



Hope 2020: The Gospel Cannot Be Quarantined!

It was early March and Rush, a friend of mine, was conversing with his colleagues. They were expressing fear and anxiety regarding the recent health threat, coronavirus. They were afraid for themselves, their families, and the country at large, while Rush displayed a relaxed, happy demeanor. “Don’t you care?” they asked. “I care a great deal, but I’m not afraid. I have confidence in Christ. He’s in control,” Rush replied.

As I listened to my friend relating this story, I realized that we, as Christians, have something others don’t. That is *hope*—the “[H]ope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began” (Titus 1:2).

It was that hope that inspired us to recreate our typical summer canvassing program into the Hope 2020 summer youth initiative.

The goal was to bring literature to Michigan’s unreached and share hope. Two major target areas included the city of Dearborn and the thumb of Michigan. Dearborn is home to over 90,000 Arabs, the largest Arab community in North America! We set a goal to reach 10,000 homes in Dearborn with 10,000 sharing books and 50,000 Arabic Balanced Living tracts. We were thrilled to reach that goal! The “Thumb,” however, is a region we don’t often

“We are grateful for those who were willing to support our young people both financially and in prayer this summer!”

canvas with literature. It includes five counties with a very modest Adventist presence, but we focused on homes in that mission field, as well!

The summer experience consisted of SEAL training, phone missions, literature preparation and literature distribution.

SEAL training – SEAL stands for *Summer Evangelism and Literature*. In collaboration with the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department, we presented special training on how



Prayer is an integral part of the summer canvassing program.

young people could get the most out of their devotional lives, know God’s will, make friends for God, get and give Bible studies, and much more!

Phone Missions – Our young people used their phones to reach out to their family, friends, and church members to invite them to join them in the mission of reaching the unreached. We praise God for all those who were able to support this mission project.

Literature Preparation – As funds were raised to purchase literature, the youth began to collate bags. Each bag

(continued on page 7)

By Vicki Griffin,
Health Ministries Director



“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.”

SURE WORD—OR HOUSE OF MIRRORS?

As a child I remember visiting the “house of mirrors” at the county fair. The brightly tinted shed was filled with row after row of distorted, warped, wild, and cracked mirrors of all shapes and sizes. Each mirror revealed a distorted “me”—stretched pencil thin, bent at right angles, squeezed into an amorphous blob—with every feature and body part pressed into garish, surreal shapes. A quick glance in a window glass afterward reassured me that I had been put back together!

The Bible is no house of mirrors—there is nothing fuzzy, fringe, or unfocused about its message, meaning, or directives. Especially in an impending crisis, God has always sent prophets to fix His people’s focus on His priorities—not distractions, distortions, or detractors of truth. And today, at the cusp of the Lord’s return, it is no different.

The More Sure Word

In his second letter, Peter addressed church members who were distorting, with their own ideas, some of the pure truths committed. He declared: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”¹ Could there be any contrast greater than light shining into darkness?

Peter forcibly asserts that the written prophetic message is “more sure” than his own eyewitness account of Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration! When he was with James and John on

the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter heard the voice of God and saw Jesus in His soon-to-be glorified state: “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. This voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.”²

If our prophetic message is crystal clear and “more sure” than a visible manifestation of the glorified Christ, we need to diligently guard it from defiling and doubtful theories, speculation, shadowy plots, and “hidden conspiracies” that serve only to confuse, cloud, distract, and taint the precious entrusted “present truth” for this time.

Present Truth—Undiluted, Undistorted

We are called out of that sometimes exciting but ultimately exhausting informational “house of mirrors” into majestic, soul-satisfying, saving truth:

“I saw the necessity of the messengers, especially, watching and checking all fanaticism wherever they might see it rise. Satan is pressing in on every side, and unless we watch for him, and have our eyes open to his devices and snares, and have on the whole armor of God, the fiery darts of the wicked will hit us. There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is ‘present truth’ that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the

important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.

But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.”³

Have You Heard the Latest?

When someone sends you the latest “behind-the-scenes” scoop via video, interview, or book, ask yourself if it meets the following “smell tests” as a teaching for our time:

1 Does it distract from our true purpose, mission and message? “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.”⁴

The filthy “cup of abominations” in the hand of the woman of Revelation 17:4 represents real false doctrines, not theories or even facts subsidiary to Bible teachings. These false doctrines attack God, His character, His Law, His grace, His work in the sanctuary, the soul state, and the final disposition of sin and sinners.

“Our people need to understand the oracles of God; they need to have a systematic knowledge of the principles of revealed truth, which will fit them for what is coming upon the earth and prevent them from being carried about by every wind of doctrine.”⁵

2 Does it delve into unfruitful realms of darkness, even if it is true? “What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”⁶ We are prone enough to misjudge our best friend’s motives, let alone the motives and machinations of people we have only read about. Daniel and his friends did not waste time sitting around criticizing King Nebuchadnezzar. They were busy studying truth. Their witness won the heart of the king in the end. Daniel was a statesman, not a politician.

3 Does it divide individuals into factions that generate disputes,

quarrels, and questions over issues that generate more heat than light? Is it Monsanto? GMO? Vaccines? Gluten? Microwave ovens? World take-over by the bad guys? “Avoid foolish disputes [and] contentions...they are unprofitable and useless.”⁷ Opinions are not doctrines. Paul had it right when he warned young Timothy: “O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.”⁸

4 Does it darken the pure biblical message with suppositions, speculation, and subterranean plots that really cannot be proved or are not worth pursuing? God calls us to wisdom: “I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.”⁹ “Sharing unfounded conspiracies is not a morally neutral act in the same way that gossiping is not morally neutral. Gossip is sinful. What are conspiracy theories but gossip to the next degree?”¹⁰

Arise, Shine!

We cannot afford to spend time with mis- and dis-information mirrors that catch, distort, and distract our attention away from our appointed work and ministry for this time. It’s God’s plan to shine the pure light of His truth straight from Heaven, right through us! When we do this, we will reflect His image and message, not our own warped version of either. “Arise, shine, for your light is come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.”¹¹

1. 2 Peter 1:19	8. 1 Timothy 6:20
2. Ibid, v. 16,18	9. 2 Cor. 10:15
3. Early Writings, pp. 63,64	10. God Calls Us to Wisdom, Not Conspiracy Theories. Herald-Banner, April 18, 2020
4. 1 Peter 4:11	11. Isaiah 60:1-3
5. 5 Testimonies, p. 273	
6. 2 Cor. 6:14	
7. Titus 3:9	

Religious Liberty Challenges?

The Michigan Conference Religious Liberty Department serves to protect Michigan members and their right to religious liberty. The Constitution of the United States allows us to think and act according to the dictates of our conscience, whether it be individually or in concert with others.

We celebrate each victory on behalf of religious freedom but also covet continued prayers for our ever-changing religious landscape. Challenges continue to arise that attempt to restrict and compromise our faith in all areas of life. The First Amendment guarantees the rights of Seventh-day Adventists to freely share and exercise our faith, which includes the Sabbath. Let us continue to hold the banner high as we worship

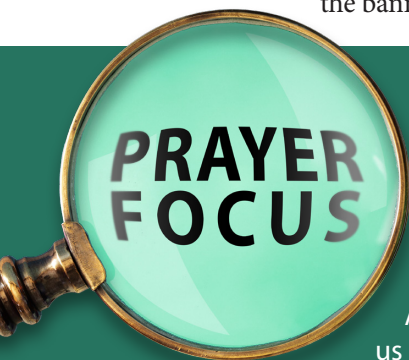
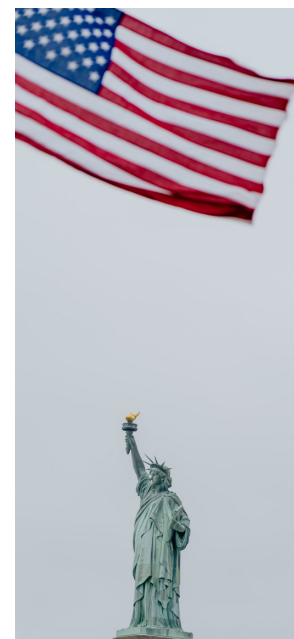
the Lord freely and without compromise.

Some of the areas that the Religious Liberty Department may assist members with include the following:

- Religious discrimination in the workplace
- Prisoner access to religious services
- Immigration and naturalization
- Objections to labor union membership

If you or someone you know faces challenges in these areas, or any others that infringe upon your freedom to worship, we ask that you take the following steps:

1. Contact your local pastor and request a letter written on your behalf;
2. If challenges persist, please contact the Religious Liberty Department (Email: aim@misda.org; Phone: 517-316-1586).



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.

SEPTEMBER 7-11
Fremont & Muskegon
Pastor Larry Kirkpatrick

SEPTEMBER 14-18
Stevensville
Pastor Bryce Bowman

SEPTEMBER 21-25
Charlotte & Urbandale
Pastor Jerry Schmidt

SEPTEMBER 28-OCT. 2
Detroit Northwest
Pastor Steve Conway



Only Jesus can ultimately save America and the world.
And He'll do it one person at a time.

HOW TO SAVE AMERICA

By Steve Allred,
Esq.

It sure seems like our world is falling apart, doesn't it? Pestilence, bloodshed and the racial conflicts in America are reminders that life on this planet isn't improving. In fact, followers of Jesus know that wickedness will increase, and when it does the love of many will grow cold (Matt. 24:12); that evil people "shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived," having "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Tim. 3:5, 13). But the good news is that Jesus will interrupt it all by His glorious coming in the clouds of heaven!

With all that's happening, should we just helplessly fold our hands and wait for Jesus to return?

Not at all. In fact, we are called to do justice and love mercy; to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:13, 14). God created us to show His love and demonstrate His truth to our neighbors and enemies by doing to others what we would have them do to us. Jesus said this "golden rule" literally sums up the law and the prophets (Matt. 7:12).

While Adventists were active in improving society's morals, they simultaneously opposed using the Bible as a legislative bludgeon to coerce people into becoming religious. In fact, White noted that the impulse to force others in matters of faith originates with Satan. "There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess Satan's spirit than *the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.*" (*The Desire of Ages*, 487). Ouch! I

suspect that last line hits close to home for many of us.

AMERICA'S TURN TOWARD INTOLERANCE

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed..." (Rev. 13:11-13 NKJV).

Almost from the start, Adventists warned that the United States, symbolized by the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13, was beginning to speak like a dragon. America, Adventist pioneers noted, was already speaking like a dragon as the nation participated in the enslavement and brutalization of African Americans. And it would do so again by, among other things, restricting freedom of conscience in the future.

Who or what would cause the American nation to finally legislate religion as Revelation predicted?

More than once, White laid the blame squarely at the feet of backslidden Christians:

"Finding herself destitute of the power of love, [the church] has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted, and the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time." (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 126, 127).

White then explained exactly how this would happen in America. In

her monumental work, *The Great Controversy*, she wrote: "In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, *the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.*" (*The Great Controversy*, 443).

"When the Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion... *when the state shall use its power to enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church--then will Protestant America have formed an image to the papacy.*" (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 976).

The church controlling the government. The state using its power to enforce the decrees of the church.

That's how the Adventist pioneers saw Revelation 13 being fulfilled.

WHO CAN SAVE AMERICA?

Fast forward to today and it's tempting to think that those early Adventists might have missed something. Shouldn't we want church leaders to have our favorite politician's ear? With the decline of morals in society, don't we want to make sure that only Christians hold political office? Why not make the Bible the law of the land and have government-led prayer in schools?

The story of the early Adventist believers gives us nuanced but clear answers to these questions. While Adventists were involved in social issues, seeking justice for their neighbor, their understanding of apocalyptic prophecy led them to

strenuously oppose the grasping of the reins of political power by the church to enforce religion.

Revelation foretells the end-time political powers committing spiritual fornication with the great harlot, symbolizing the apostate Roman church (see Revelation 17:1-2). Why does the Bible call this union between the church and the kings of the earth “fornication”? Because God considers this intimate of a relationship between church and state to be sinful. And it’s not just the kings of the earth who will be in bed with the apostate church. The prophecy says that “*the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication;*” meaning, *the whole Christian world experiences*

spiritual intoxication and comes to believe that this abominable marriage of church and state is God’s will. If possible, Jesus said, even the elect would be deceived.

Please don’t fall for it. Our world’s problems won’t be fixed by politicians who promise to bring America “back to God.” Why? Because it’s not the government’s job to bring people to God – it’s your job! *Jesus actually wants His church – that would be you and me – to be His agents on earth to show the world who He really is.*

Early Adventists understood this. They knew that while followers of Jesus are to be on the forefront of alleviating suffering and injustice in the world (see, e.g., Matthew 25:31-46), their

goal isn’t to set up God’s kingdom on earth, to “enforce what they regard as the laws of God, and to make them the expositors of His will and the agents of His authority.” Because it won’t be “by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men” that the kingdom of Christ will be established, but “by the implanting of Christ’s nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit.” (*The Desire of Ages*, 509).

Only Jesus can ultimately save America and the world. And He’ll do it one person at a time, showing His love and truth through you and me as we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

Music, Sermons
Gospel Stories
Health Programs

NOW STREAMING!

STRONG TOWER RADIO
Where God's Character Is Proclaimed

StrongTowerRadio.org

“God continues changing lives through STR broadcasts, and all glory belongs to Him.”

Strong Tower Radio: Great Discoveries Continue!

God raised up Strong Tower Radio (STR) to strengthen and expand communication of the most important message given to humanity for these times, the Three Angels’ Message. We praise God for your faithful support of STR—without it this vital ministry will not continue.

Listeners regularly call and express appreciation for the timely biblical messages they hear, whether in a sermon, a children’s story or the uplifting reverent music. A listener recently shared the following experience via email:

Dear Tom,

Thank you for providing me the web address and link to view Pastor Shawn Boonstra’s ‘Revelation Speaks Peace’ series. As I was traveling from my home in Linden... to my son’s home in Lansing... I lost signal for my usual Christian radio stations. I began to search the dial for another station...and

heard a man expounding on biblical prophecy... I listened intently as the teacher talked about the prophetic teachings of scripture, and that we can recognize that the end times are approaching by watching for an increase in wars, famines and pestilences, earthquakes, and unusual weather events... Again, thank you for the work you do in providing the radio ministry.

Sincerely, John

This listener is one of thousands yet to discover the full truth as it is in Jesus. Will you be the hand of Jesus to offer them the Bread of Life? Consider STR the tool in your hand to magnify your outreach beyond measure.

The broadcast presently reaches nearly half of Michigan through 11 stations and now streams online (see below for link). The listening base continues growing. An STR supporter recently asked a visiting service technician, “What radio station do you listen to?”

The technician said, “Strong Tower Radio. I listen to it all the time!”

God continues changing lives through Strong Tower Radio broadcasts, and all glory belongs to Him. We rejoice to be a part of His work and invite you to rejoice with us. Please pray that God would grant us more of His Spirit working through us and draw even more seekers to Him in this final hour! We’re almost home!

Please visit <https://strongtowerradio.org> for more information and programming. Strong Tower Radio also provides online streaming on their website for those unable to listen through radio broadcast. Simply visit the link above and click the button, “Listen to Online Streaming.”

By Tom Mejeur,
Production Director,
Strong Tower Radio



"If you long to better understand the Seventh-day Adventist message, the upcoming training is just for you."

For registration or more information, visit:
www.EmmanuelInstitute.org/programs

Emmanuel Institute Training: Sep 27-Oct 3

We know that God raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to give a distinct message to the world, yet too often we see few souls added to the church or little, if any, success in personal evangelism. Are people just less interested in spiritual truth these days? Is our message no longer relevant in today's rapidly changing society? Are our evangelistic methods outdated?

If you long to better understand the Seventh-day Adventist message and to be more effective in sharing it with others, the upcoming Emmanuel On Location is just for you! This seven-day

training course will help transform your spiritual ideals into practical success. Friends, you can win souls! By God's grace you *will* win souls!

Whether you are a church member, leader, or pastor, this intensive is specifically designed to help you become a more active and effective witness for Christ anytime, anywhere. You will gain more confidence in the Biblical foundations for your faith, more courage in sharing your faith with others, and more ability to infuse your church with the spirit of revival.



Where: Lansing, Michigan

When: September 27-October 3

Price: \$249 (includes lodging!)



New Online Elementary School

The mission of Adventist Education is to reach as many young people for the kingdom as possible. We are blessed to have 33 schools scattered across our Conference footprint. Yet, many of these schools are inaccessible to many of our constituent families geographically, or for other reasons.

The Covid-19 crisis has helped us realize that we can do something about that. The Michigan Conference Board



of Education has approved the launch of ASPIRE (Adventist School Preparing Instilling and Redeeming for Eternity). This online elementary school (grades 1-8) will be uniquely personal and interactive between teacher and student.

Teacher). These two dedicated and successful leaders have years of teaching experience and have implemented innovative, personable, and interactive learning for their students.



We are very excited to introduce to you Ben Zork (Principal/Upper Grades Teacher) and Julia Robinson (Lower Grades

During the Covid-19 crisis, Ben and Julia were at the cutting edge of implementing successful technology-mediated education for their students, and now they are poised and excited to bring

this and much more to ASPIRE. If you are interested in supporting this new initiative and would like to partner in some way, please contact Ben Zork at: bzork@misda.org.

For more details and information, including teacher bios, please visit the following link: <https://www.misda.org/aspire>.

By Jeremy Hall,
 Superintendent of Schools

NEWS BRIEF



Adventist
Book Center

The Indiana Conference ABC is now serving the needs of the Lake Union Conference territory.

With the closure of Michigan's Adventist Book Centers (ABC), you may purchase printed materials, periodicals, and books from the ABC located in Cicero Indiana on the campus of Indiana Academy. The Indiana Conference ABC is now serving the needs of the Lake Union Conference territory, which includes the Michigan Conference. You may call to place orders at (317) 984-5393 or purchase online at www.AdventistBookCenter.com, where some orders qualify for free shipping.

(Hope 2020: The Gospel Cannot Be Quarantined!)



"Our young people engaged in socially distanced door-to-door literature distribution. The total amount of literature shared included: 40,000 *Story of Hope* books, 30,000 COVID-19 GLOW tracts, 10,000 *Hope for Families* GLOW tracts, and 50,000 Arabic Balanced Living health tracts."

included the book *Story of Hope*, a COVID-19 GLOW tract, and a flyer with a BibleStudyOffer.com pamphlet, Strong Tower Radio info, and a link to get more literature.

Literature Distribution – Our young people engaged in socially distanced door-to-door literature distribution. The total amount of literature shared included: 40,000 *Story of Hope* books, 30,000 COVID-19 GLOW tracts, 10,000 *Hope for Families* GLOW tracts, and 50,000 Arabic Balanced Living health tracts. As my colleague, David Pano, pointed out, "It seemed like everything was being quarantined, but the gospel should never be quarantined!" It is so true, and we're thankful that we were able to find an acceptable method to continue sharing God's truth, especially at this time! By God's grace, 130,000 pieces of literature were distributed this summer.

Who knew that this year we would have to expect the unexpected? We praise God that He still allowed us to engage our young people in ministry training and in making a real difference in the unreached

communities of Michigan. As our youth made phone calls, looking for partners in this summer ministry project, they could see God at work. Aron reported that one person he called mentioned that right before he called they had asked God to lead them to a mission project they could support. And just then, they received a call inviting them to support our literature distribution mission project.

We are grateful for those who were willing to support our young people both financially and in prayer this summer! If you are just now learning of this project and would be interested in giving to fund literature for Michigan's unreached, simply go to your church's online giving site (if you attend a Michigan congregation) and donate to "Hope 2020—literature for Michigan's unreached." Or, you can donate directly at fherbooks.com/hope.

Finally, there was one more mission focus we had this summer and that included canvassing for missions overseas. For the past four years we have invited our young canvassers

to set aside one day's earnings (if they chose) for foreign missions. The overseas mission projects were selected with the help of the General Conference Publishing Ministries Department. This year we'd like to invite everyone to consider joining our young people in dedicating one day's earnings to foreign mission projects. To learn more about this project, visit: gofundme.com/work4missions.

This project idea was inspired by the following quote: "*The home missionary work will be farther advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off*" (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 27).

May God richly bless you as you brighten the corner where you are today for Him! The gospel is not quarantined, it's just changing shape!

By Kamil Metz,
Literature Ministries Director

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

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

- 4-7 LIFT (Lifestyle Improvements for Teens)
- 11-15 Work Week – Camp Au Sable
- 16-18 Lay Advisory Retreat/Constituency Meeting
- 21-25 GLAA Home Leave
- 23-25 ACS Retreat
- 23-25 Lake Union Club Ministries Training – Berrien Springs
- 24 TLT Squared
- 25 Pathfinder Council
- 26 Teachers In-Service
- 30-Nov 1 Sabbath School Workshop

MICHIGAN MEMO is a monthly publication of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for its constituents. Andy Im, editor; Beth Thomas, acting assistant editor; **Seminars Unlimited**, layout, design, and print. Comments may be submitted by emailing communication@misda.org.

NATURE NUGGET

Blue Jays Are Not Blue!

By Dr. Gordon Atkins,
Nature Director,
Camp Au Sable

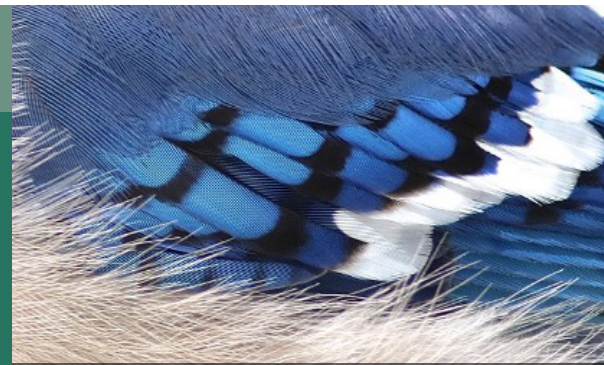


Photo: Dr. Gordon Atkins

What a minute! What did you say? That's right, Blue Jays are not blue! Let me explain. While there are chemical pigments for red, yellow, orange, green, black, and brown in the bird world, interestingly there are no blue pigments found in any bird feathers! Red pigments found in the feathers of a Northern Cardinal for example, absorb all the other colors of visible light and reflect back the red wavelengths of light. You could dissolve the red pigments from those feathers and have a red liquid.

Not so for the color blue in birds. So, birds that look blue, like the Blue Jay and the Eastern Bluebird, must have another trick up their feathers to look the way they do. As it turns out, blue is a structural color, caused by microscopic holes or pits in their feathers. Light enters the pits and rattles around and, because of the size of the holes, only blue can get back out.

This kind of coloration is referred to as iridescence. The consequence is that if the light is not hitting the feather at the right angle the feather does not look blue. When that happens with Blue Jay feathers, the feathers look brown because Blue Jays also have brown pigments! So, there you have it—Blue Jays are not blue; they are brown!

There is a lesson in this story. Things don't always look like they appear – much like blue-looking Blue Jays that are really brown! It is important that we don't judge others from the outward appearance or actions, but dig deep to find out what the circumstances are that are influencing their actions. Only then are we in a position to help a person who may be in need. Remember "...man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 KJV).