

Michigan Church of God Family Lock-In

By Jeanne Umberfield

Saginaw - Spirits were raised but the bread was flat for the Third Annual Michigan Church of God Family Lock-in held during the Days of Unleavened Bread on April 3-4. The UCG-Saginaw congregation sponsored the lock-in including church services, seminars, dinner and games at Saginaw Valley State University's Ryder Center. Attendees came from several UCG congregations and many other Sabbath-keeping groups.

The Ryder Center includes several gyms, racquetball courts, swimming pool, dance studio, and many meeting rooms. "This is a beautiful facility. The Ryder Center was closed for the Easter weekend, so we had it to ourselves," said Craig Clark, UCG-Saginaw elder who organized the event.

Services were held in the main arena. Dave Myers, pastor of the Akron and Youngstown, OH congregations, gave the sermon showing how much God loves us, cares for us, and watches over us through the example of how much care the Jews take in making matzo. Song services were led by Scott Umberfield, who attends the Saginaw congregation and is a student at SVSU. He was accompanied by his brother, Kevan Umberfield, and special music was performed by the Corbin Rose, both recent graduates of SVSU, now living in Lansing, MI.

After services, more than 180 people stayed for a chicken dinner and unleavened brownie sundaes. The teens and young adults then attended a seminar by Dave Myers entitled *Don't Tell ME what to Do!* The men learned *How to Deal with Conflict* at a seminar presented by Steve Shafer, pastor of the Flint and Saginaw, MI congregations. The women attended a seminar on wisdom, presented by Pam Myers, while the pre-teens made crafts and discussed the prayer of Jabez.

After the swimming pool closed at midnight, Richard and Diane Beadle led an enthusiastic group of all ages in Novelty Olympics. Basketball, racquetball and volleyball were played throughout the night. A midnight snack of nachos, lemonade and popcorn fueled other activities such as singing and dancing, board games, and fellowship. About 45 hardy souls remained until the morning.

"We received many positive comments," said Mr. Clark. "Young people came from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and even one couple from Wyoming! We hope to do this again next year."

Photos by Craig Clark



Shayli Kifer enjoys her time in the pool.



Say cheese! Molly Blevins looks happy with this midnight snack.



Close shave – Ginny Martin prepares to give Coltyn Kifer a Cool Whip and plastic spoon shave in the final Novelty Olympics race of the evening.