



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

Michigan Conference  
Headquarters



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To Whom It May Concern:

This summer young people from the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be in the area doing door-to-door missionary work during the months of **June, July, and August of 2008.**

The activities that our young people will be involved in include:

- 1) Seeking to place Christian literature in each home that will accept it, enabling residents to give a donation to the young people to help further their missionary training
- 2) Offering Bible study programs to those interested
- 3) Praying with individuals that desire prayer
- 4) Interesting individuals in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

For the safety of our young people, we have provided two-way radios and group supervisors. A list of our young people and vehicle information will be available upon request beginning June 10, 2008.

Please accept this letter as registration of our youth missionary project. If possible, **please sign, date, list your area, and return fax a copy of this letter to our office so that we have record that we have informed you of our youth missionary project.**

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call us at: 517-316-1515.

Respectfully yours,

Kamil Metz  
Literature Ministries Director

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Twp, or Village: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)  
(Return Fax number: 517-316-1529)

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To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned is providing the following information on behalf of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates a door-to-door religious literature ministry. As such, this religious literature ministry is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. While this type of activity is subject to reasonable time and manner of restrictions, such activities may not be banned, excessively burdened, or made subject to governmental discretion. See Cantwell v Connecticut, 310 U.S. 296 (1940) and Murdoch v Pennsylvania, 319 U.S. 105 (1943).

As Justice Douglas wrote in Murdoch, supra, 319 U.S. at 108-109:

The hand distribution of religious tracts is an age old form of missionary evangelism - as old as the history of printing. It has been a potent force in various religious movements down through the years. This form of evangelism is utilized today on a large scale by various religious sects whose colporteurs carry the Gospel to thousands upon thousands of homes and seek through personal visitations to win adherents to their faith. It is more than preaching; it is more than distribution of religious literature. It is a combination of both. Its purpose is as evangelical as the revival meeting. This form of religious activity occupies the same high estate under the First Amendment as do worship in the churches and preaching from the pulpits. It has the same claim to protection as the more orthodox and conventional exercises of religion.

Justice Douglas added that "the mere fact that the religious literature is 'sold' by itinerant preachers rather than 'donated' does not transform evangelism into a commercial enterprise." Murdoch, supra, 319 U.S. at 111.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church does, however, realize that a city has the right to make reasonable regulations in this sensitive area. Thus the church's Literature Evangelists are willing to register with the city, giving names and addresses of both the Literature Evangelists and their supervisors, and also to provide the times they will be visiting homes in the city and related information that will allow the city to be properly informed as to their activities.

On behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and all friends of religious freedom, we offer our appreciation for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

  
Vernon L. Alger