CONSER

FEBRUARY 20, 2016



WELCOME TO PIONEER

How expansive is your theology of the other? In other words, I think most of us play lip service to loving other people, even those who are quite different from us. But I'm wondering if your theology

could handle what John Petty, pastor of the All Saints Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO, originally wrote in his church bulletin one day. Here's a slightly modified portion of what he submitted.

We welcome those who are single, married or divorced, female, male, straight or gay, filthy rich or dirt poor, citizens, temporary residents or undocumented, old as dirt or newborn, from the rich array of cultural diversity, skinny as a rail or ready to lose a few pounds, singers like Andrea Bocelli or musically challenged, just browsing, just woke up, or just got out of jail.

No matter where you are in your journey, I welcome you today. -Rodlie Ortiz



PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103

OFFICE HOURS

 $Monday - Thursday (8 to 5) \cdot Friday (8 to 12)$

PHONE – 269.471.3133 **FAX** – 269.471.6152

LIVE STREAMING

www.newperceptions.tv Sabbath 11:45 AM

ONLINE

www.pmchurch.org www.newperceptions.tv

RADIO

WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM



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Find a list of pastors, staff, and ministry leaders on our website.



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THE FOURTH **WATCH BLOG**

Are These Modern-day Martyrs?

FEATURE ARTICLE

Lessons from the Mission Field

PIONEER ONE 9:00 AM Worship

SABBATH SCHOOL

Comrades in Arms

PIONEER TWO

11:45 AM Worship

12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

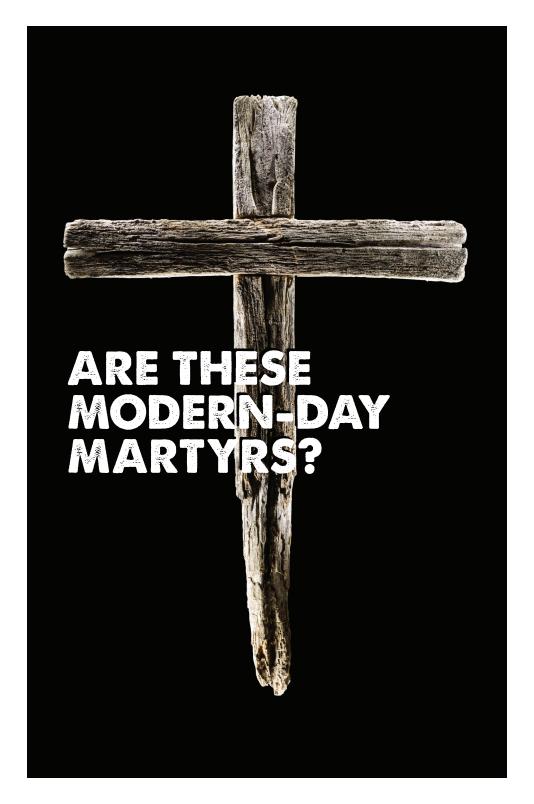
MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

MPE ARTICLE

Harbor of Hope

CONTACTS

SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORY



BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

read a fascinating piece from the Wall Street Journal this week (thank you, Don Wilson)—"ISIS Is Guilty of Anti-Christian Genocide" (2-12-16 A11). Written by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the essay is a one-year anniversary reflection of the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians by Islamic State terrorists. "These Coptic Christian hostages were executed for no other reason than their faith in Jesus Christ. ISIS released a video of the barbarism with the title: 'A Message Signed With Blood to the Nations of the Cross'" (ibid).

Side-stepping the heated debate within Christian circles over whether the religion of Islam is contrary to the principles and truths of Christianity (e.g., the recent termination of a Wheaton College professor because of her claim that Christians and Muslims worship the same God), the author of the WSJ essay relates a detail from that execution I had not read before. Let me quote the bishop's essay:

The 21 men executed that day were itinerant tradesman [sic] working on a construction job. All were native Egyptians but one, a young African man whose identity is uncertain—reports of his name vary, and he was described as coming Chad or Ghana. But the power of his example is unshakable. The executioners demanded that each hostage identify his religious allegiance. Given the opportunity to deny their faith, under threat of death, the Egyptians declared their faith in Jesus. Steadfast in their belief even in the face of evil, each was beheaded.

Their compatriot was not a Christian when captured, apparently, but when

challenged by the terrorists to declare his faith, he reportedly replied: 'Their God is my God.' The ISIS murderers seek to demoralize Christians with acts like the slaughter on a Libyan beach. Instead they stir our wonder at the courage and devotion inspired by God's love" (ibid).

Jesus, the ultimate divine Savior Martyr, once intoned: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" Mark 8:34, 35.

The Greek word, martus, from whence comes our word "martyr," means "witness." As with these 21 men, martyrs are those who give the ultimate witness by their death. But these words from Jesus do not command our martyrdom. Rather they summon from us a bold, unflinching witness to Christ's lordship in our daily living. The kind of living Dietrich Bonhoeffer described, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" (The Cost of Discipleship 99).

Which can mean: Come and die to social conformity or popularity—come and die to financial success or personal gain—come and die to professional reputation—come and die to the Devil's Faustian bargain—come and die to self-advancement or self-preservation—come and die—period.

Because in the scarlet shadow of the cross, the greatest crucible is not dying—it is living—and therein lies our martyrdom.

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.org/blog.

LESSONS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

BY SUSY GOMEZ

t was well past midnight when I got home from my short summer vacation. The trip back had been rainy, slow, and stressful to say the least. Dazed from lack of sleep, I reached into my now damp luggage and searched for things that needed to be put away; some books, a journal, my sandals . . . Sandals? I couldn't find them anywhere. Guessing they were buried somewhere, I put the thought aside and went to bed.

The panic came when I finally started unpacking in the morning. After searching everywhere at least twice, realization sank in: they were gone. They hadn't been left behind in a church or a friend's house. No, I had forgotten them while changing at a gas station. A cold, unsettling feeling of loss took over me, making me sit and think.

You see, these sandals were more than special. Hand-cut, shaped, sewed, and painted, they could withstand any type of weather or road. The soft leather had curved to the shape of my feet so I could even forget I was wearing shoes. Most importantly, they had been a gift. A dear friend had given my roommate and me matching pairs before we left Guinea at the end of our Student Missionary (SM) term.

Since coming back from Africa, I've struggled with the idea of letting go. Every part of me wants to hold on to every part of my life there. Yet, regardless of how much I try, it keeps slipping from me. Losing my sandals was the last straw. As all these emotions settled in, I began thinking of

things I brought back with me that cannot be lost. They are lessons God taught me with patience and love.

Africa is praying for you, praying and fasting. I haven't been to many countries in Africa, but if the rest are similar to those I'm familiar with, than this statement couldn't be more true. We are used to sending out missionaries, praying for them, and giving donations (thank you). Sometimes it may feel like we are the only ones doing this, but we couldn't be more wrong. People everywhere are praying for us. They pray for us during church, week of prayers, and even during family worship. They pray for our rising divorce rate, our leaders, and our safety. They pray for our young people, our schools, and struggling churches. My missionary experience taught me that we are part of a global church in which we all look out for one another. Someone is raising you and me in prayer right now. I don't know about you, but this thought brings me great peace.

The only thing God can't use is what you don't give Him. As a homeschool SM teacher, I often wondered whether I was doing a good enough job. Were my kids learning? Was I fulfilling my call? I worried that God wouldn't be able to use me. Yet, His response was always the same, "Just give me everything." There are many stories in the Bible about God



using people everyone else thought of as inadequate. He took whatever they had and used it to make something beautiful. During my time in Guinea God drilled this lesson into my head. He said He could use every part of me, as long as I gave it to Him. Today when I am struggling or worrying about not being good enough He tells me the same thing, "Just give me everything." I know He will do miracles with what I surrender to Him.

Missionaries are people living everyday life. They live like people, struggle like people, dream like people, and pray like people. I used to have a very grandiose and romantic idea about missions. I thought it was about living dangerous adventures and doing huge acts of heroism. Sometimes this is true, but most of the time missionaries are just people trying to reflect Christ in their lives. For many missionaries the greatest legacy they leave behind will be their personal relations with the people they serve. They

will be remembered for how they treated others; for how they loved. In the same manner, you and I are Christ's representatives to the world. We are having our own mission experience in our homes and neighborhoods. We too will be remembered for how we love people and regardless of where we are, we'll have adventures of our own.

These lessons are tucked in my heart forever. Unlike my beloved sandals, they cannot be left behind or stolen. They give me strength during tough times, keeping me connected to the knowledge that God is leading my life. God's plans for us are far beyond what we can imagine. May we always take time to listen to life's lessons and gather treasure that cannot be destroyed, broken, or stolen.

Susy Gomez is a former Student Missionary.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

Opening VoluntaryAndante moderato • Marcel Dupré

Introit This Is My Father's World • Lloyd Larson

Call to Worship Rodlie Ortiz

Merciful God, we are bound by the cords of your compassion.

O Lord, help us accept your mercy and grace in our lives.

Create a place in our lives for peace and tranquility.

Let us live in your garden, Lord. We will till and keep it as your people.

Doxology Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise To God Be the Glory • 341

Congregational Prayer Rodlie Ortiz

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee • st. 1 of 241

Amen • Nicholas Zork

Worship in Music Precious Lord, Take My Hand • Thomas Dorsey

GO Project Report Rodlie Ortiz

Children's Story Forgive Us, Lord, As We Forgive • Kenneth Logan

Scripture Micah 7:7-8, 18-20 *NIV* • Celesta Burt & Dillon Zimmermann

But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Hymn of Preparation

Chief of Sinners • 295

Sermon

"Charmed into Righteousness: The Greatest Forgiver" Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Cards, Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

Hymn of Commitment

Marvelous Grace • 109

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

God of Grace and God of Glory • Paul Manz

PRESIDING PASTOR: Rodlie Ortiz; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Choral Union; Stephen Zork, director

MUSIC ALIVE

RESILIENCE AND FORGIVENESS

Georgia minister's son, African-American Thomas Dorsey in later life drifted away from God but returned to his religious roots. In St. Louis, he learned that his wife and newborn son had died. It is said that he declared, "God, you aren't worth a dime to me right now!" But weeks later Dorsey created "Precious Lord," including its lines "through the storm, through the night. . . ." Today's children's offertory is based on "Forgive"

our sins, as we forgive" (hymn 299). Author Rosamond Herklots wrote, "... some years ago... I was digging up [weeds] in a long-neglected garden. Realizing how these deeply-rooted weeds were choking the life out of the flowers in the garden, I came to feel that deeply-rooted resentments in our lives could destroy every Christian virtue and all joy and peace unless, by God's grace, we learned to forgive."

WE STUDY

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

Ed Higgins Song Service

Welcome Mordekai Ongo

Special Feature

Offering

"Comrades in Arms" • Classes Bible Study

Make Me a Blessing Theme Song

> 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

Benediction Ed Higgins

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

See page 18/19 for Sabbath School directory & map

WE PRAISE

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

As We Begin

This Is My Father's World • Lloyd Larson

Praise

Prayer

Rodlie Ortiz

Ordination of Elders

Sabine Vatel

GO Project Report

Rodlie Ortiz

Children's Story

Forgive Us, Lord, As We Forgive • Kenneth Logan

Worship in Music

Precious Lord, Take My Hand • Thomas Dorsey

Sermon

"Charmed into Righteousness: The Greatest Forgiver"

Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

Hymn

Marvelous Grace • 109

As We Depart

God of Grace and God of Glory • Paul Manz

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Choral Union; Stephen Zork, director

SUBMIT announcements by emailing <u>bulletin@pmchurch.org</u> or by going to <u>www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit</u>. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING

PMC Operating Expense

SUNSET TODAY • 6:22 **SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY** • 6:30

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| 02 • 27 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Charmed into Righteousness: The Most Loving God"

103.051

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Charmed into Righteousness: The Most Righteous Lord"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

Today's offering is for the Pioneer Memorial Church Budget. In 1 Samuel it says that to obey God is better than the fat of rams (the offerings of that day). Today we came here to worship God in different ways, one of which is by giving our offerings. Before we do this, however, perhaps we need to examine our attitudes. Are we placing the right emphasis on obeying God's Word? Or is giving a generous offering a way of excusing our criticism of others or dishonest business dealings? Kind of like buying gifts for our children instead of spending quality time with them.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 6:00 PM YOUTH CHAPEL

Join us for, "Let's Walk Together from Moab to Bethlehem" by Jennifer Daley. Today we will study the third part of the book of Ruth.

Memorial Service

TODAY • 4:00 PM PMC SANCTUARY

A memorial service celebrating the life of Delores "Dee" Woods will be held today, February 20 in the PMC Sanctuary.

PMC Young Adult Sabbath School

Scripture: Unbiased. Open-Minded. Interactive. This semester investigate Genesis, chapter by chapter. Navigate through its ancient world to find unexpected fresh meaning for today. Reimagine your life. All young adults are welcome. Starts February 20 at 10 AM in the Board Room, with a continental breakfast. Needed: Adults who have a heart for this generation and want to make them feel welcomed and connected, even beyond the Sabbath School time. Also needed: volunteers to drop off food or provide breakfast and help set up. To help, contact Oliver or Oleg via youngadults@pmchurch.org or 269.471.3553.

Family Game Night

TODAY • 7:00 TO 9:00 PM PMC TEEN LOFT

Join your PMC family for a night of fun and games! Some games will be provided, but you can bring your favorites. Refreshments will be served. Contact Alina Baltazar at baltazar@andrews.edu or Judy Nay at judynay2@hotmail.com for any questions. Sponsored by the Family Life Committee.

Blood Drive

FEBRUARY 24 & 25 • 1:00 TO 6:45 PM PMC COMMONS

To schedule an appointment, log onto www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code—AndrewsUniversity) or call 800.733.2767. For more info contact Larry Ulery (ulery@andrews.edu or 269.471.3296).

Knitting Hearts Together

FEBRUARY 23 • 7:00 TO 8:30 PM MACCARTY HOME

The shawl ministry shares God's love with those who are ill or have lost a close family member. New members are welcome! For more information, contact Alice Williams (alicew@andrews.edu or 471.3373) or Lyn MacCarty (471.9060 or 208.3377).

Scrapbooking Together

FEBRUARY 27 • 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM PMC COMMONS

Bring your projects and your favorite snack and get some memories scrapped or cards made. We have prizes and chocolate. If you have questions please email davis@pmchurch.org.

Nominating Committee—1st Reading

On Wednesday, February 3, the following individuals were selected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Some of these individuals may have said no.

Lydia Balorda
Andrew Burrill
Russell Burrill
Bill Chobotar
Carmen Collins
Claudia Davisson-Chr.
Kathleen Demsky
Emory Dent
Shelly Erhard
Jeremiah Faehner
Philip Giddings Ill
Vanna Giddings
Vida Giddings
Dennis Hollingsead-Sec.
Oleg Kostyuk

Averil Kurtz
Jonathan Logan
Ben Maguad
Debbie Michel
Debra Montcalm
Caprice Mottley
Joy Ngugi
David Nowack
Mordekai Ongo
Beverly Peck
Jean Pedersen-Smith
Norman Pottle
Lucy Randall
Julie Reid
Suzanne Renton

Brittany Ronto
Ivette Ruban
Gillian Sanner
Jane Thayer
Tabitha Umali
Lily Vajdic
Milan Vajdic
Peter van Bemmelen
Rebecca von Dorpowski
Bryan von Dorpowski
Robert Wilkins
Xiaoming Xu

Jessica Yoong

Dillon Zimmerman

| TRANSFERS IN |

CARPENTER, Stephanie CAMACHO, Loraine J. ESCOBAR, Jose R. HABENICHT, April HABENICHT, Duane HABENICHT. Elsie KATULI, Sozina KUHAL, Grace J. MAKOKO, Stellah MOUSHON, Chervl MOUSHON, Richard PARHAM, Yvette UMANA, Gabrielle WAKEFIELD, Dominique WAKEFIELD. Keith WOODS, Delores E.

| TRANSFERS OUT |

ALGER, Sally ALGER, Vernon CHRISTEN, James CHRISTEN, Randall CHRISTEN, Rita HELMS, Thomas JOHNSON, Brigitte KIM, Grace NIERE. Derek RAMIREZ, Jahaira RAMIREZ, Nay RIVERA, Ruth STEELY, Logan STEELY. Tinelle STOJANOVIC, Kristina WAGTOWICZ, Lois WAGTOWICZ, Thomas WILLIAMS, Sherman WILLIAMS, Michelle WOUABE, Alain B.

| FROM |

Murray, KY

Spanish • McMinnville, OR Spanish • McMinnville, OR Village • Berrien Springs, MI Village • Berrien Springs, MI Village • Berrien Springs, MI Campus Hill • Loma Linda, CA Kapa • Tamparell, Malaysia Univ. of Arusha • Arusha, Tanzania

Carmel, IN

Grace Fellowship • Valdosta, GA Spanish • New Brunswick, NJ

Corona, CA Corona, CA Redlands, CA

| TO |

Central • Grand Rapids, MI Central • Grand Rapids, MI

Weatherford, TX Weatherford, TX Weatherford, TX

Hamilton Community • Chattanooga, TN

Bremerton, WA

Orlando Central Korean • Longwood, FL San Diego Fil-Am • Chula Vista. CA

Palm Coast, FL Palm Coast, FL

Kansas City New Haven • Overland Park, KS

Wasatch Hills • Salt Lake City, UT Wasatch Hills • Salt Lake City, UT Village • Berrien Springs, MI Glenwood • Dowagiac, MI Glenwood • Dowagiac, MI

Ypsilanti, MI Ypsilanti, MI

Parkdale • Calgary, Alberta, Canada



HARBOR OF HOPE

BY TAURUS MONTGOMERY

few weeks ago Harbor of Hope held its first annual Greater Young Men's conference. The conference was a follow-up to the Thousand Man March. The theme of the conference was Break The Cycle. The goal of the GYM conference was to inspire young men to use the right resources and mind-set to break the cycles of poverty, addiction, drug abuse, and abandonment that many of them experience. Over 100 young men attended the conference and took part in powerful breakout sessions with dynamic speakers. One attendee stated, "I'm really glad I came here and I don't even really go to church for real. But I like this and I think vou should do it again."

The GYM Conference is one of many ways Harbor of Hope is trying to impact the

community of Benton Harbor. HOH seeks to make an impactful change on the lives of individuals in Benton Harbor. If you are interested in helping this ministry, there is one specific way that you can help. We are in need of some brand-new button-down dress shirts and ties or bowties in all sizes as we are trying to teach young men how to dress for success. If you would like to donate, or get involved in HOH in any way, please contact Pastor Taurus Montgomery at harborofhope 365@gmail.com.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY: Indicate "Master Plan-Evangelism" on your tithe envelope.

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Vida Giddings • 473.2175 deaconesses@pmchurch.org

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growgroups@pmchurch.org

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Public Address

Joel Kitchen • audio@pmchurch.org

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Jeannie Pedersen-Smith 269.277.0488 jean.pedersen.smith@gmail.com

| SABBATH SCHOOL |

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Birth - Grade 1

Claudia Davisson • 269.208.7081 bg1@pmchurch.org

Grade 2 - Earliteen

Robert Barnhurst • 473.1613 g2teen@pmchurch.org

| OUR SCHOOLS |

Andrews Academy

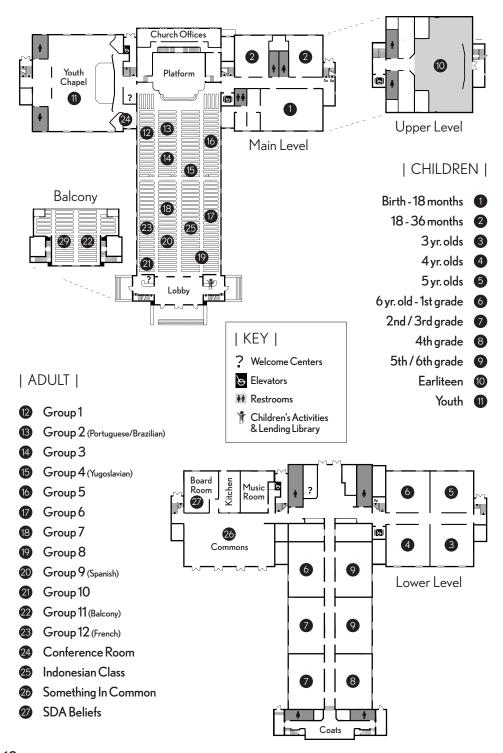
Jeannie Leiterman • 471.3140 leiterma@andrews.edu

Andrews University

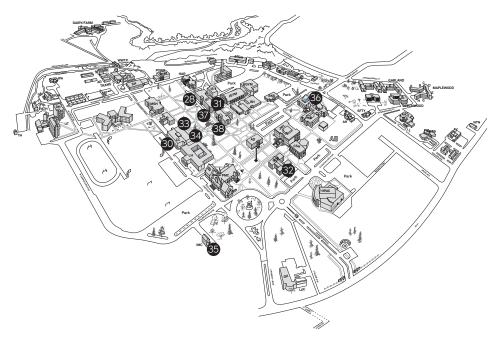
471.7771 or 800.253.2874 enroll@andrews.edu

Ruth Murdoch / K-8

Evelyn Savory • 471.3225 esavory@andrews.edu



Andrews University Campus Map



| COLLEGIATE |

- 28 H&M (Hispanic Religion Amphitheater)
- 29 People on the Move (PMC)
- 30 University Sabbath School (Dining Services)
- 31 Compass Sabbath School (Buller-Religion Dept.)

| SEMINARY |

32 N108 (Collegiate)

N110

N120 (New Life Church Choir)

N150

N211 (Small Group)

N235

N310 (Russian)

N335 (Spanish)

\$340 (Upper Room)

| ADULT @ AU |

- 33 Main Lounge
- **34** Faculty Lounge
- **35** Back to Basics
- 3 Living Word Fellowship
- 37 Current Events (Buller 135)
- 38 Bible Journey (Nethery 143)

GENESIS

UNBIASED. OPEN-MINDED. INTERACTIVE.

young adult sabbath school

 \triangle

STARTS FEBRUARY 20 10:00 AM * PMC BOARD ROOM