

# PIONEER

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# CONNECT

JANUARY 21, 2017



# STORM

FINDING JESUS IN THE  
GATHERING DARK

# 2

WE WORSHIP • PAGE 8 | WE WORSHIP 2 • PAGE 11




# WELCOME

*to Pioneers*

One of the touristic places I was taken to a few weeks ago was also a place of prayer for many people. It was New Year's Day. I was fascinated and touched by the multitude who gathered to pray. We didn't share the same faith but I could relate to their desire to begin 2017 with plugging into divine power and seeking for God's direction. We live in uncertain times but we can be sure that there is a House of Prayer where all people are welcome and from whom God waits to hear. "The Lord longs to be gracious to you" (Isaiah 30:19).

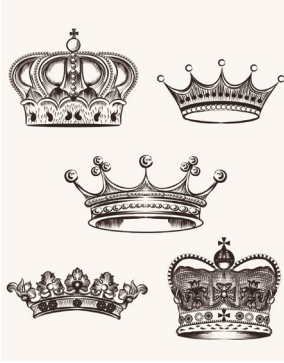
We are glad that you have chosen to join us here at this House of Prayer. Thank you. May you experience God's grace and welcome today!

–Sabine Vatel

 <b>PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH</b> 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		<b>PHONE</b> – 269.471.3133 <b>FAX</b> – 269.471.6152
<b>LIVE STREAMING</b> <a href="http://www.newperceptions.tv">www.newperceptions.tv</a> Sabbath 11:45 AM	<b>ONLINE</b> <a href="http://www.pmchurch.org">www.pmchurch.org</a> <a href="http://www.newperceptions.tv">www.newperceptions.tv</a>	<b>RADIO</b> WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
 <b>NOMINATING REPORT</b> Scan this code to view the most recent Nominating Committee Report.		 <b>FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL</b>

# FIND IT HERE

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## 4

### THE FOURTH WATCH BLOG

Praying for Our Kings

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## 8

### WE WORSHIP

9:00 AM Service

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 6

### PIONEER LIFE

Let's GROW Fishing!

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### SABBATH SCHOOL

The Divinity of the Holy Spirit

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## 15

### CONTACTS

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## 11

### WE WORSHIP 2

11:45 AM Service

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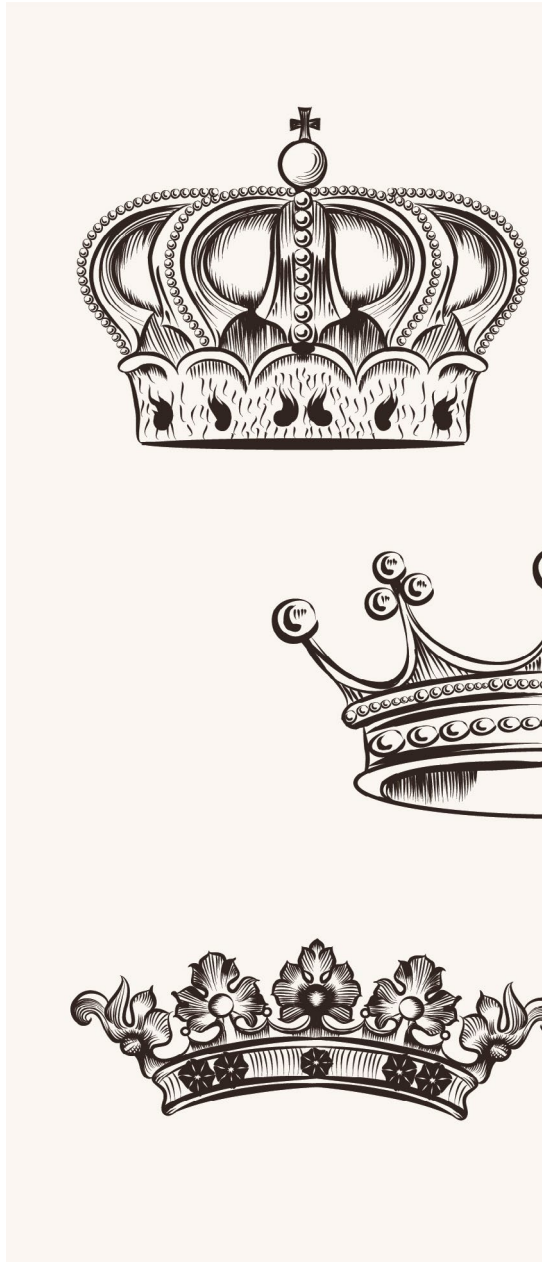
# PRAYING FOR OUR KINGS

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

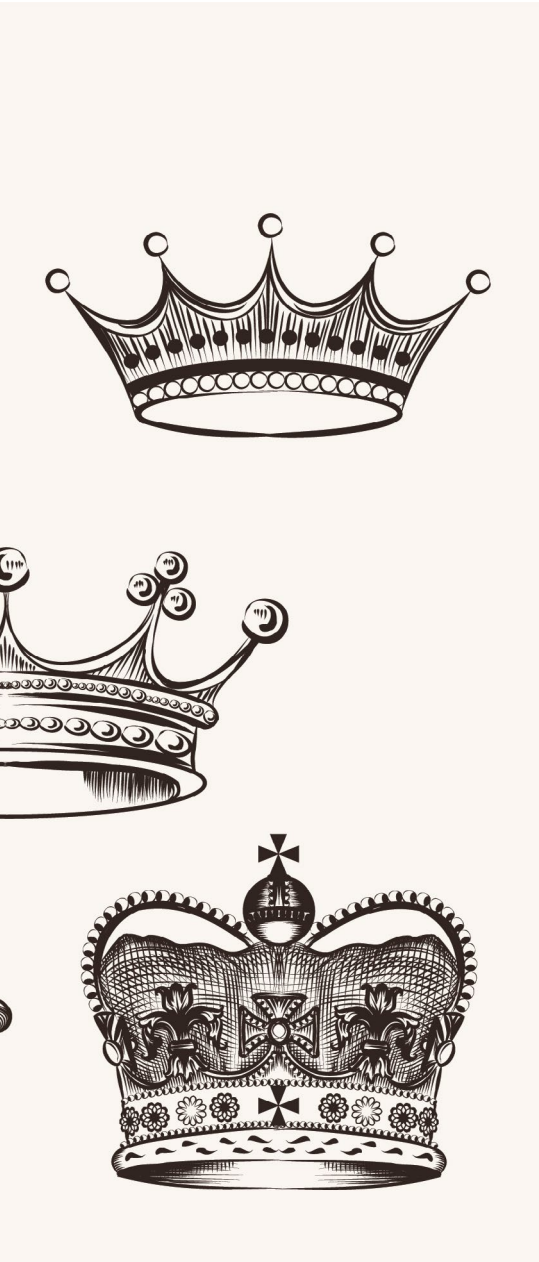
I want to be both politically neutral and correct in making an assertion. In my lifetime (my dear mother [whom we buried this week] named me after a general soon-to-become president named Eisenhower and a preacher named Moody) I do not recall a more contentious build-up to a new president and his administration than the one we are experiencing. In a few hours Donald John Trump will take the oath for the office of President of the United States, and a new chapter in this nation's history will begin. And how shall we respond?

The Bible lists not a single caveat nor even one exception clause in its profound advocacy to pray for political leaders in power: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Be reminded that when the apostle Paul wrote this call to prayer, Nero was the reigning monarch in the Roman Empire.

And please note this is not simply a call to intercede for our new president. It is



also an appeal to give "thanksgiving" for our leader(s). Clearly Paul commands no begrudging prayers, but rather fervent thanksgiving prayers. And given the political climate in the empire when Paul wrote this admonition, it is just as clear that he cannot be describing a "thank God my



cause such praying is good and pleases God; so that (5) all people might be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Five compelling reasons why you and I should fervently pray for the new President.

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**THUS, IT MATTERS NOT HOW THE POLITICAL FORTUNES OF THIS NATION AND THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD MAY YET TWIST AND TURN. THE IMPERATIVE IS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR: PRAY FOR YOUR KING.**

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Thus, it matters not how the political fortunes of this nation and the nations of the world may yet twist and turn. The imperative is unmistakably clear: Pray for your king. And so, in obedience to the Lord of Lords and King of kings (and if you prefer, the President of presidents), let this faith community lift up our collective and private voices in intercession to Him who “deposes kings and raises up others . . . [who] knows what lies in darkness” (Daniel 2:21-22). Let us pray for our kings, for the sake of our Lord’s saving mission, for the sake of yet reaching the people of this nation and world with the glad tidings: “The King is coming.”

Amen. ■

political views have won” sort of congratulatory prayer either.

Why would Paul issue such a clarion call to pray for our kings? He is quick to list the reasons: (1) that we may live peaceful lives; (2) that we may live quiet lives; (3) that we may live in godliness and holiness; (4) be-

You can follow Pastor Dwight’s blog at [www.pmchurch.tv/blog](http://www.pmchurch.tv/blog).



# LET'S GROW FISHING!

BY SABINE VATEL

A few years ago while scanning through my car radio, I tuned into the middle of a program series exploring the religious habits of Millennials. The host talked about the increasing popularity of "buffet religion." As the term suggests, you pick and choose systems of beliefs that work best for your life. One of the young adults being interviewed said, "I am the author of my faith. I decide."

The mandate to teach people what Jesus taught them would seem a tall order, if not almost impossible. We are at a time in U.S. history with the highest number of those younger than are 30 pulling away from religion.<sup>1</sup>

In the context of a culture estranged from religion, or making up its own, it might feel awkward to even consider approaching a

friend of any age about our faith. By the way, how many of us have friends outside of our Seventh-day Adventist community? Judging by the conversations I have with church folk, not many feel that they do. If your brain scrambled to think of at least one person to witness to, take heart. If the idea of entering religious conversations with a stranger is a scary proposition, also take heart.

## GROW IN JESUS

Evangelism is more than an event. It flows out of a life already growing in Jesus. This is the life of a disciple of Jesus. If we don't see anyone to invite, it's time to go fishing for them. Fishers of men and women don't make themselves. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."<sup>2</sup> It's hard to study the life of

Christ and remain the same. Let's give in to Him and allow Him to transform us into fearless fishing followers. Of all our resolutions for 2017, our daily recommitment to "follow" Jesus will be our most transformational decision.

## GROW IN JESUS WITH OTHERS

While socializing with friends recently, I opened my heart about something that's been weighing on me. Unexpectedly, those people around me prayed for me. We weren't a formal group or program. We were just friends hanging out. That was the boost I needed to take action. When we are in sync with God and each other, we will make more of a difference than going at it on our own. Jesus sent people two by two, and He used groups to fish for people. Partner up with one more person. Discipleship starts with friendship with God and each other. Let's pray for each other's walk with Jesus as we invite others in the Christian journey.<sup>3</sup> A GROW Group is at least two friends who share an interest, and then look around asking, "Who else could we bless? God, show us."

## GROW HOPE

Pray to notice the people who are part of your routine—at the grocery store, post office, or work, for example. Pray for the courage to change your routine so that you'll meet new people. Pastor Taurus Montgomery shared an experience of a guest coming to church because of a smile she received at a grocery store a few months ago. Once you encounter new people, it won't take much to grow hope. A smile and a greeting are sometimes all you need to break the ice. Your witness about God's care for people is an extension of who you are and what you are already passionate about. GROW Groups are one way to live this out.

## GROW GROUPS

Leading a GROW Group means to facilitate an intergenerational community that makes service and social times a big part of their lives together. While religious skeptics might not come to church on Sabbath morning with us, they are more apt to say yes to sharing in a social event. According to recent data, there are two top aspects of church that will reach today's churchless:

1. Older adults who are willing to offer their life's wisdom to the younger generation.
2. Outreach projects that impact the local community and improve the lives of the marginalized and poor.<sup>4</sup>

Beyond this, "loving, genuine relationships, are the only remaining currency readily exchanged between the church and the churchless."<sup>5</sup> As a church we make room for seasons of GROW Groups so that we can facilitate a space for friendships to grow and fishing to flow. We are called and empowered as fishers of people, so that they might know that the invitation to follow Jesus is for them, and that He can be their source of hope too. It's 2017, let's grow! ■

<sup>1</sup>"More Young People Are Moving Away from Religion, But Why?" Morning Edition. January 15, 2013, radio broadcast.

<sup>2</sup>Matthew 4:19 NIV

<sup>3</sup>House of Prayer meets every Wednesday night at 7 PM for the purpose of empowering disciples to grow.

<sup>4</sup>George Barna and David Kinnaman, *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them* (Texas: Tyndale Momentum, 2014), 149-150.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., 4.

Sabine Vatel is the pastor of Discipleship/  
GROW Groups here at PMC.

## SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write  
"GROW Groups"  
on your tithe envelope.

# WE WORSHIP

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## Opening Voluntary

*Holy, Holy, Holy • Charles Callahan*

## Introit

*Come Into His Presence*

## Call to Worship

Sabine Vatel

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth shall change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**The Lord is exalted among the nations, the Lord is exalted in  
the earth! Come, let us sing praise to the name of the Lord.**

## Doxology

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2*

## Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

## Hymn of Praise

*Holy, Holy, Holy • 73*

## Congregational Prayer

Sabine Vatel  
*We Would See Jesus • st. 1 of 494*

## Worship in Music

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah • Melvin West*

## Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense  
*We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight • James Biery*

## Children's Story

## Scripture

John 16:31-33 NIV • Jeannie Pedersen-Smith & Harold Smith

"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home.

**You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.**

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.

**In this world you will have trouble.**

But take heart! I have overcome the world."



**Hymn of Preparation**

*My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* • 523

**Sermon** "STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—2 • Dwight K. Nelson

**Connect Card**

**Hymn of Commitment**

*I Know Whom I Have Believed* • 511

**Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary**

*Fantasia* • Johann Sebastian Bach / Reger

PRESIDING PASTOR: Sabine Vatel; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director

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# MUSIC ALIVE

## BELIEVING, NOT SEEING

"Seeing is believing" is an expression at odds with the import of today's offertory music. The organ music by James Biery is of a hymn melody associated with the text "We walk by faith, and not by sight" by Henry Alford. The author's thought continues: "No gracious words we hear / From Him who spake as none e'er spake; / But we believe Him near." Alford's encouraging

text continues with several further stanzas, among the thoughts the recognition that without touching Jesus' hands and side, we cry "My Lord and God!", and the plea that the Lord help our unbelief: "And may our faith abound,..." James Biery's organ meditation seems to be firmly yet gently assuring. Biery directs the substantial music program of a Presbyterian church, Grosse Point Farms, Michigan. ■

# WE STUDY

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<b>Song Service</b>	Christina Carroll
<b>Welcome &amp; Prayer</b>	Ben Martin
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Leo Aguilera
<b>Special Feature</b>	Sow Safari
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i> • Horatio Spafford
<b>Bible Study</b>	“The Divinity of the Holy Spirit” • Classes
<b>Theme Song</b>	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine.  
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

“Make Me a Blessing,” Ira Bishop Wilson  
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

<b>Benediction</b>	Christina Carroll
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
OFFERTORY: Jeremy Ahn, piano

# WE WORSHIP 2

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## **As We Begin**

*Come Into His Presence*

## **Praise**

*The Lord is My Light (515) • God of Wonders  
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less • Still*

## **Prayer**

Sabine Vatel

## **Baptism**

Nicholas & Alexander Djordjevic & Zachary Mngo  
*with Lidija Djordjevic Runic & Ben Martin*

## **Tithes & Offerings**

*We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight • James Biery*

## **Children's Story**

## **Bible Reading**

John 16:31-33 *NIV*

## **Worship in Music**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah • Melvin West*

## **Sermon**

"STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—2 • Dwight K. Nelson

## **Connect Card**

*I Know Whom I Have Believed • 511*

## **As We Depart**

*Fantasia • Johann Sebastian Bach / Reger*

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; PIANO: Joshua Goines; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan  
GUITAR: Michael Gibson; VOCALS: Annelise Burghardt, Jewel Howard, Vivian Raimundo  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director

**SUBMIT** announcements by emailing [bulletin@pmchurch.org](mailto:bulletin@pmchurch.org) or by going to [www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit](http://www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit). Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

**NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING**  
Michigan Advance Partners

**SUNSET TODAY** • 5:44  
**SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY** • 5:53

## PIONEER PULPIT

| 01 • 28 |

### DWIGHT K. NELSON

“Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—3

| 02 • 04 |

### DWIGHT K. NELSON

“Storm: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—4

## FINANCIAL FEATURE

### PMC OPERATING BUDGET

Many of us are focused on returning a faithful tithe but are more sporadic than systematic in our freewill offerings. Systematic giving portrays an inclusion of God and His cause in our personal budgets and helps to adequately provide for various needs of the church. Suppose we walked into church on a cold Sabbath morning to find no lights and no heat and had to worship in our heavy coats, hats and gloves; those, and many others, are the needs that we have an opportunity to provide for by participating in the PMC church Budget offering today.

### Sanctuary Flowers

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of David Hodge by his family.

### Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

### Adventist Forum

TODAY • 3:30 PM

CHAN SHUN HALL  
(GARBER AUDITORIUM)

Denis Fortin will present “The Story behind *Steps To Christ* after 125 Years: The Compilation, Sources, and Setting of the Book.”

### Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:30 PM

YOUTH CHAPEL

In honor of Martin King Jr., we will watch a video of the Oakwood choir performing spirituals.

### Scrapbooking Together

TOMORROW • 1:00 TO 6:00 PM

PMC COMMONS

Enjoy time working on your card or scrapbook projects. Bring your favorite snack. We provide the prizes and chocolate. For questions, contact [sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org](mailto:sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org).

## **AU Spring Week of Prayer**

JANUARY 23 - 27

Our guest speaker will be Taj Pacleb. The morning meetings will be at 11:30 AM in the PMC Sanctuary and the Evening Experiences will be at 7:30 PM in the PMC Youth Chapel.

## **Knitting Hearts Together**

JANUARY 24 • 7:00 TO 8:30 PM  
MACCARTY HOME

The Knitting Hearts Together group will meet again this Tuesday. For more information, contact Alice Williams ([alicew@andrews.edu](mailto:alicew@andrews.edu) or 471.3373) or Lyn McCarty (471.9060 or 208.3377).

## **House of Prayer**

WEDNESDAYS • 7:00 PM  
PMC SANCTUARY

Bring your Bible and join us for a special collective prayer service.

## **Calling All Cookie Bakers!**

Help us provide a warm experience for our students at the next GROW Cafe, January 27. Bring your favorite home-baked cookies to the church by January 26 during office hours. Please contact [quetz@pmchurch.org](mailto:quetz@pmchurch.org) for more information. Thank you for your hospitality!

## **Shop to Share the Gospel!**

JANUARY 27 • APPLE VALLEY

Support AU Student Missions as we shop to share the gospel! Faculty, Staff, Alumni, & Students of Andrews University, Andrews Academy, and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School bring your AU ID and shop at Apple Valley! 5% of your total purchases will go to AU Student Missions. This includes Hallmark and Cafe 31.

## **PMC Game Night**

JANUARY 28 • 7:00 PM  
PMC COMMONS

All students and members are invited for a fun evening of games and food! Bring your favorite game and join us!

## **ARM Annual Dinner**

JANUARY 29 • 1:00 PM  
ANDREWS ACADEMY COMMONS

Join us for our annual ARM dinner. Andrews Academy has always appreciated the prayers and support that ARM has provided and would like to thank you by having our students prepare a meal and program for you. Come enjoy a great luncheon followed by music and inspiring testimonies by the students. It is open to all retirees. RSVP to Ralph Wood by January 26 by calling (269)921.0038 or emailing [rcwood90@gmail.com](mailto:rcwood90@gmail.com).

## **Financial Peace University**

FEBRUARY 23 • 6:30 TO 8:00 PM  
PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

When was the last time you had peace about your finances? Join us as we learn biblical principals to help manage personal finances through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days! For more information or to register visit [www.pmchurch.org/financialpeaceuniversity](http://www.pmchurch.org/financialpeaceuniversity) or call the church office at 269.471.3133. Limited partial scholarships may be available.

## **Get Our E-Letter!**

Receive PMC's e-Letter, Pioneer Mid-week, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at [www.pmchurch.org/newsletter](http://www.pmchurch.org/newsletter).

## Thank You

We would like to thank PMC for their support during our time of loss. A special thank you to the Funeral Dinner team who went out of their way to provide a wonderful meal.

—*The family of Roger Wotring*

We want to thank our church family and Andrews University Faculty and Staff for the comfort and support we received during this difficult time. Thank you for taking the time to visit Luz while she was ill, as well as your prayers, phone calls, flowers, cards, food, etc. Thank you also for a delicious meal after the Memorial Service. We appreciate the PMC team for making this Memorial Service as stress-free as possible. You will forever be in our hearts.

—*Douglas & Willyta Wamack*

Thank you for the thoughtful and comforting expressions you have shared with Karen and me (and the rest of the Nelson and Watts families) upon the death of my mother, Barbara. She was a wonderful woman, and I wish you could have known her. But your prayers, flowers, cards, and kindnesses have affirmed the hope we have in Jesus' soon return. Till then you have our love and gratitude.

—*Dwight K. Nelson*

## South Bend Christian Homeschool Co-Op

Join us twice a month to enjoy chapel together, public speaking practice, hands-on projects, reading with friends, and more. We also participate in field trips and Bible labs. For more info, contact Monica Nudd at [monjac720@gmail.com](mailto:monjac720@gmail.com).

## GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at [www.pmchurch.org/grow](http://www.pmchurch.org/grow). Help us grow more hope, community, and friends for Christ! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at [growgroups@pmchurch.org](mailto:growgroups@pmchurch.org) or 269.471.6153.

## We Mourn

Today we mourn with the family of Margaret "Peggy" Kroncke. Mrs. Margaret Evelyn "Peggy" Kroncke, widow of former PMC pastor, John Kroncke, passed away on January 6, in Temecula, California. She will be buried alongside her husband in Rose Hill Cemetery. Services are still pending. We also grieve with Paul Down on the death of his sister, Robbin E. Down, who passed away on January 1. The memorial service was held at the Village SDA Church on Sunday, January 8. With these families we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

## Care for Cuba

Help equip Cuban pastors and Bible workers with crucial resources like technology, transportation, and ministry materials. Checks paid to your church should be marked "Cuba" on the tithe envelope. Visit [CareforCuba.org](http://CareforCuba.org) for more info or to donate online. For more info ([mdivstudy-tour@andrews.edu](mailto:mdivstudy-tour@andrews.edu) or 269.471.3538).

## More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at [www.pmchurch.org/announcements](http://www.pmchurch.org/announcements).

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TRANSFORMING  
THIS **GENERATION**



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