

OUTLOOK

APRIL 2012

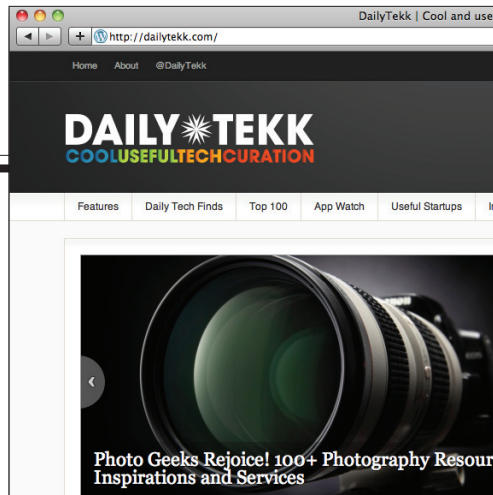
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IN THIS ISSUE

I'm excited about this month's theme of resourcing outreach in Mid-America, using a winning combination of "high tech" and "high touch." You'll read about Equipping University, a prototype collaboration among four conferences led by Iowa-Missouri's David Klinedinst, resident evangelist for St. Louis metro. I was thrilled to witness several hundred members with their pastors learning how to reach out and touch neighbors for God. As for technology, my friend Chris McConnell of Rocky Mountain Conference has launched a blog (DailyTekk.com) to keep us updated on fast-breaking developments in useful apps, websites, etc. Just yesterday (as we go to press) Chris had 18,000 hits from all over the world, including a coveted mention by The New York Times! Amazing. Here in these pages you'll also discover the latest outreach tools from AdventSource. But first, two terrific editorials as you turn the page.

—MARTIN WEBER

Cover Photo: Union College student and AdventSource employee Jocelyn Mena assembling Mission Lifeguard kits. Photo by Liv Jacobson.

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God's Last Day People— A Movement or a Machine?

by Thomas L. Lemon



During my teens I worked for my grandfather, who was a heating/air-conditioning contractor. It didn't take long to learn the most efficient way to get units installed: making every installation as similar to the others as possible. However, since most of our work was for existing homes, and every home was different, our system had to be somewhat flexible.

At college I worked in a hospital kitchen washing pots and pans. I found that a good system enabled me to get the job done quicker, better and more impressively to the boss. When we moved to a new kitchen and my station was exactly backward, I quit. My system did not work in the new setting. Plus I could make more money at another job I was offered.

Beginning with the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, Western society became driven by machinery and the technologies that subsequently developed. Machinery did the same things repeatedly—precisely and quickly. The parts turned out interchangeable and uniform so that today every red Chevy Malibu is pretty much like every other red Chevy Malibu.

There are also systems in the church—accounting systems, membership tracking systems, even the policy book largely describes a system. Our public evangelism

operates systematically. There is a place for systems in the church, but the church is not a machine. The parts are not interchangeable; they are not precisely made and usually not with efficiency. Different parts of the church develop differently. That no two churches are the same is a pastoral truism.

When Jesus said, “I will build My church” in Matthew 16, when Peter describes the church as being built with “living stones” in 1 Peter 2, or when Paul describes the church as a bride in Ephesians 5, they were not thinking in terms of machines. The church is much more of a movement.

In a movement you have much less uniformity, even as you have unity. With machines you have uniformity but not real unity. In a dealer's row of New Holland tractors, you have a great deal of uniformity, but they can hardly be described as being united.

In a movement you have room for creative thinking, a multitude of methods, and a myriad ways of appearing. In a movement you will have disagreements, even big ones. You might even have disagreements among major leaders (see Acts 15:36-41). A machine is precise and pretty even. A movement can be messy at times. Yet God, who could have created a machine, chose to birth a movement.

So how do we deal with that—whether someone differs with you on something trivial or something enormous? What if between two or more of us it is a matter

of principle, backing down from which would be serious compromise? Consider these words of Ellen White: “It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought” (*Education*, p. 17). She also makes this statement in *Manuscript Release #11* (1892, paragraph 1): “...We cannot then take a position that the unity of the church consists of viewing every text of Scripture in the very same light.” This is movement language, not the linguistics of machinery.

Humans and God-created organizations are infinite in their possibilities. With amazing variety as part of the movement, there will result natural and heartfelt differences. Can we treasure our differences, and still love each other? Still work side-by-side? Still treat each other as the brothers and sisters we are, and avoid the mission-poisoning vitriol that comes when we forget that?

So my friends, welcome to this church—this movement. Sometimes messy, sometimes glorious, often united but never uniform. There will be tension, but the “Spirit of Christlike forbearance” (see the manuscript quoted above) will perfect the unity. I love the Lord of the church—and the church of the Lord. I hope you do too. **U**

Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.



Redefining Outreach

by Brad Forbes

Outreach—what does that mean? I pondered that while sitting in the Denver airport watching people flowing by. Some were slowly walking toward their departure gate, others running to make a connection, still others standing in line to rebook a missed flight. When I am sitting in an airport watching people go by, what does outreach mean to me?

I pulled out my phone to see what the dictionary had to say about the word *outreach*. The definition that most closely matched my thoughts read, “Providing services to people who might not otherwise have access to those services.” Is that the outreach I am looking for?

When I was a kid, some church members talked about “lay activities.” This term was specific to non-pastors and could have included many different programs. However, I most often remember people using these words to refer to their Sabbath afternoon nap—I knew *that* wasn’t outreach. Then the name changed to “personal ministries.” This allowed for everyone to participate in his or her own personal ministry, which sounded good. Those ministries could include going door-to-door handing out literature, praying with

people, or giving Bible studies. Is that outreach?

In Acts the early Christians were reported to be witnessing, or “bearing witness,” about Jesus. While there are stories of apostles who preached from the steps of the town hall it seems that most Christians just shared with those who they were around every day. Early Christians showed others what Jesus had done in their lives by sharing what they owned with others. This community grew so large that deacons were appointed to make sure everyone was included.

Ellen White said that Jesus’ way of doing outreach was to go where people were, show that He was concerned about them, and take care of their physical needs. Once Jesus gained their confidence He invited them to follow Him.

So then, what about outreach? I think the dictionary may be right. Allow me to paraphrase the dictionary’s definition of outreach: “Providing a witness about Jesus to people who may not otherwise encounter Him.” What does this mean to you? Are you mingling by going to the basketball games of your work associates’ children, participating in a block party, being active in your neighborhood association, or assisting a neighbor with a home repair project? How are you witnessing when the hot election year

subjects of immigration, taxation, gay marriage and healthcare are discussed? Are you connecting by being the person to call when someone needs help?

I’m flying out of the Lincoln airport this afternoon. Unlike the Denver airport, this airport does not have masses of people rushing by. It’s a small airport and I have made friends with many people who work there. I wonder, will Bonnie be working at the check-in counter? Will Jack be taking my luggage? Which TSA crew will be doing the screening? And now the bigger question—will they see Jesus in me? Not only today when the weather is good and everything is on time, but also when my flight is cancelled or my luggage lost? Will I be ready to listen when I ask them, “How’s it going?” and the answer is, “Not so great. My father has cancer..”

Jesus needs witnesses in 2012. He needs people who will mingle, show concern for people and care for their physical needs. And yes, He also needs people to hand out literature and give Bible studies. Are you ready to reach out, to do outreach? In this issue of *Outlook* you’ll read stories and find resources that can encourage you to share what Jesus has done in your life. ■

Brad Forbes is director of *AdventSource*, headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska.



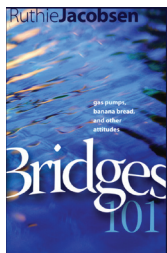
Resourcing with AdventSource...

From creative ideas for reaching your neighbors to tips for giving Bible studies, AdventSource has resources that can equip members of your church for outreach. As the official ministry resource distribution center for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, AdventSource can help you reach your community for Christ. For more information or to order any of the resources featured on pages 7 and 8, visit us online at www.adventsource.org or call 800.328.0525.





for Outreach

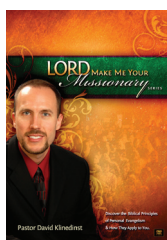


Bridges 101

by Ruthie Jacobsen

In this book Ruthie Jacobsen shares refreshing ideas for how you can connect with people in your community. Jacobsen's lively stories demonstrate that witnessing can be stress-free, creative, fulfilling and even fun. Every chapter will open your eyes to new possibilities for sharing your love for Jesus in your neighborhood.

Catalog #417490 \$6.95

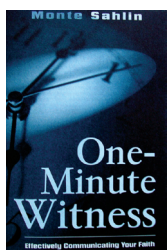


Lord Make Me Your Missionary DVD Set

by David Klinedinst

These video presentations by Pastor David Klinedinst challenge every follower of Jesus to become missionaries in daily life. This set includes four sermons that show how Jesus takes ordinary circumstances and turns them into opportunities to plant seeds for the gospel.

Catalog #416513 \$19.95

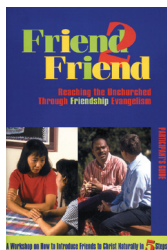


One-Minute Witness

by Monte Sahlin

You don't need to lead Bible studies in order to witness. In the *One-Minute Witness* booklet, Monte Sahlin shares ideas that take the fear out of witnessing. With chapter titles including "Perceptions," "Compassion," "Listening," and "Friendship," the book outlines in simple steps an approach that effectively wins a listener's attention for the gospel.

Catalog #420085 \$1.49



Friend2Friend Seminar

by Monte Sahlin with Curtis Rittenour

In six short sessions you can equip church members to effectively share friendship and faith with work colleagues, family members, neighbors and friends. The leader's kit includes a step-by-step facilitator's guide, DVD presentations by Monte Sahlin and a participant guide for individual learning.

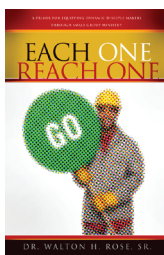
Excerpt from *Friend2Friend Participant's Guide* (page 57):

The following activity will help you prepare to share your own personal pilgrimage in coming to Christ. Before writing down some basic notes on your story, consider these suggestions:

- Avoid sharing a "canned speech" or giving a memorized talk.
- Don't focus on past mistakes. At the same time, avoid sharing your story in such a perfect or unreal way that people cannot relate to your experience.
- Consider relevant language that would be understandable to a secular person. Avoid religious jargon.
- Share important points; don't unload all the details.
- Let God be your guide while sharing. Listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings.
- Focus on the grace of God.

Leader's Kit: Catalog #420001 \$85.00

Participant's Guide: Catalog #420012 \$9.95



Each One Reach One

by Dr. Walton Rose

Each One Reach One is a unique strategy designed to help church members become more effective disciples of Jesus. The goal of this book is to teach and train members to become more productive, fulfilled and committed witnesses for Christ. This guide offers tools for small group leaders as they take members through the process of learning to live as disciples. Participants will identify gifts, build relationships and utilize witnessing skills in ministry. This experience offers spiritual renewal as members become better equipped to share the gospel.

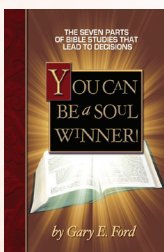
Excerpt from the *Each One Reach One Workbook* (pages 6-7):

There are several ways in which “salted disciples” can penetrate the lives of non-Christians.

- 1. Salt causes thirst.** As salt makes people thirsty for water, so should we cause people to be thirsty for the Water of Life. But we must remember we are not the Water—only Christ is. We are simply the salt, the catalyst that entices others to go to the only Source that can satisfy their insatiable thirst.
- 2. Salt brings out the flavor of food.** To bring out the flavor in people’s lives means to relate to them as Jesus did, that is to focus on and reinforce what is positive in them.
- 3. Salt melts ice.** Christ cannot reside in our lives without expressing His warmth and love through us. His love in us is an internal fire that warms the hearts of those who have been frostbitten by a cruel world.
- 4. Salt brings healing.** The church ought to be a refuge where wounded people find healing and restoration in Christ. God has given us the same ministry He has given to His Son—the ministry of reconciliation in a broken world (2 Cor. 5:18). Introducing a person to the Savior does not happen by proxy. It is done by “salted disciples” who remain in His word and continually give to others.

Leader’s Guide: Catalog #950000 \$10.99

Workbook: Catalog #950001 \$9.99



You Can Be a Soul Winner Book and DVD Set

by Gary Ford

Video presentations by Gary Ford take participants through a series of seven steps in learning to be effective in sharing Jesus with others. Presentations cover the ABCs of Bible study, personal preparation, explaining difficult passages, getting decisions and more. This set includes one participant book.

Here’s an excerpt from *You Can Be a Soul Winner* (page 39):

The ABCs of Bible Study

A=Assume that God’s Word Doesn’t Contradict Itself

B=Believe the Big Picture

C=Consider the Context

Benefits of using this method of Bible Study

- We elevate God’s word by showing how it fits together.
- We preserve people’s dignity because we assume that people are intelligent and can reason things out for themselves if truth is presented in the proper light.
- The decisions and commitments that result will be stronger because the people have reasoned it out for themselves to decide truth from error.
- The evaluation of truth needs to be objective. Truth is not determined by the importance of the person that shares it with us or the number of people that hold a view, but must be based on God’s word. Presenting it in a logical way does this.

Book and DVD Set: Catalog #416973 \$19.95

Book Only: Catalog #416971 \$3.95



Equipping University Unites St. Louis for Outreach Training

by Martin Weber

Martin Weber



Ed Schmidt of the North American Division Evangelism Institute explained how Adventists can attend neighborhood parties as ambassadors for God without compromising their convictions.

Pastors from four local conferences covering metro St. Louis are now collaborating in Equipping University (EQ), an innovative program offering outreach training to lay people in partnership with their pastors. A January weekend event attracted several hundred participants from 20 churches.

Supported and certified by the North American Division Evangelism Institute, EQ is actually the brainchild of Iowa-Missouri pastors serving metro St. Louis. In recent months, pastors from Central States Conference and two sister conferences of the Lake Union across the Mississippi River (Illinois and Lake Region) have joined the program.

Pastor David M. Klinedinst, the resident evangelist of the Iowa-Missouri Conference who coordinates EQ in St. Louis, reports: “Together we have been praying, and our shared experience forged that joint venture in January. Our purpose was to unite the churches of metro St. Louis—not just for training and fellowship but to spark the fires of mission and a passion for the lost.”

It is notoriously difficult to

get churches within a large city together for any event. So St. Louis-area Adventists from one church are often unfamiliar with brothers and sisters in the other dozen or so congregations. “We want to break down these barriers and bring all the churches together,” Klinedinst says. “We are connecting the inner city church with the suburban church, the contemporary worship church with the traditional worship church, the pre-dominantly African-American church with the pre-dominantly Caucasian church, and include members of other ethnicities as well.”

The St. Louis pastors' ultimate vision is for Equipping University to unite Adventist churches in metro St. Louis as one body in Christ, organized for outreach in partnership with their pastors. “Although each has its own local mission field, we can work together in larger evangelism projects to make an impact on St. Louis. We need to come together to win our city for Christ.”

Many January participants expressed the need to fellowship and socialize more frequently for the grand purpose of

evangelizing St. Louis. In February, a lay preaching class attracted 80 attendees to the fellowship hall of St. Louis Central. The next event scheduled was a joint mid-week prayer service in March, hosted by Berean Church of the Central States Conference. Pastors and members are excited about a citywide mission rally in February 2013 with General Conference President Ted Wilson.

At the urging of Pastor Joseph Ikner of Berean Church, the 12 participating pastors have set aside days to come together just for prayer, with no business agenda, Klinedinst reports. “I believe God is doing something in St. Louis—and He has more to come.”

The next Equipping University weekend will be later this year on September 7-9. For information about EQ visit www.nadei.org. Pastor Klinedinst is available to speak throughout the Mid-America Union at camp meetings, convocations, pastors' meetings and lay training events. His website is www.davidklinedinst.com.

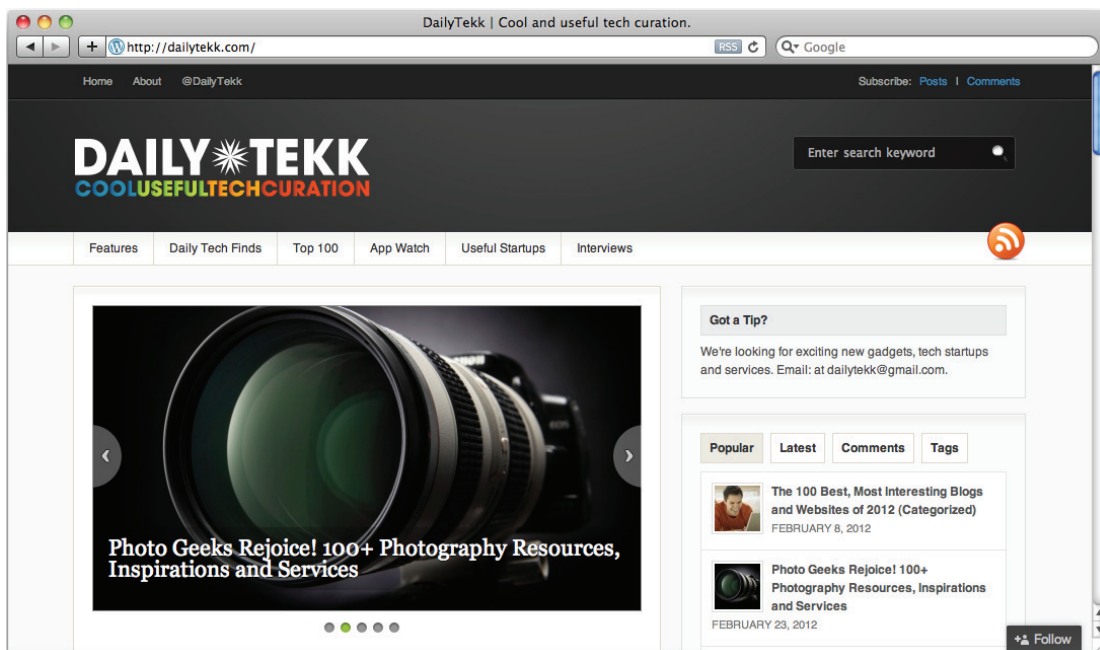
Martin Weber is editor of *Outlook*.

Our purpose was to unite the churches of metro St. Louis—not just for training and fellowship but to spark the fires of mission and a passion for the lost.

Free Digital Resources for Your Ministry

by Brenda Dickerson

This site is a no-cost resource for anyone interested in technology for the workplace, church or home.



It's a challenge for most of us to keep on the cutting edge of technology, despite determination to bring efficiency and effectiveness to our daily lives and ministries. There are an increasing number of new digital resources (apps, websites, videos, etc.) and many are free. What a shame not to take advantage of them! Yet how do we keep up with the latest, greatest and easiest to use?

Enter DailyTekk.com, a brand new weblog featuring technology

tips and products. Created by Chris McConnell, director of IT for the Rocky Mountain Conference headquartered in Denver, this site is a no-cost resource for anyone interested in technology for the workplace, church or home.

In addition to recommending other useful tech sites, DailyTekk offers three specific categories:

1. Daily Tech Finds reviews a product McConnell deems useful for creative workers.

2. Useful Startups showcases new companies whose products or services may be helpful.

3. Features contains in-depth reports on projects McConnell is working on, including tutorials so others can replicate them.

Check out DailyTekk.com to make your life less frustrating and more effective.

.....
Brenda Dickerson is managing editor of *Outlook*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DAILYTEKK.COM



Charity Toolbox: 100+ Nonprofit-Specific Tech Tools (Categorized)

"I spent a good six-seven hours of my free time researching, typing and linking, but I feel like my effort paid off since I discovered dozens of new tools I had never heard of."

<http://bit.ly/xGvs4S>



How I Use Evernote to Stay Organized and Why You Should Too

"Evernote is an app available for your computer, smartphone or tablet (also available through a browser) that allows you to organize notes and remember things. It's become a centralized part of my life."

<http://bit.ly/wkkf2M>



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"I really went out of my way to try to find some new photography resources that pros and noobs alike probably haven't seen or heard of before."

<http://bit.ly/yz2dL5>



Christian Music: A Global History

A Book Review* by Michael Campbell



Tim Dowley, *Christian Music: A Global History*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011. 256 pp. + 7 pp. index. \$35.00.

*This is a brief excerpt of Dr. Campbell's review. Read the review in its entirety at <http://bit.ly/zsiEqe>.

What I like the most is that this book is very approachable for a person like me who has only a cursory background in music. Although the book can get quite technical at points in describing the development of music, Dowley does a fine job

of bringing his reader along with him by explaining what the terms mean. I especially appreciated all the illustrations! For that reason alone the book is well worth the price. And not to be overlooked is the list of the author's favorite recordings.

What surprised me most was how controversial the organ was! It was frequently proscribed by popes and church edicts but was increasingly used for worship through the Middle Ages. "One effect of the Protestant Reformation and Roman Catholic response to it," writes Dowley, "was to bring words to the fore in worship. They were to be readily heard and understood, and the organ's role changed to that of supporting the singing" (p. 83).

I also appreciated learning

more about just how much some of my favorite hymns have changed through the years: especially "Amazing Grace" replete with corrupted versions in a time when as many as 10 different tunes were used by the late 19th-century. The hymn had not only religious significance but became associated with the Civil Rights struggle during the 1960s and even outside the church when it was sung at the opening of the Woodstock Festival in 1969. The stories of these songs—both ancient and modern—help us better understand just how important music is to our faith.

Michael Campbell is lead pastor of Wichita South Church.

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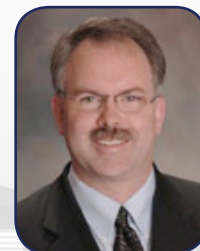
asimidamerica.org

ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries) is a cooperative network of lay individuals, professionals and ministries who share a common commitment to support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We're not church employees – we're lay people who want to support the mission of our church.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Shawn Boonstra
Former It Is Written
speaker/director,
current NAD associate
ministerial director



Don Mackintosh
Amazing Facts Center
for Evangelism director

ASI MID-AMERICA
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SERVICES & INDUSTRIES

Sharing Christ in the Marketplace





Colorado Pathfinders Remember Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Roger Bernard

Courtesy Central States Conference



Pathfinders from Denver and Colorado Springs marching in Denver's annual parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A massive crowd of more than 30,000 comprised Denver's annual "Marade"—a march honoring the late civil rights leader **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Participants included three dozen Pathfinders from clubs in Denver and Colorado Springs. **Governor John Hickenlooper, Senator Michael Bennet** and **U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter** also joined the parade.

"This day is a time to honor our past and our future, and

to renew our commitment to justice, peace and service to the community," said Denver mayor **Michael Hancock**. "We thank the great Dr. King for challenging our nation to summon the courage to face itself and dare to dream of a better tomorrow. [He] inspired and galvanized people of all races in pursuit of a common goal." Hancock added that the civil rights movement was "not simply a movement of one particular ethnicity or religion,

but an American movement."

Senator Mark Udall told the crowd, "We are strong not despite of our diversity but because of our diversity."

The Pathfinders were not just marching in the Marade; they were following in the footsteps of a great leader to ensure that his legacy will not be forgotten. Although young and old participated together, it will be up to the youngest to carry the message, the history and the stories into the future.

"Without Martin Luther King we would still have segregation in our country," a Pathfinder remarked. "We're marching to spread the word and set an example ... If nobody knows about it, then it's kind of hard to pass it along."

Roger Bernard is executive secretary and communication director for the Central States Conference.



CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING NOTICES

REGULAR QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Central States Conference G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center, June 17, 2012 at 9:00 am.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Executive Committee members, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, officers, departmental directors, review recommended constitutional changes and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this session will be appointed one for each church and one additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof.

Charles W. Drake III, president
Roger A. Bernard Jr., executive secretary

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Membership Meeting of the Central States Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventists, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of North Dakota, will meet in connection with the Regular Quadrennial Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center, June 17, 2012 at 9:00 am.

The purpose of the call is to elect a Board of Trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the conference session are delegates of the Association.

Charles W. Drake III, president
Roger A. Bernard Jr., executive secretary

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Membership Meeting of the Central States Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas, will meet in connection with the Regular Quadrennial Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center, Kansas City, Kansas, June 17, 2012 at 9:00 am.

The purpose of the call is to elect a Board of Trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the conference session are delegates of the Association.

Charles W. Drake III, president
Roger A. Bernard Jr., executive secretary



ND Churches Offer Complete Health Improvement Program

by George Javor and Linda Oswald

Julie Walter



October graduates of CHIP

Last September, Bismarck and Mandan Adventist churches in North Dakota launched a month-long community cardiac health improvement program—CHIP. Preparations began in May, when five volunteers went to Lincoln, Nebraska

for leadership training. The churches then purchased required materials, which helped members promote CHIP through local television interviews, newspaper advertisements and by word of mouth.

Twenty-five guests signed up, and 23 graduated a month later. During 16 two-hour sessions, participants watched DVD lectures, local presentations and cooking demonstrations. Many heeded encouragements to incorporate exercises into their lifestyle.

A heart screen test at the beginning and end of the session included measuring weight and blood pressure, along with a blood workup. Results were outstanding. In one month the group as a whole walked 1400 miles (20 minutes walking or exercise equals one “CHIP mile”) and lost 123 pounds. Average overall blood cholesterol dropped from 206 mg/dl to 176 mg/dl; LDH (dangerous cholesterol) dipped 16.8 percent and triglycerides

dropped 20 percent.

Graduates of the program committed themselves to a monthly follow-up session.

Clearly, the ministry of CHIP significantly improves the health of participants without medication. Results were so impressive that plans call for presenting the program again.

For information contact **Julie Walter**: 701.527.6239.

Dr. George Javor, former professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, is the author of *A Scientist Celebrates Creation*.

Linda Oswald, RN, helped set up the blood draws and heart screening.



Dr Ron Smith



Dr Martin Weber



Dr R Stenbakken

DAKOTA CONFERENCE



JUNE 5 - 9

Campmeeting in Bismarck



Dr Paul Dybdahl



Eld Doug Johnson



Dr Michael Olivier



Filling the Air with Prayer

Dakota Conference's communication director describes her unique volunteer ministry

by Jacquie Biloff



Lt. Col. Tam Gajle

Lt. Col. Myra Christensen leading CAP Pierre Composite Squadron Cadets

I met **Lieutenant Colonel Myra Christensen** when joining the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as a senior member in 2005, after moving from Alaska to Pierre, South Dakota. Col. Christensen is the glue that has kept the Pierre squadron functioning for 26 years. Some of “her” cadets have become senators and governors. She befriends each of them on Facebook and worries when they miss CAP meetings.

The Civil Air Patrol was founded in December 1941, a time of national crisis when civilian volunteers mobilized to defend the nation's shores after all military aircraft had been dispatched overseas. They were dubbed “Flying Minutemen.”

Today, under the auspices of the United States Air Force, CAP flies the world's largest fleet of modern Cessna aircraft. Seniors (those over 18 years of age) and cadets (under 18) receive training in many areas besides flying: natural disasters response, civil defense and how to aid local government emergency services upon request. CAP was tapped to assist in recent flooding that afflicted the Midwest.

Col. Christensen and I have had the privilege of flying several sorties together, although many SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) training activities are scheduled during Sabbath hours. Christensen, as cadet commander, instructs cadets to close each meeting

with prayer. Even though recent regulations admonish that no particular deity be invoked, she always prays in the name of Jesus.

Two years ago, the colonel invited me to join her in a prayer flight. I was happy to oblige, though I had never heard of a prayer flight. PrayerFlight is a Christian organization in its fifth year of “filling the air with prayer” on the National Day of Prayer. This year on May 3, flights are scheduled to over-fly every capital city in the United States. The stated purpose is “praying for our great nation ... at a time when it is so desperately needed.”

Lieutenant Colonel Wixon, the Pierre squadron general

commander and a Lutheran, has declared his Lord before both seniors and cadets. Christensen, as a practicing Catholic, has as well. Yes, they know I am a Seventh-day Adventist—but I hope it's not just because I miss most of the training and request special consideration for the sake of keeping the Sabbath. I want them to know that I love the Lord, as they do.

The Civil Air Patrol motto is *Semper Vigilans*, which means “always vigilant” in Latin. CAP's core values are the Christian qualities of integrity, volunteer service, excellence and respect.

.....
Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.



Adventist Heritage

Reflecting on Our Mission

Iowa-Missouri Conference
Camp Meeting



Steve Wohlberg,
Director, Producer,
Radio Host,
White Horse Media



Thomas Lemon,
President,
Mid-America
Union Conference



Elissa Kido Ed.D.,
Professor of
curriculum and
instruction at
La Sierra University,
and Director of the
CognitiveGenesis
research project



Dean Coridan,
President,
Iowa-Missouri
Conference

*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said,
“and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19*



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A Wish Fulfilled

Testimony of a caring friend

by Dee Goff

When my dear friend **Charlotte Luker** lost her mother **Vera Howard**, she determined to find a piece of art for the Nixa church sanctuary as a memorial. She decided to commission something that would complement the already existing dove and cross woodwork hung over one side of the baptismal.

Wanting to assist Charlotte, I partnered in her search for an appropriate piece of art. After visiting numerous Christian art websites and contacting several vendors, I finally called General Conference headquarters and was directed to **Irv Heller** in the graphics

department. I spoke to Irv about our thoughts and how we would love to find an art piece that displayed the three angels of Revelation on the globe. Irv replied that he had actually created a drawing that, he believed, fit what we had in mind.

Irv connected me with one of his key sign vendors, and the final product was well worth the wait. Finally Charlotte realized her dream of having a memorial for her mother with a one-of-a-kind original piece of art.

Dee Goff is communication leader for the Nixa Church.



Charlotte Luker with original art that memorializes her mother

Kansas City Central Celebrates 125 Years

by Trish Williams

Kansas City (Missouri) Central Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary last December and welcomed back many members and pastors who had moved away. The weekend started with Friday vespers, featuring a memory-sharing time led by former Central pastors **Ignacio Chaviano** and **Terry Wolfe**.

On Sabbath **Robert Wagley**, Iowa-Missouri ministerial/evangelism/religious liberty director, brought greetings from the conference and recognized Central Church's role in the birthing of seven area Adventist congregations. The church then recognized its oldest serving member, **Ernie Vanscoy**, and its oldest member overall, **Charles Shaw**—age 96. Presenting the sermon was **Pastor Mike Fenton**, current pastor of Chapel Oaks and past

member of KC Central. Fenton recalled his involvement with Central over the years and how the church ministered to him in his youth and adulthood. He passionately spoke about the need for church members to make Christ the center of their life and witness.

Pastor Wolfe led the afternoon program, and KC Central's current pastor **Edye Campos** shared pictures of membership involvement in outreach, ministry and fellowship. One highlight of the day was Pastor Edye presenting two paintings to the church: one showing KC Central at its original location on Linwood, and the other of the church building on Holmes.

Trish Williams is communication leader for the Kansas City Central Church.

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Junior II Camp	June 17-24	ages 10-12	\$160
Camp rented by the Central States Conference June 24-30			
Family Camp	July 3-8	all ages	* \$130 \$90 \$60
* adults (13+) \$130; 7-12 \$90; 3-6 \$60; 0-2 \$0			
Teen Camp	July 8-15	ages 13-17	\$185
Teen Canoe Camp	July 15-22	ages 13-17	\$185
Staff-in-Training during Cub or Junior Camp		ages 16-17	\$150

To receive a \$10 discount, register online at www.campheritage.com.



Mike Fenton, pastor of Chapel Oaks church, presenting the 125th anniversary sermon at Kansas City Central Church



Wichita Pastor Is a Community Servant

by John Treolo

John Treolo



Joseph Dermid (left), senior fiscal analyst with City of Wichita Career Development Office, converses with Pastor Michael Campbell about community agenda items.

Michael Campbell, lead pastor of Wichita South Church, possesses a passion

for service recognized by community leaders. He received an invitation to join

the Neighborhood City Hall Board—even before moving to Wichita.

After accepting the call to transfer from Rocky Mountain Conference, Campbell popped into the Neighborhood City Hall office to request a local map. Introducing himself as the new pastor of the church down the street, he also asked how he could be of some real help to this community.

“About six weeks later, while still in Colorado, I received an email from **Joseph Dermid**, senior fiscal analyst with City of Wichita Career Development Office, asking if I would serve on their board,” Campbell remembers.

Seven months later Campbell was also added to the Community Service Block Grant Committee. According to Campbell, this committee allocates funds from the federal government as well as

state agencies to the 740,000 residents of Greater Wichita.

“It’s bridge building, really,” Campbell says. “Networking is a key. This service makes a statement that our church is serious about its commitment of caring for others.”

Campbell, who holds a doctorate in religion with a concentration in Adventist Studies from Andrews University, will share his knowledge of church history and **Ellen G. White** when he speaks during the conference men’s retreat April 20-22. For more information or to register for this event, contact jtremo@ks-ne.org.

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Sweigart Receives North America Ministerial Award

by John Treolo

John Treolo



John Sweigart is pictured above (center) receiving the Excellence in Ministry Award from Ivan Williams (right), ministerial director of the North American Division, and Dave Gemell, associate director.

John Sweigart, ministerial secretary of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, was selected from among 58 colleagues across the North American Division (NAD) to win its Excellence in Ministry Award. He received the honor at the recent Adventist Ministries Convention in Florida.

According to **Ivan Williams**, NAD ministerial director, Sweigart was chosen because of his commitment to evangelism, to pastors, and to training elders, deacons and deaconesses.

Maurice R. Valentine II, Mid-America Union vice president for administration

and ministerial director, paid the following tribute: “Since John joined the Kansas-Nebraska team, growth has undoubtedly been evidenced as a result of his commitment to developing his pastoral team professionally with a cadre of processes he has initiated. These include but are not limited to helping his pastors set annual goals, faithful production of *Great Plains Shepherd* pastoral newsletter and most importantly, the sheer number of people won to and for Jesus Christ each year in Kansas-Nebraska.”

Gottfried Is New Association Treasurer

by John Treolo

Darin Gottfried, an alumnus of Union College, is the new Association treasurer/assistant treasurer for Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance and accounting from Union College, Gottfried earned a master's in business administration from Webster University.

During his senior year at Union, Gottfried served

as an accounting intern at AdventSource. Previous denominational experience includes working as an accountant at Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, North Carolina, and serving as vice principal for finance at Wisconsin Academy.

"I am very excited to be in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference!" Gottfried said. "I am looking forward to getting to know and fellowship with the members here."



Darin Gottfried, new Kansas-Nebraska Association treasurer

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CALENDAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.KS-NE.ORG

Apr 20-22



Retiro de Mujeres Hispans
Salina, Kansas

Speaker: Liz Palanco
Contact: Sue Carlson
s Carlson@ks-ne.org
785.478.4726
www.ks-ne.org

Apr 27-29



Women's Leadership Training
Broken Arrow Ranch

Speaker: Carla Baker
Contact: Sue Carlson
s Carlson@ks-ne.org
785.478.4726
www.ks-ne.org

Apr 13-15

Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend

Contact: president@alumni2011.org

Apr 20-22

Platte Valley Academy Alumni Weekend
College View Academy

Contact: development@collegeviewacademy.org

Apr 20-22

Marriage Encounter Weekend
Lincoln, NE

Contact: anhardt@ucollege.edu

May 4-6

Pathfinder Camporee
Woodland Acres

Contact: tsager@ks-ne.org



Michael Dirksen: February 1, 1952-January 25, 2012
Obituary notice is in the Farewell section



Meet Maplewood Academy's New Principal

by Laura Cummings

Laura Cummings



Last November **Marshall Bowers** announced that 2011-12 would be his final year serving as principal of Maplewood Academy (MWA). Looking for a replacement, the search committee met **Justin Okimi** and was extremely impressed. Okimi was offered the position and has accepted.

Okimi and his wife, **Shelli**, currently live in Smyrna, Georgia where he is principal of Atlanta Adventist Academy. Both Justin and Shelli attended boarding academies and have a heart for the mission of these schools.

Because Okimi has experience with distance learning at Atlanta Adventist Academy, he is equipped to assist the integration of this new technology at MWA. Okimi holds an

MBA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was graduated from Union College with bachelor's degrees in both math and English.

Besides working as a principal, Okimi has been a corporate trainer and consultant for Adventist Health System, an assistant camp director, and an assistant chaplain at Union College. He has a passion for Jesus and for young people.

Maplewood Academy is excited to welcome the Okimis for the 2012-13 academic year.

.....
Laura Cummings is development director for Maplewood Academy.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING NOTICES

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 1st Quadrennial Session and the 107th Regular Session of the Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Armstrong High School auditorium located at 10635 36th Avenue North, Plymouth, Minnesota, on Sunday, April 29, 2012, for the purpose of electing officers and departmental directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates from the churches comprising the Minnesota Conference are on the following basis:

One (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or fractional majority thereof.

The first meeting will be called to order at 10:00 am on said date at which time all duly elected delegates shall be seated.

D. Edward Barnett, president
Justin C. Lyons, vice president for administration
Reginald Leach, vice president for finance

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 1st Quadrennial Session of the Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, will be held in conjunction with the 1st Quadrennial Session and the 107th Regular Session of the Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Armstrong High School auditorium located at 10635 36th Avenue North, Plymouth, Minnesota, on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 10:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the officers and members for the Board of Trustees for said Association, as well as transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the Conference Session are the voting members of this corporation.

D. Edward Barnett, president
Justin C. Lyons, secretary



Distance Learning at Maplewood Academy

by Laura Cummings

Laura Cummings



Bible class at Maplewood Adventist Academy

The mission of Maplewood Academy has always been to educate students for eternity—to offer an education that prepares them academically, but also encourages them to form a lasting relationship with God. Maplewood is currently looking at new ways to offer Christian education to as many students as possible in the Minnesota Conference.

Minnesota is facing the same challenges that several other conferences in the

nation have seen with their academies. One of our sister schools, Minnetonka Christian Academy, closed its high school program at the end of the 2010-11 school year due to financial challenges and continues only as an elementary school. Maplewood Academy is grateful for the continued support of alumni and friends that allows it to continue operating on a very conservative financial basis.

Last April the Minnesota Conference Constituency met to discuss an innovative plan for broadening the reach of Maplewood Academy and making Seventh-day Adventist education available to more students in Minnesota. The carefully crafted plan is based on the successful Atlanta Adventist Academy model. It will provide distance secondary education through the latest technology to students throughout metro Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Maplewood Academy will continue to be a boarding school; in addition, it will have partner campuses initially throughout the Twin Cities area, and in future years throughout the state. Classrooms at Maplewood and on partner campuses will have advanced communication technology that will allow students and teachers at each site to interact in real time. All students and teachers can see, hear and speak to classmates and teachers continuously

throughout the class period. Several times a year, students from all sites will convene on Maplewood's campus to build community through spiritual, social and athletic activities, classroom labs, and possibly music and P.E. classes.

This program creates a learning environment that uses cutting-edge technology and gives students an advantage in preparing for college and future careers. The system allows students to easily make up missed work in the aftermath of absence through illness or school-sponsored off-campus activities. Additional academic programs and subject offerings can be made available.

Distance education provides a great opportunity to extend the reach of Maplewood Academy and keep it financially and operationally healthy. Minnesota Adventists are urged to keep Maplewood in prayer as decisions and plans continue to develop.



Last December 3 was a high Sabbath for Lakes Area Church in Alexandria, Minnesota. With only 38 members, the congregation paid off its mortgage in a few short years. The occasion was celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony conducted by Pastor Sherman McCormick and local head elder Charles Lister. Adding to the joyous event, LeeRoy Dockham and Dave Ellis were ordained as local elders, and Ray Dusing and Pete Ahlers were ordained as deacons.



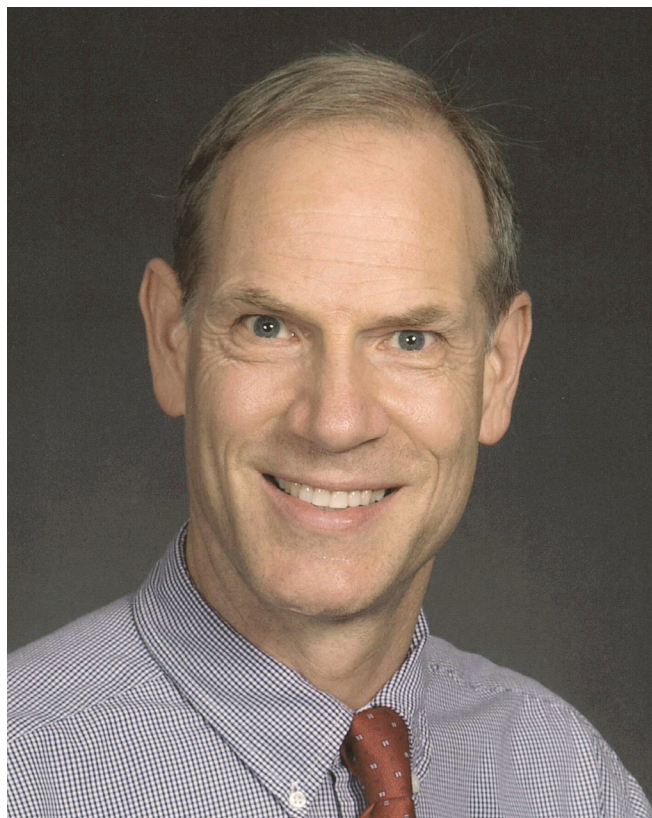
Edna Dockham



Rocky Mountain Launches Health Ministries Department

by Mark Bond

Courtesy/Rocky Mountain Conference



Rocky Mountain Conference is excited to announce the addition of a new department

of health ministries. **Rick Mautz** will serve in a volunteer capacity as health ministries

director. He comes to the conference with a broad base of experience in preventive health and community health ministry.

Mautz is a physical therapist with a master's in human biology from Loma Linda University. He developed the department of lifestyle medicine at Feather River Hospital in Paradise, California, and has seven years of leadership experience in live-in lifestyle centers. He also has a special interest in "Wellness Coaching" and has held numerous training seminars around the country and as far as the Ukraine and Serbia.

Mautz's vision for the conference is to help each church catch the vision of how powerful health ministry can be in their community. He wants to be available for training and providing needed resources for all those who desire to work as Christ worked in these final days of earth's history.

"In light of the way Christ brought health and healing to those He met, we, as Adventist Christians, should have a keen interest in health," says **Gary Thurber**, president of the Rocky Mountain Conference. "We are so excited that God has provided this exciting new ministry for our territory."

Mautz also wants our members to see health ministry not as a burden, but as a joy. "It's important for us to see wellness as more than what we do or don't eat, but as the complete, balanced and happy life that God intends for each one of us," says Mautz. "I believe that living a healthy life gives us the opportunity to experience God's kingdom now."

To find out how health ministry can be a vibrant part of your church's outreach plan, contact Rick Mautz at rckm@rmcsda.org or by phone at 303.733.3771.

Mark Bond is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS – ALL MEETINGS AT 6:30 PM

Apr 7 : **Wyoming Region**
Casper Church

Apr 14 : **West Slope**
Grand Junction Church

Apr 18 : **NE Colorado**
Campion Church

May 12 : **SW Region**
Pinon Hills Church

May 19 : **SE Colorado**
Colorado Springs Central

June 9 : **Denver Metro**
Denver South Church



Campion Principal Ordained to Ministry

by Mark Bond



Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Rocky Mountain Conference executive vice president Eric Nelson offers a prayer of blessing during John Winslow's ordination service at Campion Academy Church.

John Winslow, principal of Campion Academy, was ordained as a minister of the gospel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, February 25 at Campion Academy Church.

Winslow has served as principal at Campion for the past seven years. His commitment to Christ and love of young people have made his time at Campion extremely fruitful.

During the ordination address **Lonnie Hetterle**, education superintendent for the Rocky Mountain Conference, spoke of Winslow's commitment to God first; his wife, **Alison**, second; his three children, third; and

finally, his faculty, staff and students. Hetterle explained that this formula is Winslow's secret to success.

Hetterle also shared how Winslow, through God's blessing, had spearheaded projects on campus that had value far beyond the available budget. Improvements to the physical plant during Winslow's tenure total more than \$3.25 million—an amazing testimony of what God has done on the Campion campus during Winslow's leadership.

There were numerous sad comments regarding the Winslow's acceptance of a call to Upper Columbia Academy. They will be leaving Colorado

for Washington State at the end of the 2011-12 school year.

Hetterle concluded his talk by saying, "No one, not even John Winslow, has everything all figured out, but I know the heart of John. And I know that John brings hope, courage and inspiration to each person that crosses his path."

Gary Thurber, Rocky Mountain Conference president, added, "John, you already have been ministering to the lives of the young people and faculty and staff here at Campion, and this ordination only serves to confirm your status as a minister of the gospel, wherever God leads."



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Union College Receives Governor's Points of Light Award

by Kelly Phipps

Steve Nazario/Union College



Anna Coridan (right) and Jayme Anderson, coordinators for Project Impact 2011 and 2012 respectively, accepted the Governor's Points of Light Award on behalf of Union College from Nebraska governor Dave Heineman.

The State of Nebraska awarded Union College the Governor's Points of Light Award in February for the college's work in the community

through Project Impact. The awards are presented quarterly during a special ceremony at the State Capitol and recognize Nebraska volunteers who give

their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

"It's Union's utmost goal to inspire our students to serve," explained **John Wagner**, president of Union College. "We are honored to be recognized by the State of Nebraska with this award." Union's entry was selected from a wide field of organizations providing volunteers. Nebraska has the fourth highest volunteer rate in the nation according to the most recent data available from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that tracks and encourages volunteerism.

This year Union celebrated the 30th anniversary of Project Impact, a campus-wide volunteer program. More than 750 Union College students, employees and friends participated on September 8, 2011. Nebraska senator **Tony Fulton** was on hand to read a special proclamation by the state legislature, as was **Pastor Ted Wilson**, president of the

Seventh-day Adventist world church.

"Project Impact takes the focus off ourselves for a day," said **Anna Coridan**, 2011 Project Impact coordinator. "It's a whole day to realize the needs of others. If we aren't looking, we can pass right by people with real hurts and needs."

Since its inception, an estimated 18,300 volunteers have impacted Lincoln with more than 115,000 hours of voluntary labor. According to available research, Project Impact is the longest running collegiate service day with the highest percentage of campus participants in the nation.

In addition to Project Impact, Union provides many opportunities for students to get involved in community service all year, including Club Edify, which coordinates Friday evening trips to volunteer at People's City Mission, and JOB ministries, in which students help community members move or clean up their yards and homes.

New Science and Mathematics Building Update

by Ryan Teller



Last June, Union College announced the \$14.5 million Our Promising Future capital campaign to fund the construction of a new science and mathematics complex. To date, alumni and friends of Union College have donated \$12.48 million toward the project.

The roar of bulldozers and the beeping of dump trucks backing up already echoes across the north side of campus to prepare for the new complex. The lot at the corner of 49th and Bancroft, next to Kern Courts, has been paved to provide 50 parking spaces next to campus. The college

also installed 20 diagonal parking spaces along Bancroft Street behind Engel Hall and Rees Hall. These lots will help replace parking lost to the new building.

As part of the project, Union College purchased two blocks of city street: Bancroft Street between 49th and 51st, and 51st Street between Bancroft and Calvert. Eventually, Bancroft will be rerouted to create an entrance for the new science and mathematics complex.

Union will celebrate groundbreaking for the

new project with a special ceremony at 1:30 pm on Friday, April 6, during Homecoming Weekend 2012. To be a part of Our Promising Future or join in the groundbreaking ceremony, visit www.ucollege.edu/promisingfuture or call 402.486.2503. The campaign is scheduled to wrap up in December 2012, so please don't wait to be part of Union's promising future.

Ryan Teller is director of public relations for Union College.



Her Test of Faith

New spiritual mentoring program provides support for a struggling student

by Kelly Phipps

Steve Nazario/Union College



Victoria Tobing found support for her crisis of faith through Union's spiritual mentoring program.

Victoria Tobing felt that her faith was collapsing around her.

No longer sure of what she believed or the meaning of faith and God, the sophomore education major turned to Union College's new spiritual mentorship program for spiritual support in her time of need.

In fall 2011, Union College

launched a pilot spiritual mentorship program that allows students to develop a spiritual growth plan with the guidance of a mentor instead of having the traditional worship service attendance requirements.

"It was something different and it sounded challenging," said Tobing. "I'm a very private person and I hoped

that I would grow more when I confronted my spiritual walk during one-on-one sessions rather than only group settings."

Each participant was paired with a spiritual mentor from Union's faculty or staff and developed a spiritual plan based on the three phases of a healthy spiritual life: a personal commitment, fellowship and worship, and response through outreach and service.

"Students are more likely to develop a lasting walk with God if they can do it in their own way," said **Pastor Rich Carlson**, Union's chaplain. "This pilot program is one more way our campus can be a place of spiritual learning and growth."

Fifteen students joined the plan in the fall and met with mentors several times throughout the semester to review the plan and progress. Ten more joined the program in spring semester.

"I enjoyed the thought of someone taking time to focus on what I was grappling with," explained Tobing. "I thought, 'Ah, finally, all of my questions can be answered and all of my stories can be heard.'"

She met with her mentor, **Dr. Y.J. Moses**, professor of education, and began developing a spiritual plan. But not far into the school year, Tobing experienced her first significant test.

As a professor in one of her religion classes discussed the variety of views of the nature of Christ during His time on earth, Tobing began to question if her simple faith in His sacrifice was enough.

"Was Jesus' human nature

like that of Adam and Eve before they sinned?" she wondered. "If so, Jesus would not have dealt with the sinful tendencies of a fallen nature."

But what if the opposite were true? If Jesus possessed the nature of humans after sin, was his sacrifice sufficient to cover our sins? The whole idea blindsided Tobing and shook her faith to its core. "I was frightened to think that maybe the faith I had rested on my whole life wasn't enough," she remembered.

She turned to Moses, but her mentor pointed her to Jesus. "He didn't coddle me or tell me everything was okay," she said. "He knew that it was a major growing pain that I'd have to face, so he prayed with me and listened to me."

Through prayer and tearful sessions with her mentor—many more than the usual three or four—Tobing began to build a faith based on her own experience, not the ideas passed down from her parents.

"He didn't just give me the answers or impose his own ideas on me," she said. "He encouraged me to study so that my beliefs become my own. These past few months I have come closer to realizing what it truly means to be in a relationship with Jesus. I know now what it's like to wrestle with God."

For more information on how Union provides spiritual growth opportunities for students, visit www.ucollege.edu.

Kelly Phipps is a senior communication major at Union College.



A Miracle for Mario

Surgeons from Avista Adventist Hospital help restore pastor to life of service

Courtesy Adventist Health System



Thanks to Dr. David Ransom (right) and the volunteer efforts of two surgeon colleagues at Avista Adventist Hospital, Mario Garza (left), a pastor in Mexico, was able to have emergency neck surgery in the United States.

As a pastor in Mexico, Mario Garza was a force for God and good. He built churches, baptized people, and shared the love of Christ wherever he went. But recently he'd been experiencing weakness and numbness in his extremities, and now he couldn't even deliver a sermon because of shooting pain in his neck.

Mario had been to see his doctor and the news wasn't good. He had a herniated disc—surgery was desperately needed to prevent further damage and debilitation. To make matters even worse, an inguinal hernia was diagnosed as well. But on his salary of \$50

a week a \$9,000 operation was out of the question. It would take a miracle ... and time was running out.

Just two days later Dr. David Ransom, an anesthesiologist from Avista Adventist Hospital, arrived in Mario's town on a mission trip with a youth group from his church. They had actually planned to go the previous year, but political unrest forced the trip to be postponed. When Dr. Ransom met Mario and heard his story, he was determined to help.

After his return to Colorado, Ransom began tackling the many obstacles. Soon the pieces fell together—starting

with his colleagues at Avista. Dr. Andrew Castro, an orthopedic spine surgeon, quickly agreed to perform the spine surgery. Dr. Ross Leibowitz, a general surgeon, would fix the hernia. Dr. Ransom would donate anesthesia services, and the hospital volunteered a surgical suite and other resources.

Outside Avista, other partners eagerly stepped up. Dr. Ransom's church collected an offering to cover travel expenses for Mario and his wife, and a medical supply company donated \$10,000 of equipment. Even the American Consulate came through, unexpectedly granting visas

within hours of hearing Mario's story.

In July 2011, just weeks after first meeting Dr. Ransom, Mario went into surgery at Avista. When he awoke several hours later, his surgeons and worried wife were gathered at his bedside. As he opened and closed his hand and turned his neck without pain or numbness, he flashed a thumbs-up, and the smile on his face gave way to tears of happiness. Ten days later, after a second surgery to repair his hernia, he was already healthy enough to return to his life of service in Mexico.

Though Mario is back home, the impact of the experience remains with those who helped—a church, a hospital, a business and a group of committed health care professionals. For Dr. Castro, it was a reminder of why he chose this career. "The best part of my job is trying to make people better, but sometimes with all the insurance issues and regulations, it's possible to lose sight of that," he says. "Being involved in a story like this brings me back to what medicine is all about."

For Dr. Ransom, it was further proof of God's leading. "I'm convinced our trip was delayed for a reason—so Mario Garza could get help," he says. "The Lord put me where I needed to be."

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for mission and ministry for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health System/Centura Health, where he serves the four Adventist hospitals in Colorado. It was written by CMBell Company.



CREATION Health: Environment

by Doug Spear

Courtesy Adventist Health System



The third letter of the CREATION Health acronym, “E,” is Environment. Environment is the world around you, be it your home, office, car or wherever you spend time. During creation, the Garden of Eden was an ideal environment, complete with beautiful sights, sounds, smells and tastes.

Blessed by exceptionally warm weather, I was walking my dog on a Sunday afternoon in January and noticed many houses in the neighborhoods I walked through had cars in their driveways and their garage doors open. The garages

were being used as storage units with everything from old high chairs to Christmas trees stacked inside. I can only image the sense of disorganization you feel walking into these homes. And if the garage is filled, what do the closets and basement look like?

From my front yard, through my home and out the back door, I work hard to create an environment that represents my Garden of Eden. I get a sense of calm when I pull into my driveway. I work hard all summer long to have a beautiful yard filled with flowers. What a reward it will be this spring as

the hundreds of tulips, daffodils and crocus I planted begin popping up out of the ground and bloom in a blanket of colors. It's hard to be motivated by tired, overgrown landscaping and a weed filled yard. Yet, that's what so many people see when they come home.

From battling the never-ending clutter associated with kids to dealing with the lack of time to get things done, it can seem hard to give your environment a makeover. But it doesn't have to be. Here are a few easy things you can do to get started.

Surround yourself with things you love. I love contemporary art. Each year at the Plaza and Brookside art fairs in Kansas City where I live, my wife and I search out new art to brighten our walls. It doesn't have to be expensive. A \$20 print in a Target frame can have a great impact. No matter what your passion is, you should represent it in your personal space.

Declutter! Do you have a pile of old catalogs and other mail sitting in your kitchen? Are there things you don't use anymore that, rather than recycle or donate, you let sit to forever age in your basement? Declutter your space and discover new energy. You may even find you have greater

personal focus as you remove your environmental clutter.

Let the sun shine in! Have you ever entered a home where the blinds and curtains were closed during the daytime? I have friends whose homes are like this. Not only is it dark inside, it's not inviting—almost as if they are purposely closing themselves off from the outside world. I open my curtains and blinds and bring as much light into my home and office as possible. Not only does it brighten things up, it creates a more uplifting, creative environment.

No matter how you make your environment your own, remember, it doesn't have to be perfect. Kids, pets, co-workers, etc., influence the spaces in which you spend the majority of your time. But, if you make simple changes, you will see a difference in the space.

Finally, remember, the letters of the CREATION Health acronym don't live independently. By making the Choice to have a Clean Environment you can Rest more soundly and restore your body for greater Activity (which we'll cover next month).

Doug Spear is administrative director of marketing and communications at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Shawnee Mission Medical Center offers a series of lifestyle transformation classes using the CREATION Health principles. For more information, visit ShawneeMission.org/CreationHealth.





Allensworth, Richard, b. Apr. 1, 1939 in Waterloo, IA. d. Jan. 16, 2012 in Waterloo, IA. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 grandson. Survivors include wife Madeline; stepdaughters Madeline McCready, Faith Marston and Hope Laughery; stepsons Stanley Lewis and Matthew Burke; 5 siblings; 6 step-grandchildren.

Brown, Mary M., b. May 1, 1926 in Sioux City, IA. d. Feb. 13, 2012 in Lincoln NE. Member of College View Church. Taught at Canadian Union College, Antillean Union College and Union College. Also served as editor for two print journals at Christian Record Services.

Covil, Eldon, b. July 24, 1927. d. Aug. 15, 2011 in Squires, MO. Member of Richville Church. Survivors include wife Tura.

Dameron, Ruth, b. Jan. 2, 1938 in Nevada, IA. d. Jan. 13, 2012 in Clinton, MO. Member of Sedalia Church. Preceded in death by 7 siblings. Survivors include husband Luther; daughter Teresa Kelley; son Kevin; 5 siblings; 4 grandchildren.

Davis, Forrest, b. Oct. 17, 1930 in Lansing, MI; d. Oct. 21, 2011 in Chaffee, MO. Member of Cape Girardeau Church. Preceded in death 1 sister; 1 grandchild. Survivors include wife S. Myrtle; daughter Annetta Evans; son Layton; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Dirksen, Michael Eugene, b. Feb. 1, 1952 in Hutchinson, KS. d. Jan. 25, 2012. Member of El Dorado Church. Served as Food Service Director at Enterprise, Oklahoma and Platte Valley academies. Survivors include wife Linda; daughters Stacey Parker and Kammi Dirksen; sons Bryan and Bradley Dirksen; mother Mildred; sister Deanna; 3 grandchildren.

Gardiner, Virginia J. (Cozad), b. Feb. 5, 1924 in Martin, SD. d. Jan. 22, 2012 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by husband James; 3 sisters. Survivors include daughter Rayjean Riesenberger; son James Gardiner; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Fischer, Walter, b. Mar. 9, 1916 in Golden Valley, ND. d. Feb. 13, 2012 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by wife Leah. Survivors include daughters June Kruckenberg, Ruth Doroshuk, Joy Lucht, Vivian Gwin, Kay Barth and Dawn Jahner; 23 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren.

Hermanson, Harvey, b. May 13, 1942 in Howard County, IA. d. Feb. 16, 2010 in Cresco, IA. Member of Hawkeye Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include daughter Mary Lou; son Ronald; 2 sisters; 1 granddaughter.

Johnson, Jean (Breckenridge), b. Dec. 4, 1927 in Reeder, ND. d. Feb. 7, 2012 in Spearfish, SD. Member of Spearfish Church. Preceded in death by son Mac. Survivors include husband Edwin; daughters Sherri Fandrich and Debra Herber; son Randall; 9 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Jones, Dorothy M., b. Nov. 20, 1922 in Pine Island, MN; d. Dec. 7, 2011 in Rochester, MN. Member of Rochester Church. Preceded in death by husband Jake; children, Ron and Nadine; 6 brothers. Survivors include sons Stan and Kenneth Jones; 3 siblings; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Lozensky, Max A., b. Dec. 12, 1920 in Gasman Township, ND. d. Feb. 12, 2012 in Velva, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by wife Velma "Susan" (Coons) Lozensky; daughter Mary; son Stanley. Survivors include daughters Vicky Mernone, Valerie Lozensky and Vanna Fisk; sons Dennis and Stewart; 12 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

McFadden, Karen M., b. Apr. 19, 1948 in St. Helena, CA; d. Nov. 18, 2011 in Rochester, MN. Member of Rochester Church. Served 18 years as medical missionary with husband and family in Taiwan, Singapore, and China. Survivors include husband David; sons Jeff, Joel and Jevon; parents Arthur and Natalie Weaver; 5 siblings; 6 grandchildren.

Olinger, Euphiagay "Krystal" b. Aug. 23, 1939. d. Aug. 5, 2011 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by son Barry Gear. Survivors include husband Harold; sons Kenneth and Michael; 12 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Osborn, Genevieve, b. Dec. 9, 1927 in Gassville, AK. d. Dec. 1, 2011 in Dora, MO. Member of Richville Church. Preceded in death by daughter Linda; 4 siblings. Survivors include husband William Osborn; daughter Gwen Khayat; sons, Wayne and William Osborn; 6 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Ostrander, Helen M., Mar. 31, 1926 in Olathe, CO. d. Feb. 12, 2012 in Lakewood, CO. Member of Arvada Church. Survivors include children Judy, Sharon Rose, Jacquie, Ted and Tammy; 6 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Parish, Evelyn M. (VandeBos), b. July 3, 1911 in Harrison, SD. d. Jan. 16, 2012 in Platte, SD. Member of Platte Church. Preceded in death by husband Duane; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Wanda Hunt, Mary Shroyer, Miriam Vanderheiden, Judi Van Zee and Twila Godfrey; son Duane; 24 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Patton, Maxine (Chrispens), b. Feb. 29, 1920 in Hooker, OK. d. Jan. 3, 2012 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Scottsbluff Church. Preceded in death by husband Earl Patton. Survivors include sons Dale and Lonnie Jensen, Jerry Patton; 8 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren.

Reinke, Goldie G. (Irion), b. May 9, 1917 in Ashley, ND. d. Jan. 3, 2012 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Survivors include husband Oscar; daughter Shirley Haase; son Gary; 5 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Richardson, Macie, b. May 6, 1937 in WV. d. Nov. 16, 2011 in Council Bluffs, IA. Member of Council Bluffs Church. Preceded in death

by sister Helen. Survivors include husband Everett; daughter Mary Joseph; son Roy; 7 siblings.

Riffel, Gordon "Mike" W., b. June 24, 1929 in Legaspi, Albay, Southen Luzon, Philippines. d. Feb. 20, 2012 in Spokane, WA. Member of Spokane Central Church. Preceded in death by wife Adeline; son Steven; granddaughter Angela. Survivors include daughters Krista Woodruff, Debbie Shrock and Karen Marshall; son William; 2 sisters; 13 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Sutton, Margaret "Marge," b. Nov. 13, 1920 in Ashby, NE. d. Dec. 23, 2011 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Hyannis Church. Survivors include daughters Genelle Holder, Kay Sutton and Pam Bell; sons Larry and Dan Sutton; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-granddaughter.

Watkins, Harriet, b. Sept. 14, 1939 in Weldon, IA. d. Feb. 7, 2011. Member of Osceola Church. Survivors include husband Ron; daughters Debra Evans, Kimberly Watkins, Carol Watkins and Sandy Liu; son Tony Watkins; 5 siblings; 10 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Welton, Burnice, b. July 1, 1925 in Douglas County, MO; d. Feb. 13, 2011 in MO. Member of Richville Church. Preceded in death by husband Eslie Turnbull; 1 son; 4 siblings; 1 grandchild. Survivors include sons Wayne and Ralph Turnbull; brother Leslie Wake.

*"Blessed are the
dead who die in
the Lord from now
on. Yes, says
the Spirit, that
they may rest
from their labors,
and their works
do follow them."*

- Revelation 14:13 -



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EMPLOYMENT

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Southern Adventist University seeks applicants for Chemistry Department. Ph.D. in organic chemistry or biochemistry required. Teaching responsibilities include introductory and, organic chemistry, and/or biochemistry. Candidate with strong commitment to undergraduate research preferred. Must be member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good and regular standing, and hold short-term interpretation of creation. Submit vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chair, Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; 423.236.2932; rjscott@southern.edu.

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Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend is May 4-5. Honor Classes are 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982,

1987, 1992 and 2002. Location: N. Aurora SDA Church in N. Aurora, IL. Friday night vespers and Sabbath services. For communication WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL—POSTAGE IS TOO EXPENSIVE. Contact: Ed Gutierrez edjulie1@att.net or call: 630.232.9034.

Enterprise/GPA Alumni Weekend April 13-15, 2012, Enterprise, Kansas. Honor Classes: 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007. Visit www.alumni2013.org for more information and start making plans to attend!

Ozark Adventist Academy Homecoming

All, former faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the weekend events, June 8-10, 2012. Plan to sing with the alumni choir, visit with classmates and friends, and enjoy the beautiful OAA campus. For more information call 479.736.2221 ext#1109 or visit the web site www.ozarkacademy.org.

Northern Minnesota's Blackberry Church invites all past members and pastors to a centennial celebration and rededication. Events are planned for Friday evening and Sabbath, July

13, 14. More details can be found at www.bb7day.com or find us on Facebook.

Platte Valley Academy Alumni Weekend April 20-22. Events held at College View Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska. Honor Classes: 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, 2002. Visit www.plattevalleyalumni.com for more information and start making plans to re-connect!

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place June 8-10, 2012, for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1962 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit www.glaa.net for further information. Please do pass along the good word.



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SUNSET CALENDAR

Colorado	Mar 30	Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27
Denver	7:23	7:30	7:37	7:44	7:51
Grand Junction	7:37	7:43	7:53	7:57	8:04
Pueblo	7:20	7:27	7:34	7:40	7:47
Iowa					
Davenport	7:26	7:34	7:41	7:49	7:56
Des Moines	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:01	8:09
Sioux City	7:50	7:58	8:06	8:14	8:22
Kansas					
Dodge City	8:01	8:07	8:13	8:20	8:26
Goodland	7:09	7:16	7:23	7:30	7:37
Topeka	7:45	7:52	7:59	8:05	8:12
Wichita	7:50	7:56	8:03	8:09	8:16
Minnesota					
Duluth	7:36	7:45	7:55	8:04	8:14
International Falls	7:42	7:53	8:03	8:13	8:23
Minneapolis	7:39	7:48	7:57	8:05	8:14
Missouri					
Columbia	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:51	7:58
Kansas City	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:08
Springfield	7:34	7:41	7:47	7:53	7:59
St. Louis	7:23	7:30	7:36	7:43	7:50
Nebraska					
Grand Island	7:56	8:03	8:11	8:18	8:25
Lincoln	7:49	7:56	8:04	8:11	8:18
North Platte	8:05	8:13	8:20	8:28	8:35
Scottsbluff	7:17	7:25	7:33	7:41	7:48
North Dakota					
Bismarck	8:10	8:20	8:30	8:39	8:49
Fargo	7:54	8:04	8:14	8:23	8:33
Williston	8:23	8:33	8:43	8:53	9:03
South Dakota					
Pierre	8:07	8:16	8:24	8:33	8:41
Rapid City	7:18	7:27	7:35	7:44	7:52
Sioux Falls	7:52	8:00	8:08	8:17	8:25
Wyoming					
Casper	7:30	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:02
Cheyenne	7:23	7:30	7:38	7:45	7:53
Sheridan	7:34	7:42	7:51	8:00	8:09

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Sarah Winder is a dog lover, a dedicated walker and a wife. She's also a valued member of the nursing staff at Loma Linda. She brings her sense of humor, her humility and commitment to every patient interaction. Sarah is one of the people that help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.



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