

# Middletown Messenger

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*It doesn't take much effort to make a big difference in the lives of others who are in need.*

## Young Adults Volunteer for Refugees

In recent years, Louisville has become a popular place for immigrants and refugees to settle after leaving (or escaping) their native lands. Often when these displaced individuals arrive, they have no family connections, financial resources, or even a basic understanding of the English language with which to handle the needs of their families. To help close these gaps, Catholic Charities of Louisville established its Migration & Refugee Services whose mission is to "provide refugees with the support and assistance they need in order to become self-sufficient. According to their website, the role of Migration & Refugee Services is to "involve, organize, and bring together the agency, church, and community resources necessary for successful resettlement."

On the afternoon of Sabbath, April 22, several Middletown young adults and families organized the massive donation room at 2222 W. Market Street, formerly St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Donations of clothing, bedding, and other household goods fill the space that used to serve as a worship

**Brittany Fletcher, smiling and sorting**



facility beginning in 1887.

Numerous bins of shirts, pants, and bed linens were sorted, folded, and stacked on shelves so that eager recipients will be able to more easily find the items their families need. Even the children got in on the volunteer action by organizing toys and baby items.

Rita, the volunteer in charge of the donation room, was very grateful to have our group's assistance since she is usually the only person working in the area and extra hands are always needed.

It doesn't take much effort to make a big difference in the lives of others who are in need. Middletown Young Adult Ministry seeks to find more and more ways to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to alleviate the suffering of the less-fortunate in our community.



**Our group of excited volunteers!**

**Special Note:** The Young Adult Ministry mourns the loss of our beloved Shawn Garlington, who passed away on April 27 a few days after we volunteered (pictured with group above). A faithful member of the Young Adult Sabbath School class, he truly enjoyed his volunteer time serving others. Shawn's life embodied the meaning of Christian humility, and he will be greatly missed.



**Mellanie Hunter folding men's jeans and slacks**

### JUNE EVENTS

- 3 | Monthly fellowship potluck
- 19-24 | Vacation Bible School

### JULY EVENTS

- 1 | Monthly fellowship potluck



Angie Thomas singing classic resurrection anthem "He's Alive!"



David Pitt singing and playing the piano on "Redeeming Blood"



Christen Case declaring that "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

## Praising As "One in Christ"

One of Middletown's favorite yearly events is Sing & Celebrate Spring Musical (SCSM) which began in 2012 in an effort to provide an opportunity for members and guests of our sister churches and companies to worship and fellowship together, usually one week before Resurrection weekend.

This year's 6th musical, hosted by emcees Curtis Tucker and Mellanie Hunter, was themed "One in Christ" and featured 14 songs performed by talented singers musicians from eight Kentuckiana Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Danny Pauliah from La Grange SDA, a repeat participant at SCSM, blessed us with "Lamb of God". Genesis Chorale from Magazine Street SDA, under the direction of Rodney Jenkins, brought a rousing rendition of Negro spiritual "Soon Ah Will Be Done". Pastor Marius Serban, David Pitt, Martin Lalnunsanga, Babie Lalremsiami, Brittany Fletcher, and Angie Thomas represented Middletown in the musical line-up. The first family

of South Louisville SDA shared "Lift Up the Trumpet", with Pastor Brian Hadley on piano, his wife Carly on trumpet, and their two young sons belting their strong, joyous voices. Brandy Wright and John Swan, both from New Life SDA, shared soul-stirring selections.

Precious Myint sang a beautiful tune as a last-minute add-on from Louisville International (Karen-Burmese) SDA. Returning participants Christen Case from Pewee Valley SDA and Heidi Ruckle from Louisville First SDA were also fan favorites. And the lilting soprano voice of first-time participant Tina Riggs shared a prayer for healing and restoration:

*"Heal the wound, but leave the scar / A reminder of how merciful You are / I am broken, torn apart / Take the pieces of this heart / And heal the wound, but leave the scar."*

Following the musical, members of Middletown Mass Choir graciously hosted the



Tina Riggs sharing a message of healing

well-attended fellowship reception where guests enjoyed various homemade hors d'oeuvres and sweets as they socialized with old friends and made new ones.

Sing & Celebrate Spring Musical continues to expand each year, both in participation and in spirit. Let's pray that God will continue to unite the sister churches in our area in spirit and purpose as we continue to spread the end-time gospel.



Genesis Chorale

# Pen of Inspiration by Elder Martin Lalnunsanga

## SHARING JESUS WITH FRIENDS

Imagine that you move to a country like Sudan or North Korea where you cannot freely share your faith with others. You would certainly appreciate much more the religious freedom we have in this country.

Middletown's Zip Code Ministry and BibleStudyOffer.com program offer perfect opportunities to share the last-day message with our community, preparing them for the soon return of our King.

When a Bible study request card is received from a bulk mailing or from a member who

shared a brochure or advertised online, ministry volunteers deliver the Bible lesson to the requestor's home in the form of a DVD and study guides.

Our goal is to make friends and not to teach doctrines. We are sacrificing our time to build relationships with people who are interested in knowing God better. There is no greater joy on this earth, next to being a Christian, than leading someone to Christ. It is unbelievably great! Jesus said "there is joy in Heaven over one sinner who comes to repentance" (Luke 15:7). That means there's a lot of applause in Heaven every time a

person believes!

This is God's heart, and it should be our heart, as well. If you also want experience this joy, come and join our ministry!



**Zip Code Ministry & BibleStudyOffer.com Team**

**L to R: Rolando Gil, Melvin Kirkwood, Martin Lalnunsanga, George Matherly**



**L to R: Jon Gabbard and son Tyler; Kelly Frantz and son Carter**



## Serving in the Gutter!

Colossians 3:23 says "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,..."

As Middletown's building nears the 30-year mark, various maintenance chores have become necessary to keep it in tip-top shape. Enter "A Month of Sundays in the Gutter", a series of work bees led by Liam Lang in April and May when willing "worker bees" lent their hands to the task of replacing the 750 feet of aging gutters edging the church's roof.

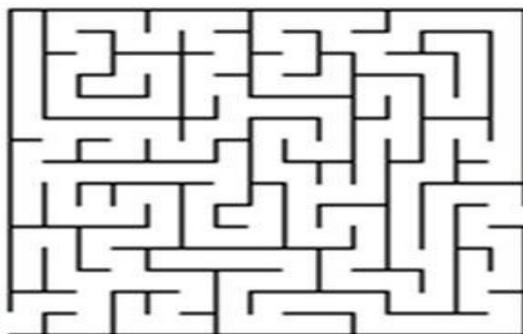
As Liam described it, "The synergy effect kicked in, and we were able to accomplish a great deal. This is why every volunteer is important and needed."

It was also encouraging to see men bringing their children to the work bee. Liam stated, "This will be their church building someday, and it is important for parents to instill in their children the appropriate obligation and satisfaction of caring for a beautiful structure the Lord has blessed us with. A mouse click does not fix everything!"

He added, "Not everyone could show up on a given day, so allowing members the opportunity to serve on consecutive Sundays was key to achieving a good overall turnout. Everyone, including our younger members, needs to take ownership and have some 'skin in the game.' " Stay tuned for more opportunities to serve!

## Kids' Korner

Children, help Jonah the Prophet get to the Big Fish so he can give the people of Nineveh God's warning!





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**"A safe environment... where people relationships become kingdom relationships"**

# Agape Feast



**A packed house!**



Over 80 adult and youth attendees gathered in the darkened fellowship hall on the evening of Friday, April 14 for the annual Agape Feast celebration. Dining tables were arranged in a U-shape and gorgeously arrayed with candles, greenery, accent décor, and serving implements. In the fireplace corner was a circle of chairs where pairs of worshippers could participate in the Ordinance of Humility by washing each others' feet per Jesus' example.

Supper. Then the group was inspired by personal testimonies of God's mercies shared by Rose Cooper, Rolando Gil, and Jonathan Robertson.



Next, the crowd sang "Amazing Grace" as they moved from the fellowship hall into the main sanctuary for more music and a dramatic presentation written and directed by Danny DuBosque. The mood in the sanctuary was solemn and reverent,

performed a stirring monologue as Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane while Martin Lalnunsanga and Joey Karr posed as dozing disciples.

New at this year's Agape Feast was a heartwarming memorial video tribute compiled by Danny DuBosque featuring photos of members' deceased loved ones set to "I Will Rise" sung by Chris Tomlin.



**Kelly Frantz in character**

The service concluded with a final hymn as the worshippers quietly dispersed with a deeper impression of Jesus' loving sacrifice on Calvary.



**Beautiful décor sets the mood**



**Foot-washing area**



**Entering the main sanctuary**

After the gatherers feasted on delicious spreads, fresh fruit, breads, crackers, and cheese, the pastor and elders served the Lord's

appropriate for a commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection. After the audience sang a few songs of praise, Kelly Frantz

