens and are used to detect movement. Although not quite as fascinating they are still important for the dragonfly's survival.

Spiritually, humans have simple eyes. We don't always understand what God is doing because we can't see the whole picture. We can only see through our one lens while God sees with His compound eyes in colors beyond our imagination. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (MSG) says, "We don't yet see things clearly. We are squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing Him directly just as He knows us!" We must have faith that even in the hard times God is there, working in our lives.