

OUTLOOK

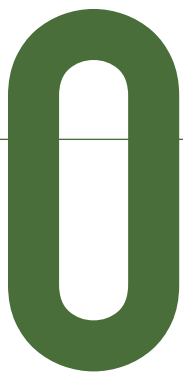
2015 HIGHLIGHTS:

Message
Mission
Ministry



I ALWAYS
WANTED TO BE A
MISSIONARY p.6

PLUS
THE JOY OF
MASK-FREE
LIVING p.5



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It Takes A Team

As 2015 fades into history, we at OUTLOOK have much for which to be thankful. One of our most appreciated gifts is the dedicated team that labors each month to produce this magazine. From local church communication personnel to photographers to designers to our six conference communication directors to the production workers at Pacific Press Publishing Association—many hours and much hard work goes into producing a publication that we pray will be a blessing to those who read it.

And that’s just for the print edition of OUTLOOK. We have another team who diligently produces the online edition. Almost every weekday there is something new to read at outlookmag.org. Perhaps it’s breaking news, or a guest author’s personal insights, or experiences shared by one of our regular volunteer bloggers. Then there’s social media, including OUTLOOK’s Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram and Vimeo accounts—all avenues by which we want to stay in touch with you and share interesting and inspirational moments.

So from our team to yours, we say *Thank You* and wish you the happiest of holidays and the best of God’s blessings in the New Year.

—Brenda Dickerson, editor

Want to Join OUTLOOK’s Blogging Team?

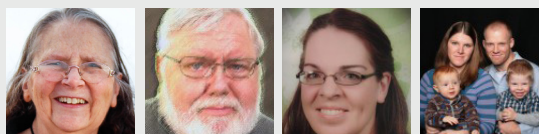
Since we went digital in 2006, a wide variety of Mid-Americans have been part of OUTLOOK magazine’s volunteer blogging team. We’ve had retirees, youth pastors, academy principals, stay-at-home moms, college students, mid-life professionals—all sharing their perspectives on life, love and spirituality in unique and meaningful ways.

Some bloggers, like Teresa Thompson whose story appears on p. 6, write every week. Others write monthly. Others write occasionally, as they have time and motivation. All of them have different topics, styles and lengths of articles. Yet all of them are passionate about honoring Jesus Christ.

If you’re interested in joining the team, email OUTLOOK editor Brenda Dickerson at brenda@outlookmag.org for details. We’ll send you our guidelines, a link to our five-minute tutorial video, login information for our WordPress site—and you’ll be blogging away in no time at all.

Thanks!

Current OUTLOOK Bloggers



(l-r) Teresa Thompson, Ed Dickerson, Janel R. Brasuell, Rachel Ashworth



ON THE COVER

OUTLOOK blogger Teresa Thompson is sharing her God-given talents with readers around the world through her weekly online article, *The Teacher’s Notes*. Story on p. 6
Photo by Steven Foster.



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Contact us by email: info@maucsa.org or phone: 402.484.3000.

ONLINE

ARE WE KIDDING OURSELVES?

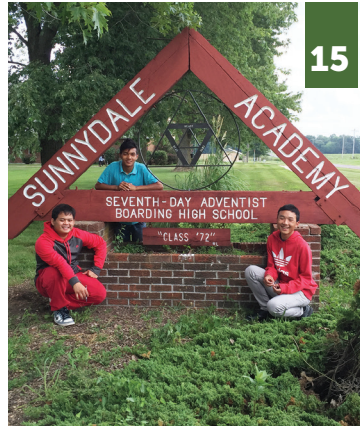
What does a saving relationship with God really mean?
bit.ly/arewekidding



0



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“The minute we received the trophy, we knew we needed to thank God for giving us victory.”

p. 21



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GOD'S THREE GRACIOUS GIFTS



I love the story told of a young boy from England whose pastor saw him coming to church day after day, walking up to the altar to kneel and pray. It was approaching Christmas time in 1918, and WWI had recently ended.

The pastor had a suspicion why the young boy came to pray. He was quite certain his prayers were not about what he wanted for Christmas but, rather, like many other children, he prayed for his father to come home safely from the war.

As the days passed, the pastor's heart began to break for the boy because he knew if he hadn't heard from his father by now, there was a good chance he was not coming home.

After a number of days, the pastor went to the boy, put his arm around him, and tenderly asked, "Son, are you praying for your father to come home from the war?"

The boy answered, "Oh no, my father came home, and I have been coming to pray each day to thank God for making this the best Christmas ever!"

Name them one by one

As we come to the end of another year, what gifts has the Lord given you that you are thankful for? Have you taken the time to count your blessings?

It is easy for us, in our busy, hurried journeys, to take for granted the graciousness shown to us by others and our Savior. We tend to keep a closer count of the obstacles and trials that come our way rather than our blessings.

One joyful hour

Here is my challenge to you as we enter this Christmas season and the end of another year: Carve out a quality hour where you can just reflect on the following three areas in your life as the apostle Paul, by his own example, encourages us to do.

First, contemplate the gift of Jesus in your life. As Paul considers God's "surpassing grace," in our lives, he says "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15, NIV). What does God's

"surpassing grace" mean to you?

Second, take time to think about those people God has put in your life to bless you. As Paul thought of those special to him, he wrote, "I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy" (Phil. 1:3-4, NIV). After you have identified those who bless you, write notes of gratitude to them.

Finally, determine to be thankful no matter what events encompass your life. Paul says, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes. 5:16-18, NIV). This is easy to do when times are good and not so easy when we are surrounded by trouble.

I wish only the very best for you and your families as we look forward this season to celebrating our most treasured gift—Jesus. 0

I wish only the very best for you and your families as we look forward this season to celebrating our most treasured gift—Jesus.

Gary Thurber is president of the Mid-America Union.





THE JOY OF MASK-FREE LIVING

Her delivery of the poem slammed my thoughts into an emotive wall. My daughter was preparing to participate in a Poetry Out Loud™ event at her high school, and as she read *The Mask*, by Paul Laurence Dunbar, it resonated with me as powerfully as it had during my senior year.

The Mask

We wear the mask that
grins and lies,

It hides our cheeks
and shades our eyes,—

This debt we pay to
human guile;

With torn and
bleeding hearts we smile,

And mouth with
myriad subtleties.

Why should the world
be over-wise,

In counting all our
tears and sighs?

Nay, let them only see
us, while

We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great
Christ, our cries

To thee from tortured
souls arise.

We sing, but oh the
clay is vile

Beneath our feet, and
long the mile;

But let the world
dream otherwise,

We wear the mask!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar
(1872—1906)

More than 100 years have passed since the ink flowed to write this amazing poem, and yet it's meaning for humanity is as fresh and real for us as the day it was written.

Perhaps none wear “the mask” as well (or as poorly) as people who call themselves Christians, and yet have no relationship with the One they claim to love. They smile, they laugh, they say all the “correct” things, and yet inside they feel spiritually hollow. They live day to day, wondering how (and if) they will ever be able to truly be the person on the inside that matches the one they attempt to portray on

the outside. It's a lonely and desperate struggle.

Untangling priorities

I wore “the mask” for years, and admittedly (from time to time), I attempt to see if it still fits. I find myself trying it back on when life gets too busy, when I don't spend quality time with my God, or I attempt to make my relationship with my Creator more complicated than it needs to be. Loving relationships take investment, and when my priorities get tangled, the mask comes back out of the closet, and I begin making excuses to myself as to why I should start wearing it again.

Living “mask free” is sometimes a frightening proposition, but wearing it spiritually suffocates and stifles me. The only real freedom, that I have found, happens when I stay connected to the One who wants me to be **I** who I was designed to become. And who I was designed to be doesn't require a mask at all.

Michael Temple is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister serving in the Dakota Conference. He and his wife, Roberta, are the proud parents of three children: Taylor, Maddie and Michael.

Pastor Mike authors a daily e-devotional called *The Open Word*. Subscriptions are FREE at www.openwordshow.org.



THE TEACHER'S NOTES

SHARING A WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY IS HER MISSION

Teresa Thompson is a retired librarian who does free-lance proofreading and editing in addition to writing her weekly blog commentary on the adult Sabbath school lesson. She says her best time to study and write is early in the morning when her mind is fresh and before the distractions of the day crowd in.



Since April 2013, Teresa Thompson has been writing a weekly post for OUTLOOK Online titled The Teacher's Notes. Based on the Adventist denomination's adult Sabbath school lesson for the week, her articles are geared toward helping teachers and members engage in a deeper level of Bible study and follow through with practical life applications.

"I'd had this idea of writing about the lesson for years before I actually started," says Teresa. "When I first began teaching adult Sabbath school, I was nervous about presenting in front of others who had studied deeply and knew their Bibles well. So I wrote down every single thing I wanted to say. Being in the habit of that made it easy for

me to start publishing this blog."

From the start, Teresa's weekly articles were a hit. As her readership grew it became evident she was filling a need. When the North American Division started promoting her posts on their Facebook page, Teresa's audience quickly grew to include regular readers from over 50 countries around the world, along with Canadian territories and every state in North America.

Encouraging deeper study

Teresa says her goals for her blog are to provide commentary in a reader-friendly, narrative style that is an enhancement of the lesson. "I hope it can encourage study of the lesson, especially

for those who may have lost interest in it over time," she says.

Teresa acknowledges the constraints existing in the printed Sabbath school quarterly that follows a regimented style. "In a blog, I don't have those publishing constraints," she points out. "And with a digital format, my writing can be more easily and inexpensively shared with a wide audience."

Teresa says she endeavors to write for busy people, such as those teaching in children's divisions who may not have time to study the adult quarterly in addition to preparing a children's Sabbath school program. Her notes are also ideal for those who cannot attend church on a regular basis.

Teresa intentionally writes for the average person, not biblical scholars. "I try to keep the vocabulary simple—basic English—because I know people all around the world are using this resource weekly." Teresa also has readers from the Deaf community who appreciate her blog.

Despite personal health challenges and being a full time caregiver for her husband, Dean, Teresa has not missed a single week since she began this series. She studies and writes early in the mornings and always has her notes ready to post by Sabbath for the coming week's study.

"I always wanted to be a missionary," Teresa adds. "I heard such inspiring stories of reaching people in far away



Steven Foster

“I was struggling with this week’s lesson until I somehow stumbled on to this site. Thank you for making the lesson understandable and for bringing it so close to today’s reality.”

—Lmhishi
reader at outlookmag.org

TERESA’S TIPS FOR TEACHING AN ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS



Betty Jacobs

“The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives young and old a knowledge of God’s Word, but because it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings.”

—Ellen G. White

1. Encourage prayer requests before your opening prayer. This helps everyone feel closer to each other and perhaps be more likely to participate in the discussion later. It may take up more time than you’d like, but is well worth it to create the small group atmosphere every class needs.

2. Start the lesson with a re-cap of the previous week(s). It’s nice to know there is continuity to what you are studying and how the lesson fits into the big picture.

3. The body of your lesson should flow logically, but the main goal is to include plenty of open-ended questions that pertain directly or indirectly to the

lesson. Encourage discussion. It’s not a lecture—you are only a facilitator.

4. Even under the best circumstances, it can sometimes be difficult to hear comments from other class members. Try to briefly re-state those comments from your vantage point at the front to make sure everyone hears. Strive to acknowledge and value everyone who contributes.

5. Finally, wrap up your lesson with a summary statement and also a “teaser” for what the next lesson is about and who will be teaching. Then you are ready for a final prayer that is pertinent to what was studied and the need to apply it to our lives.

places. The first time the NAD Facebook page posted my lesson blog, and I saw how many likes and shares it got from all over the world, I cried for several minutes to think of so many seeing my blog!” exclaims Teresa.

Through her Teacher’s Notes and the tool of technology, Teresa can meet her responsibilities at home and still share her thoughts and insights weekly with people around the globe. **0**

Brenda Dickerson is editor of OUTLOOK.

Read The Teacher’s Notes at outlookmag.org. (bit.ly/theteachersnotes)

To learn more about Teresa, visit her personal blog: www.teresa-teresatalk.blogspot.com.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS MID-AMERICA

How members are sharing the message, living the mission and modeling the ministry of Adventism



1

MILE HIGH ACADEMY
MAIN ENTRANCE

1. Mile High Academy Opens New Doors: With nearly 200 students enrolled, Mile High Academy celebrates the grand opening of its newly purchased and renovated facility, made possible by numerous miracles. (October issue p. 20)

2

2. Central States Youth Learn and Serve: Under the leadership of Pastor Darriel Hoy, the Central States Conference launches new youth and young adult ministries focused on training, equipping and inspiring young people for service. (January issue p. 12)

3

3. Big City Evangelism Reaches Twin Cities: In partnership with the Voice of Prophecy, the Minnesota Conference hosts the largest reaping event in the conference's history at the Minneapolis Convention Center. (May issue p. 19)



4. Refugee Crisis—Big Challenge, Bigger Blessing: In response to the largest refugee crisis since World War II, many congregations reach out to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ during their time of need. (March/April issue p. 8)

5. Brooke Lietzke Joins Pastoral Team: Pastor Brooke Lietzke, a recent graduate from the University of Jamestown with a double major in religion and cross-cultural communication, joins the Dakota Conference ministerial team with the goal of reaching students through the Just Jesus. initiative. (November issue p. 14)

6. Vegan Chef Opens Cafe: Chef Miguel Larcher, who attended culinary schools in Martinique and Southern France, prepares a variety of tempting dishes at his newest restaurant: the Garden Grill Cafe in Wichita, Kansas. (September issue p. 18)

Central States Conference Celebrates Seasons of Marriage

Photos: Courtesy Central States Conference



were led by **Will and Sequoia Dickerson** of Route 1:16 Ministry, exposing more people to the different shades of God's face throughout the world.

Couples spanned all seasons of love with the longest marriage of 67 1/2 years (**Albert and Kathryn Groves**), to the newest marriage of 42 days (**Will and Sequoia Dickerson**). The Semakulas said they hoped that each of the 38 couples who attended received the exact blessing God intended for them to receive.

"I praise God for those who made the sacrifice to invest in growing their marriage," said Pastor Osborne. It is our prayer that this ministry grows to be the event couples look forward to attending each year.

Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Thirty-eight couples attend the 2015 marriage retreat at Cheyenne Mountain Resort near Colorado Springs in October.

The Seasons of Marriage was the theme of the 2015 marriage retreat hosted by Park Hill Church (Denver) at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in October. Ministry leaders **Sam** and **Sheritha Semakula**, along with **Pastor Charles Osborne**, sought to embody the essence of love and connectivity between spouses through Christ.

Their prayer was for God to provide courage and strength to endure the darkest seasons in our relationships.

"The Lord provided an experience above what we could've ever imagined!" said the Semakulas.

Facilitators **Trevor** and **Edith Fraser** of Huntsville, Alabama presented the four seasons of marriage. They explained how one can experience all seasons at any stage in marriage.

As they reflected on God's leading during the weekend they said: "We prayed all week before the retreat that God would allow a breakthrough in the marriages of the attendees. We know God is in the prayer-answering business. We will continue to pray for God to direct and lead in your marriage. Thanks again for the opportunity to minister to you and your church."

Morning worship sessions



Trevor and Edith Fraser, facilitators, receive a special thank you from ministry leaders Sam and Sheritha Semakula.

Central States Conference Considers Leadership Transitions



Maurice Valentine II



Roger Bernard Jr.

At a specially convened session on the evening of November 7, the Central States Conference Executive Committee met at headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas to determine a course

of action for filling the position vacated by former president **Maurice Valentine II** who recently accepted an invitation to serve as executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

After much prayer and reflection, the Executive Committee voted to leave the president's position open until the Central States Conference Constituency Session on June 12, 2016, and allow the delegates to select a president then. The committee's decision places **Roger Bernard Jr.**, CSC executive secretary, in the role of interim president until that time.

The Executive Committee, working with Mid-America Union Conference president **Gary Thurber**, expressed great confidence in Elder Bernard as acting president. "It is with

a deeply humbled heart that I thank the MAUC officers and the Central States Conference Executive Committee for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading this great conference," said Bernard.

The Executive Committee also voted to write a letter expressing appreciation to Valentine for his service and wishing him God's richest blessings in his new ministry, which he began on November 15.

.....
Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union.

Are We Communicating Effectively?

That was the question at the 2015 Society of Adventist Communicator's Convention held in Chantilly, Virginia in October.

This question made us consider the constituents of the Central States Conference and how we share your church's events and activities. We want to see how you're building the kingdom of God.

Submit stories and news to communications@central-states.org.

Did you know we're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram? Join the conversations!

Facebook:
facebook.com/CentralStatesConf

Instagram:
[@central_states_conference](https://www.instagram.com/central_states_conference)

Twitter:
[@central_states](https://twitter.com/central_states)



CALENDAR

Eastern Federation Prison Ministry Workshop
Sat., Dec. 5
St Louis, MO

Men's Ministry Fellowship
Sat., Dec. 19
Sun., Dec. 20
Video call:
Join meeting:
[men-s-ministry\(central-states.org\)](https://central-states.org)

WiiServe Week of Service
Dec. 20-27

For more information contact: green.j@central-states.org

Minot Church Celebrates Centennial

Photos: Courtesy Dakota Conference



Pastor Robert and Elizabeth Carlson

The Minot Church of Minot, North Dakota celebrated its centennial anniversary on Sept. 19—100 years to the day since its opening.

The theme of the Minot Centennial celebration was *Almost Home*. Former pastor **Allen Myers** used the theme as the title of his sermon. Noon and evening meals were provided, as well as children's programs and an afternoon sacred musical concert. Since North Dakota has the greatest per capita influx of immigrants in the United States, songs were sung in several languages.

Pastor Robert Carlson, with his centennial committees, arranged for a large white tent to be set up behind the church for meals and fellowship. KXMC television was on hand to record the centennial celebration.

Visitors and former members enjoyed touring the heritage room, where memorabilia showed how God had led throughout the years.

Highlights from history

Martineus Ruskjer came to Minot around 1913 as a Bible instructor and colporteur. In 1914 Pastor E. L. Stewart followed with a tent meeting and officially organized the church into a tent tabernacle on Sept. 19, 1915, with 17 charter members. In November the church made a down payment of \$300 on a lot for their tent.

Excerpts from the 75th anniversary brochure read, "Since the new church was close to the Mouse River, baptisms took place by walking a short distance to nature's baptismal font, and the candidates went down into the water like our Saviour did so many years ago."

They had an "overwhelming task of providing not only a church plant, but also a church school. This seemed a financial impossibility but was deemed a dire necessity for the children involved. By November of 1916 they had a church indebtedness of \$1,300, a coal bill of \$35.68, taxes of \$48, and a light bill of



Pastor Allen Myers

Members and guests of the Minot Church gather to honor its founders 100 years to the day after the church was organized.

\$5, all of which was of deep concern."

A teacher was hired for \$45 per month and they moved forward in faith. "Then came 1929, the year of the crash... It was voted that the church women, who outnumbered the men, raise money to help pay the tax bill by sewing, selling whole wheat bread, or by selling books. It was later decided to defer payment on the taxes and use the money to repair the leaking roof." Because of the depression, it took 10 years to pay off the \$1,300 mortgage.

Then in December 1989, "when wind chills reached 78 degrees below zero, the new year brought excessively warm and dry conditions to the Minot area. The senior members of the church recalled, with foreboding, the depression of the 1930s. Nevertheless, the Minot Seventh-day Adventist Church had much to be thankful for...and they share their joy with you."

Articles by Jacquie Biloff, communication director for the Dakota Conference.



The Minot Church was organized as a tent tabernacle on Sept. 19, 1915 with 17 charter members.

Phyllis Alexander Receives Commendation



Dakota Conference director of ACS DR Phyllis Alexander builds friendships with South Dakota emergency managers, including Lt. Gov. Matt Michels (left), and Dustin Willet, director of the Rapid City Pennington County Emergency Management team.

Phyllis Alexander, director of Dakota Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response, received a 15-year sticker for her emergency members plaque at the yearly Emergency Managers Conference last September in Mitchell, South Dakota.

"I had my picture taken with the EM president, **Regan Smith**, and also with South Dakota **Lt. Gov. Matt Michels**, who gave the keynote address," said Alexander. "I have been a member of the South Dakota Emergency Managers since the year 2000. I will always remember the special friends I have made over these past years."

Since attending her first meeting of the Pennington County Emergency Managers 15 years ago, Alexander has become more involved in their meetings. At one of the annual conferences the opportunity came for Alexander to distribute her ACS DR cards so those

she met could become more acquainted with the services offered. She was also given an opportunity to explain the role of ACS DR and how it could work during a large-area disaster.

Director **Dustin Willet** of the Rapid City Pennington County Emergency Management wrote, "I wanted to take a moment and commend Phyllis Alexander in her role representing the Seventh-day Adventists within the South Dakota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster. Not only is Phyllis a fun and upbeat person to be around, but she truly has a servant's heart and is incredibly dedicated and passionate in her commitment to disaster relief planning and operations. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside Phyllis and my office is very grateful for the Seventh-day Adventist commitment to the mission of disaster relief in our community (and across the nation, for that matter)."

Mar 11 - 13, 2016

Dakota Conference Men's Retreat



Photo by Paulette Bullinaer

Facing God, Facing the World

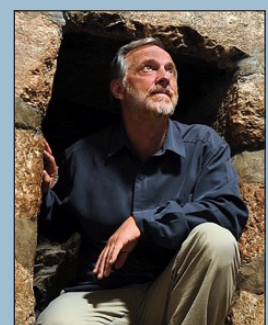
Dr Thomas Shepherd

Dakota Campmeeting 2016

June 7-11



Elder John Bradshaw
Director of It Is Written



Elder Tony Moore
Footsteps of Jesus



King's Heralds
Male Quartet

Adventist Elementary Education Offers Outstanding Quality

Michelle Hansen



Iowa-Missouri elementary teachers and conference office education staff gather in West Des Moines for additional training and inspiration before the school year begins.

Each year, just before school starts, Iowa-Missouri elementary teachers gather to learn about procedure updates, new teaching materials, and to get acquainted with the new hires. This year's meeting focused on student and school safety. The teachers completed a one-day refresher First Aid/CPR course where they each learned how to use a defibrillator.

Rick Young, director of the International Rescue and Relief program at Union College, conducted a school safety seminar. Young encouraged each school to have a crisis management plan that includes the formation of safety teams and the development of a safety guidebook.

The meetings concluded with a training presentation by **Kim Miller** who directs the Partners for Eternity program at Southern Adventist University. This program is designed for weekly visits to seniors in their home by an elementary student and his/her parent; in return students develop a relationship with those "senior mentors" and receive up to a \$1,000 scholarship toward their school bill. The goal is for every Iowa-Missouri school to participate in this program.

Sharing goals

Each school year a fundraising project is introduced to the students and teachers at our 15 conference schools. This year the goal is to raise \$1,000 for a well pump at the Mtshibini Adventist School in Lupane, Zimbabwe. In 2011, 20 students from Sunnydale Adventist Academy and adult volunteers built the Mtshibini Elementary School and last year a group of our teachers went to the same site and built a secondary school. Each dollar raised by the teachers and students will be matched to cover the cost of the \$2,000 pump.

Experiencing the outdoors

Our 5th and 6th graders get the chance to switch up their learning environment for a few days each year during Outdoor School, held at Camp Heritage on the Lake of the Ozarks. This past September, 49 students participated in classes on Standard First Aid, Nature Remedies and Health, and Mini-CHIP and Nutrition. The students were also involved in a variety of group games and outdoor activities. This event is held annually and is open to all 5th and 6th graders in

our conference who attend a conference school, are home schooled or attend other private or public schools.

Welcoming new teachers

We are blessed to have added five new teachers to our team; **Sara Henninger**, kindergarten teacher at Columbia; **Heidi Nicholas**, grades 5-8 teacher at Des Moines; **Connie Sunderland**, head teacher for grades 1-8 at Clinton, Missouri; **Judi Thompson**, principal and grades 3-5 teacher at Springfield; and **Lisa Kijak** grades K-4 teacher at Hillcrest, St. Louis.

Expanding our reach

We are very pleased to announce a school opened this year in Clinton, Missouri. The Golden Valley Adventist School is the first Adventist school in Clinton in over 80 years. "The board has a three-year plan for growth to reach 15 students," said Golden Valley church member **David Webb**. "This is a miracle school that has been in the planning stage for three years and has finally come to fruition."

Dr. Joseph Allison is superintendent of education and Michelle Hansen is communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Students in grades 5 and 6 enjoy games and activities at the annual Outdoor School held at Camp Heritage in September.

Karen McCarthy



Teenage Refugees Humbled by Opportunity

Michelle Hansen



(l-r) Bee Be, Suan Lang and K Paw Soe are refugees from Myanmar who are now enrolled at Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Suan Lang began attending SAA in 2014 and is a mentor and friend to the new students.

shortly thereafter K Paw Soe was baptized into the Adventist church family by Burmese pastor **Stephen Po.**

K Paw Soe attended public high school in Des Moines for several years before learning of Sunnydale Adventist Academy and the refugee tuition assistance program. His mom works at a local produce packaging facility and relies on government food assistance to help feed her family of five. When K Paw Soe learned he would be able to attend SAA tuition free he was overjoyed.

“I would like to thank God for this golden opportunity to study at Sunnydale,” said K Paw Soe. “Huge thanks to my sponsors. May the Lord bless you, and I always pray for you. My lifelong goal is to be a medical missionary and share Jesus with non-believers.”

The refugee ministry program was established in the Iowa-Missouri Conference two years ago as a way to assist the many displaced people fleeing

persecution in their home countries. We have asked our members to join us in supporting this emerging ministry by pledging \$10 per month to help refugees. Right now the majority of the funds are going to the refugee tuition assistance program. Today 10 percent of our students are refugees.

Going forward we want to create more opportunities to help refugee families, such as offering ESL classes, job search help, babysitting, tutoring and more.

In order to further this ministry, we are seeking the ongoing financial support of 1,000 people through a pledge card that can be downloaded at www.imsda.org/refugee. There is also a line item designation on the tithe envelopes. All money given goes directly to help refugees living in Iowa and Missouri.

Michelle Hansen is communication/Sabbath school director for Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Two young men from Myanmar were given the opportunity to attend Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri this school year. Both **Bee Be**, a sophomore, and **K Paw Soe**, a junior, came to the U.S. after living in refugee camps in Thailand, but each has a different story.

Bee Be, oldest of four siblings, lives in Des Moines, Iowa with his mother and two sisters. His father and three-year-old brother are still in a Thai refugee camp. Bee Be attended an Adventist elementary school in Thailand for eight years, but asked his mother to bring him to the U.S. for his secondary schooling. After attending public school for his freshman year, Bee Be learned of the refugee tuition assistance program offered by the conference. The four-year tuition

assistance program is available to refugee children, of any faith, to attend a conference elementary school and, when funds are available, Sunnydale Adventist Academy.

Bee Be is very grateful to now be attending SAA. “This is the best thing that has happened to me since coming to the U.S.,” he said. “I want to be a warrior for God’s kingdom and my lifelong goal is to share Christ with others.”

K Paw Soe and his three siblings were raised by their Buddhist mother after their father died when K Paw Soe was very young. K Paw Soe attended an Adventist church in Thailand for several years, but his mother would not allow him to become a Christian while there.

His family came to the States around three years ago and

Watch Town Hall Meetings Online

If you weren’t able to attend a Town Hall meeting this past fall you can watch it online at www.vimeo.com/imsda. Segments cover conference financial status, education, missions, refugee ministry, evangelism, emerging issues and more.

GNCC Fundraiser Features Global Cuisine



Children representing the country of Iraq help with the Good Neighbor Community Center's seventh annual Samples of the World fundraiser.

The Good Neighbor Community Center in Lincoln, Nebraska has sponsored its major fundraiser, Samples of the World banquet, since 2009. During this gala event, foods are prepared from a variety of countries representing the diverse population of Lincoln and the clients served. According to executive director **Tom Randa**, this year's event featured representatives from 14 different countries serving native foods, resulting in more than \$17,000 raised by diners, donors and sponsors.

"This event brings together clients, who want to give back to the Center, volunteers, community partners, sponsors and people looking to try different foods," Randa said.

Noting that the banquet requires a great deal of coordination, Randa expressed

appreciation to members of College View and Piedmont Park churches, AdventSource, Union College staff and students, Talent Plus and many others. The Kansas-Nebraska Conference also sponsored a table.

The Lincoln GNCC has been providing free food, clothing, ESL and computer classes, furniture and other assistance to those in need in the Lincoln community for more than four decades.

Through September of this year, the Center served 5,530 unduplicated individuals and 645 refugees. There have been 155 volunteers who have logged more than 7,959 hours of service.

Articles by John Treolo, communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Photos: John Treolo

Diners not only enjoy the variety of delicious foods being served but also help to raise over \$17,000 throughout the evening for assisting those in need.



New Haven Church Celebrates 60 Years



Photos: Timothy Floyd

The New Haven Choir and multiple other groups presented music during the worship service celebrating the church's 60th anniversary. Two members of the New Haven congregation who signed the original charter were in attendance.

Promising never to forget how the Lord has led in their past, members of the New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas celebrated the 60th anniversary of their existence with preaching, music and remembrances.

Organized in 1955 as the Johnson County Seventh-day Adventist Church, the name New Haven Church was adopted three years later, along with the opening of a 10-grade school.

On Sabbath former pastors—**Elliot Smith**, **Luke Self** and **Michael Halfhill**—delivered messages. Music permeated the services, featuring the New Haven Church Choir, Children's Choir, Korean Choir, Sifa Voices (Swahili choir) and a concert by **Margie Salcedo-Rice**.

Ron Carlson, role playing

as president of the Kansas Conference in 1955, invited members to come forward to sign the charter. Offstage, **Dan Darrell** read the names of all 80 charter members. Two members stood in attendance who had signed the charter 60 years ago.

Through the years, New Haven members have been instrumental in beginning what is now known as Shawnee Mission Health (1962); they planted the New Life Community Church in Olathe (1970); West Lenexa Church (1991); New Haven Hispanic Church (2008); Swahili group (2008); and Korean group (2015). The New Haven School changed its name to Midland Adventist Academy in 1981, and is now a 12-grade school.

WICHITA CONVOCAATION January 29-30, 2016



Speaker: Gary Thurber
President
Mid-America Union Conference

FRIDAY
Wichita Three
Angels Church
4558 N. Hydraulic
7:00 p.m.
Gary Thurber

SABBATH
Wichita South Church
820 W. 27th St. South
9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School
11:00 a.m.
Gary Thurber
2:00 p.m.
Gary Thurber

Kansas City Area CONVOCAATION February 12-13, 2016



Speaker: Sam Leonor
Pastor
La Sierra University Campus

FRIDAY
Chapel Oaks Church
6245 Monticello Road
Shawnee, KS

7:00 pm Sam Leonor

SABBATH
New Haven Church
8714 Antioch Road
Overland Park, KS
9:30 am Sabbath School
11:00 am Sam Leonor
2:00 pm Sam Leonor

Pathfinders Make History at Harmony Park

Jim Cook



Nearly 600 Pathfinders and staff from two conferences in two different unions gather for a combined camporee.

Pathfinder history was made last September as two conferences from two different unions met for a combined Pathfinder camporee. This is only the second time it has happened—and it was the same conferences who participated the first time in 2003.

Wisconsin Conference of the Lake Union and Minnesota Conference of the Mid-America Union joined together to make a great Pathfinder experience at Harmony Park near Clarks Grove, Minnesota.

Each campsite in this beautiful, oak-laden park had a fire ring so the nearly 600 Pathfinders and staff could practice their camp skills. Additionally, there was enough space to work on several different honors and activities at once. Some of these included soccer, tree climbing, stars,

paper quilling and geocaching, just to name a few of the 23 options. Throughout the weekend Pathfinders used three cords of wood and happily consumed many S'mores.

Conference presidents **Justin Lyons** from Minnesota and **Mike Edge** from Wisconsin welcomed the Pathfinders on Sabbath morning. **Pastor Eugene Kitney** from Texas brought the Pathfinders into “Harmony with Jesus” as he elaborated on the theme throughout the weekend.

One of the highlights of the weekend was when the owner of Harmony Park and his family joined us for Sabbath worship. The Lord blessed and many great memories were made at this historical camporee.

Jim Cook is Pathfinder director for the Minnesota Conference.

Construction Begins on New Lodge at North Star Camp



Architect's drawing of the new lodge

In 2008, the Minnesota constituency voted a three-phase redevelopment project plan for revitalizing North Star Camp. Phases one and two have been completed (praise God!) and in October the North Star Camp Board received the “go ahead” from the Conference Board of Trustees to immediately begin phase three, called Lift the Lodge. This phase entails demolition of the old lodge, followed by construction of the new facility that will enhance the beauty and functionality of the camp.

After speaking with the

North Star Camp Board and the construction company, conference president **Justin Lyons** said, “We believe that we can have the new lodge finished by the start of camp season next year.”

Elder Lyons also expressed thanks to the conference constituency and the donors for their faithfulness and financial support of this \$1.2 million project.

Brian Mungandi is vice president for administration and communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

A Home for Harper

Collene Klick



After almost three years of working, worrying and waiting, Amber is thrilled to finally be making a loving home for her 8-year-old Congolese daughter.

Since her childhood, **Amber** has known she wanted to adopt. “As a little girl my sister and I regularly played ‘orphanage Annie.’ As I grew older and started to learn more about adoption, I knew for certain that this was how I would make my family,” says Amber, who in July 2009 became certified to adopt as a single parent.

By October of 2011, she started looking into international adoption. “I wanted to be a missionary as a teen or perhaps join the Peace Corps after college,” Amber recalls. “So in December 2011, I started the process for adopting a child from the Democratic Republic of Congo.”

International adoptions are a long and difficult undertaking that includes home-study referrals, fingerprints, background checks, interviews, training and paperwork. Then there is the process of selecting a child, dealing with the court system, and gaining the required travel documents.

By January 2013 Amber had found the little girl she wanted—named **Harper**—and

had become her legal guardian. Yet she was not able to bring Harper home because the U.S. started an investigation process to verify orphan status and the Congolese suspended all exit permits for adopted children.

In November of that year Amber received alarming pictures of Harper from a friend. “My little girl was rail thin, her bones were sticking out and her eyes sunken,” Amber recalls with anxiety. “She was dying. I tried to get a travel visa to go and move her from the orphanage to a foster home.”

In February 2014 Amber was finally able to get into the Congo. “Some friends of mine were able to pay off the orphanage director the week before I arrived so I would be able to take her to the hospital to be cared for,” Amber says. “My little girl had giardiasis, malaria, typhoid, a blood infection, lice and jiggers. She weighed 28 pounds and was 44 inches tall. My sweet friend **Laure**, a doctor, saved Harper’s life and then let her stay in her home for 14 more months.”

Even though getting Harper out of the Congo had ground to

a heart-wrenching stop, Amber continued to prepare for the child she wanted so badly. A friend of Amber’s who had been sending her children to Stone Ridge SDA Christian School for several years shared some of her experiences about the school, its size and values.

Amber asked the kindergarten teacher, **Mrs. Carlson**, to reserve a place for Harper, and the kindergarten class started praying for their unmet friend.

“Thank goodness I had the option of Stone Ridge when Harper finally did come home,” Amber says. “The idea of putting my unschooled, non-English speaking 8-year-old right into a public school second grade classroom was terrifying. I’m excited that she has so much time outside during the day and gets one-on-one help. Harper has already learned so much!”

Collene Klick is communication secretary for the Duluth Church.

Read the full story at bit.ly/home4harper



Join Our Short Term Mission Trip to Plant a Church in India



Barbara Christiansen

Have you been waiting and praying to go on a short-term church planting mission trip? How about India—a land of color, spice and many gods. It’s a country of 1.25 billion people, most of whom need to hear the love of God. As the Holy Spirit moves on the hearts of men and women in that vast country many are reaching out for God.

If God is impressing you to go, come be a part of the Minnesota team that each night will present the gospel, health message and a children’s story to the villagers Feb. 2-22, 2016. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs, hotel and food, passport and visa, and travel costs to and from the village.

For more information contact Barbara Christiansen: keithandbarb.christiansen@gmail.com.



Engaging With Navajo Life is Key to Sharing Faith



Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

When the super moon went blood red in its full eclipse earlier this year, it was a frightening astronomical event for some of the students at La Vida Mission near Farmington, New Mexico. Coming from a traditional Navajo background, they consider eclipse viewing “taboo since they believe looking at the moon could shorten their lives,” explained **Dolores Bentley**, mission director and special design teacher.

La Vida Mission is a unique place—unlike any other Adventist school in North America. It had its beginnings in the 1940s in a one-room trading post infested with mice. Over the years the school, cafeteria, medical clinic and church were built by volunteer labor and are a testimony to faithful sharing of a Christian vision.

Today, 26 Navajo students attend the school, a fulfillment of the dream given to a young Navajo girl of many moccasined feet walking into the light of Jesus, and the result of labors

and dedication by another woman, **Veda Scholder**, after whom the mission was named.

The dream continues to evolve after more than 50 years of service. The current mission administration is looking to the future with long-range plans that include self-supporting industries and vocational classes. Current class offerings include woodworking and mechanics. A certified nursing assistant class is in the planning stages and students who take it could finish high school with a vocation or use it as a means to put themselves through college.

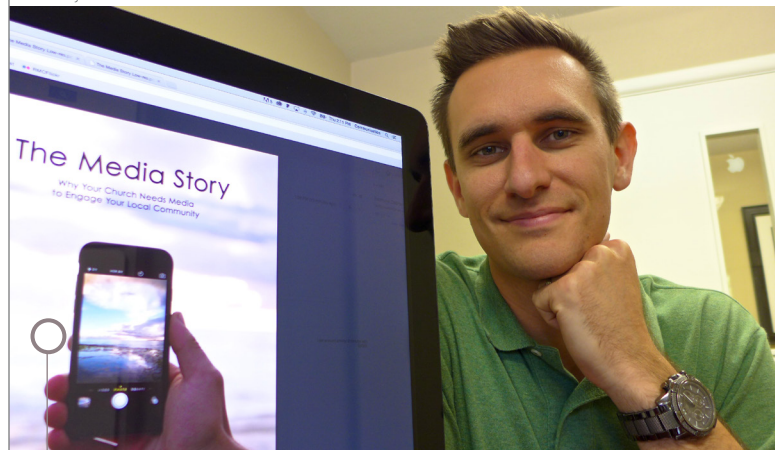
La Vida Farm now produces vegetables to supply some of the school’s needs, and greenhouse head, **Aquiles Gayares**, “has grown a tomato of such high quality that we are looking at ways to market our produce starting next year,” said Bentley.

A La Vida Mission story would not be complete without mentioning its church plant at Crownpoint, 30 miles south of the Mission, that has between 25–35 people regularly attending. They have outgrown the trailer where they’ve been meeting, according to **Dorie Panganiban**, school chaplain and office manager. She and her husband direct the church plant.

Carol Bolden is communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

LifeSource Member Publishes Media Story eBook

Rajmund Dabrowski



Dustin Comm is combining his passions of ministry and media to help local churches reach out and engage their communities at a deeper, long-term level.

Dustin Comm, whose eBook *The Media Story: Why Your Church Needs Media to Engage Your Local Community* was released in October, says stories are all around us. His compendium shows how to use media and aims to engage local congregations in telling stories of their faith community in order to inspire and to witness.

Comm, who lives in Castle Rock, Colorado and attends Denver’s LifeSource Adventist Fellowship, graduated from Pacific Union College with degrees in theology, and television and film production. He then served in Calimesa, California, as a pastor for media and youth ministry.

“Knowing that often times church media folks may never get media experience outside the church, I decided that I need to gain real-world media experience and took an opportunity in broadcast radio at Mile High Sports Radio (AM 1510 | FM 93.7) in Denver,

Colorado as a producer/host,” Comm said.

Early in 2015 after a year of prayer and soul-searching for where God wanted him next, Dustin recognized that God was calling him to combine his passions of ministry and media moving forward. “In my research and study, it became clear that the church was missing a huge opportunity to engage its local communities at a deeper level by infusing media into their long-term outreach campaigns,” he said. “My passion is to help churches understand why and how to integrate media into their outreach.”

The Media Story was released on Amazon for its Kindle platform and the iBooks store.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

For more information visit dustincomm.com/themediastory.

Vista Ridge Academy Receives Matching Tuition Grant

Rajmund Dabrowski



James Christianson

Imagine what it would look like if every business owner had the opportunity to contribute to a cause they care about simply by doing what they are already doing. That's at the heart of what **James Christianson** and **Lief Sorensen** believe is possible with their company, named P3.

The company's premise is to harness the power of businesses that are already spending money on credit card processing fees and re-direct a portion of these funds by giving 50 percent of profit back to Adventist education. By maintaining long-term relationships through effective customer service and integrity, Christianson and Sorensen say they will be ensuring that these revenue streams for schools continue month over month and year after year.

"Why pay two, three or more percent to a bank to process simple credit card transactions?" Sorensen asked. "Even more importantly, consider the impact giving back just a portion

of these fees would have on Christian education."

Setting up a company capable of both processing credit cards and allowing businesses to contribute just made sense. As Sorensen points out, "from dentists to mechanics, doctors to retail store managers, with P3, now every type of business owner has an opportunity to participate and support their local school. We couldn't be more excited about the possibilities."

The program's impact can already be seen on a local level. Vista Ridge Academy recently benefited from a \$30,000 tuition subsidy through a matching grant campaign. According to principal **Sandy Hodgson**, her school "has been blessed by businesses working with P3 to advance Adventist education. Because of a one-week matching grant campaign, Vista Ridge Academy benefited last August, and the funding received went directly to subsidizing tuition for families who would not be able to afford an Adventist education."

Shawn Nowlan, chair of Vista Ridge Academy board, expressed gratitude for P3 involvement, noting that it is "helping to lower financial barriers for students, so they can experience Vista Ridge Academy's Christian education."

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

To learn more
visit p3online.org.

Team Wins Trophy, Gives God Glory

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



Campion Academy's volleyball team, the Cougars, brought home the tournament trophy for the first time last October after some intense playing at the Union College Volleyball Invitational Tournament. Participating teams came from across the Mid-America Union, as well as Florida, Texas and Tennessee.

Photos of trophies and elated athletes are more expected at a time like this than images of girls on their knees with bowed heads in the middle of the gym floor. Yet that's exactly what this volleyball team did after winning the championship game, following an undefeated streak of eight games throughout the tourney.

On Saturday night of the tournament, the Lady Cougars decided to carry on the tradition of writing a Bible verse on their hands as a reminder of Whom they truly play for. This year the text was taken from Rom. 8:31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

"Writing the verse on our

hands simply reminded us Whom we were playing for—not ourselves, but God," said **Rachel Hammond**, co-captain of the team. "The minute we received the trophy, we knew we needed to thank God for giving us victory," she added.

Head coach **Erin Hieb** and assistant **Kelsey Downey**, both Campion alumni, have enjoyed the 2015 season with the volleyball team. Their theme for this season focused on playing with 100 percent effort in practice and through every point, set and match. As coaches, they did their best to encourage good sportsmanship and determination, and really focused on helping the girls have as much fun as possible.

Downey said the attitudes and effort of these athletes revealed a commitment to the sport, but foremost to their Savior.

Kelsey Downey and Jennifer Sigler assisted Campion Academy with this year's volleyball season.

Graduate Wins Award Studying Snakebites in India

Photos: Courtesy Union College



Ben Herzel, a 2014 Union College graduate, was mentored in his snakebite treatment research in Southern India by Dr. Matthew Lewin, known as the “snakebite doctor.” Lewin has pioneered the use of alternative and affordable treatments for the bites of cobras, vipers and other snakes whose venom contains neurotoxins.

It didn't take long for **Benjamin Herzel** to see the snake problem. In the first day of his field research on snake density in India, the 2014 Union College graduate saw professional snake catchers capture, count and release 120 snakes—mostly Indian cobras and Russel's vipers—in four hours.

Herzel, who recently completed a master of science in global health program at the University of California at San Francisco, was awarded the John L. Ziegler Award for Outstanding Student Capstone for his thesis research: “Treatment Strategies for Venomous Snakebites in Southern India: A Cost-Effective Analysis.”

The study compared the cost-effectiveness of two major treatment options used in India for snake bites. Using antivenom is extremely expensive for individuals and the health

system at large. Herzel explained that snakebites are an often overlooked global health issue in terms of the amount of attention and funding it gets compared to the mortality and morbidity it causes.

“I conducted my research in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, in the far south of India,” said Herzel. “I spent half of my time in Coimbatore, and half of my time in a smaller town called Krishnagiri, not too far from Bangalore.” Most of Herzel's days were spent at hospitals collecting data from patients' billed records, hospital chagemasters, and accounting reports. The information was collected in an economic model that helped Herzel determine which strategy was more cost-effective. Herzel observed victims of snakebites throughout the entire treatment process, talked to physicians and other experts as well as with the patients themselves.

Herzel's research points to the effectiveness of a less expensive alternative treatment to snake antivenom in the form of a small molecule inhibitor. “Hopefully, this will encourage drug developers, who are already in the late stages of discovering a new class of snake antidotes, to increase their focus on likely candidates, while putting less focus on improving the quality and quantity of antivenom supplies,” he said.

The concept has been pioneered by Herzel's capstone mentor, **Matthew Lewin**, an emergency room physician and neuroscientist in San Francisco. Lewin has promoted the idea of using a nasal spray containing drugs to counteract the neurotoxins commonly found in the venom of cobras and other Asian snakes.

“Seventy-five percent or more of the patients who die from snakebites are never treated in the hospital,” said Lewin in a 2014 interview with **Spencer Michels** on PBS NewsHour. “If you make it to the hospital, you will probably do quite well.” Lewin believes an inexpensive spray could greatly reduce fatalities by allowing victims to make it to medical care—especially in remote areas of India.

The firsthand research in India made a big impact on Herzel's own view of global health issues. “The study made me acutely aware of the burden of disease attributed to snakebites in the world,” said Herzel. “It is one thing to read papers containing statistics and figures, and it's entirely another

thing to stand by the bedside of a 6-year-old girl and watch her suffering only minutes after she was bitten by a viper.”

Union College degree lays strong foundation

Herzel graduated from Union College in 2014 with degrees in biomedical science and international rescue and relief. “Union's community is the strongest I've ever experienced,” said Herzel. After finishing his master's program in August he began working full-time at UCSF for both the Department of Global Health and the Institute for Health Policy Studies. He plans to work in global health economics for the next year or two before entering medical school.

“I chose Union for the IRR program,” Herzel explained. “I couldn't find any other program like it.” He also found his biomedical science degree laid the foundation for the skills and knowledge he needed to complete his master's degree.

“My biggest advice for students is to have a very specific and practical plan for their degree,” Herzel said. “Many IRR students may not be afraid of dangling from a cliff or jumping into a powerful current at midnight, but perhaps they are more likely to be afraid of using statistical software or searching a journal database. Don't be afraid to explore the unknown, even if it doesn't look like you expected.”

Articles by Megan Wehling, a Union College senior English major from Lincoln, Nebraska.

IRR Major Spends the Summer as a Hotshot



Connor Kraegel, a senior international rescue and relief student, spent the summer as a medic for the Wyoming Hotshots, an elite team of wildland firefighters based in the Bighorn National Forest.

suppression crew based in the Bighorn National Forest in northern Wyoming. The men and women dedicated to this crew spend their summers fighting forest fires and responding to natural disasters throughout the state.

Kraegel has been Wildland Firefighter certified for four years now. When looking for a place to work for the summer, he applied for 58 positions. “It took a while and it was a long process, but I finally landed this job as a crew medic,” Kraegel said. “When looking for a job I kept telling myself that I wanted to work outdoors and with professionals.”

Because of the medical skills and emergency response training in his international rescue and relief coursework, Kraegel felt he was ready to tackle the many tasks assigned to him. “IRR survival training prepared me for rough and extensive work in the wilderness,” said Kraegel. “I have used knowledge from almost every FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) course required by IRR as well as skills learned in my emergency medical technician classes.”

Some summer jobs involve flipping burgers, watching youngsters swim or filing in an office. **Connor Kraegel**, however, set more specific goals. The senior international rescue and relief major spent an exciting summer as a medic for the Wyoming Hotshots, fighting wildfires and rescuing accident victims on the state’s highways.

“Responding to wildland fires is an exhilarating experience,” explained Kraegel. “I had the opportunity to fight a fire in Glacier National Park where my hand crew was responsible for a 1.5-mile section of fire line. In order to construct a protective perimeter we used explosives to blow up trees and brush into a two-foot wide trench. Afterward we held the line with helicopter water bucket drops and extensive chainsaw work. After two long weeks and over 100 miles of hiking we finally contained the fire.”

The Wyoming Hotshots are a highly trained wildland fire

But the summer job taught him even more. “This summer has been a chance to learn from the best of the best,” said Kraegel. He acquired new firefighting skills while on the job including engine operation, chainsaw operation, and use of fire-like explosives and burn techniques. Each day he worked with engines, chainsaws, hand tools, communication equipment, heavy operations and maintenance. His experience also demonstrated the importance of following orders and using training to properly manage fires.

Finding a calling

After completing a degree in business management at Montgomery College in Maryland, Kraegel felt that maybe he needed to find a better fit. “I googled IRR-type programs and Union came up as one of the options,” Kraegel said.

Kraegel is currently finishing his last year of school earning a paramedic certification at Denver Health in Colorado.

After graduation, he plans to continue working as a fire crew medic or an international travel medic.

“My most memorable time at Union was the Nicaragua expedition,” said Kraegel of the semester all senior IRR majors spend in Nicaragua learning medical skills and jungle survival. Learning so much and seeing a lot of different things in such a short period of time helped give him skills to adapt to each situation he will likely encounter in his line of work. For Kraegel, the most memorable part of working with the Hotshots was great people and learning to work with different equipment in different situations. On the flip side, he also witnessed some sad tragedies, such as motor vehicle fatalities.

“My advice for young students looking for internships or graduates looking for jobs is don’t give up,” Kraegel said. “Apply your heart out, stand out from the crowd and be persistent in what you want.”

SEE FOR YOURSELF WATCH UNION COLLEGE STUDENTS IN ACTION.

Serving Lincoln: 35 years and counting

Find out why more than 800 Union students and employees have taken a day off from school every year for 35 years to serve the Lincoln community for Project Impact.

Video: www.ucollege.edu/project-impact-2015-video

Student teachers help launch a school year

Ever wonder what it’s like for teachers to begin the first day of school? Three education students share their experience in the new “Presession” program where they spend two weeks in a school, a week preparing for the first day, and then teach the first week of classes.

Video: www.ucollege.edu/education-presession

SMH Embraces the E in CREATION Health

Spend a day at Shawnee Mission Health and there's a good chance you will witness CREATION Health in action. A faith-based wellness initiative, CREATION Health encourages associates, patients and visitors to embrace practices that lead to a happier, healthier life.

Although SMH focuses efforts on all areas of CREATION Health—Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition—it has recently placed special emphasis on using environmental stewardship to improve the lives of others.

For example, Shawnee Mission Medical Center's Nutrition Services is promoting health and wellness by committing to purchase food from local sources, implementing sustainable food service practices and using compostable materials. Holding high standards for their suppliers, SMMC seeks food providers that are safe and offer wholesome products using conscientious environmental production practices.

"We know there is a strong link between food, our

agricultural system and health," said director of Nutrition Services **Susan Larcom**. "Our goals are to provide fresh, healthy, minimally processed food that supports our commitment to wellness."

While the Garden Café has committed to eliminating Styrofoam and switching to eco-friendly products, as well as recycling common kitchen items like cardboard, food service cans and grease, they've also engaged SMH associates in making better choices, not only for themselves, but the environment. Nutrition Services offers patients, as well as associates and visitors in the Garden Café, smart food choices, organic free-trade coffee, antibiotic-free meat when available, and cage-free eggs.

Associates also receive a discount when they provide their own cup in the Garden Café, and a farm stand-type display offers fresh produce for sale from local farmers seasonally.

"Also, as a café that serves nearly 1,000 meals each day, we know there can be a lot of food waste, whether that's simply food not eaten or

produce scraps," said Larcom. "We have started tracking food waste, using that information to help us make better production decisions and be more resourceful in how we use leftover products." For example, Nutrition Services sends produce scraps to a local farmer as animal feed, and they distribute unsold, safe food to a local food bank twice a week.

These efforts are not going unnoticed. The Garden Café was recognized by the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition as a 24-Karat Gold partner for purchasing locally and initiating sustainable food service measures. Larcom was also a top 10 finalist for the Premier Illuminating Excellence award for outstanding food service professionals.

Nutrition Services is not the only area where SMH is becoming more environmentally friendly. SMH is making strides to reduce carbon emissions as another green initiative. The SMMC campus now features electric vehicle charging stations as part of Kansas City Power & Light's Clean Charge Network, which provides free charging for the

first two years. By working to reduce emissions, SMH is helping the Kansas City area attain EPA regional ozone standards while making it a cleaner, better place to live and work.

SMH also recently discontinued their campus shuttle bus service, which improves the environment and encourages associates to walk—another prime example of their commitment to CREATION Health.

"We continually think about ways we can use CREATION Health principles to improve the physical, mental and spiritual wellness of others," said administrative director of Spiritual Wellness **Mark Stoddart**. "Enhancing the environment around us is a key part of this goal because our environment plays an increasingly important role in our overall health."

Looking to the future, SMH has plans for other energy saving initiatives such as installing new LED lights in the main hospital corridors and continuing to utilize a lighting control system.

Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.



To learn more about CREATION Health, visit CreationHealth.com. For more information about SMH, visit ShawneeMission.org.

Christmas Shopping at the Hospital?

Denver hospitals host Christmas Stores for families in need

Courtesy AHS



For many, Christmas is an exciting and joyous time of year. It's a time for buying gifts, wrapping presents and placing them under the tree. But for families who find themselves on harder times, it can be a challenging, miserable experience.

Fourteen years ago **Linda Aalborg**, children's pastor for the Littleton Adventist Church in the suburbs of south Denver, felt impressed to do something to assist families in need of help and hope during the Christmas holidays. She partnered with Littleton Adventist Hospital to create a "Christmas Store" where children could "shop" for their family members without having to spend a dime.

The idea took wings, and today several other local churches and Adventist hospitals around the Denver area also host Christmas Stores for those who might otherwise find an empty void under their trees.

"It's become a great example of what a partnership between local schools, churches, hospitals and vendors can do

when we all work together," shares **Dave Kennedy**, lead pastor of Newday Christian Seventh-day Adventist Church in Parker, Colorado. Newday partners with Parker Adventist Hospital to operate a Christmas Store for the Parker community. Dave says, "Not only are we helping families have a better Christmas, but we're also creating opportunities for our community to work together in meaningful ways."

Lisa Engelkemier, executive pastor for Newday, has taken on the coordinating role for the Parker Christmas Store, now in its fourth year of serving. "It's a major team effort," says Lisa. "It couldn't happen without all of us working together. But the real payoff is the smiles on the faces of the families who are blessed by this cooperative effort."

Each year, sponsoring churches work closely with school social workers to identify families who are most in need. Christmas Store invitations are given to 100 students at local public

elementary and middle schools whose families have been selected.

When the families arrive at the Christmas Store, the parents are taken to a specially decorated room where they enjoy hot drinks, snacks and planned activities. In the meantime, the children are taken into the shopping room where a wide variety of gifts await their choosing.

Perhaps they will pick a waffle iron or bathrobe for Mom and a tool set or mini barbecue grill for Dad. There are brand new presents to choose from for brothers and sisters and even grandparents. A "personal shopping assistant" shepherds each child through the process of selecting gifts for family members, as well as for him- or herself.

"That can be the most touching moment," shares Lisa. "The children are often surprised that they can choose something for themselves as well. Often they'll say, 'Oh I don't need anything for me. Just for my family.'"

The Christmas Store experience culminates in a gift-wrapping session. Each family leaves with a completely personalized set of beautifully wrapped gifts, ready to put under their tree. It's not uncommon to hear the children say to their parents, "Wait 'til you see what I got you!" The joy and excitement is palpable as they head to their cars with their treasures.

The schools report overwhelmingly positive

responses from parents.

"We were treated with such kindness and dignity," shared one family.

This year, plans are in place to operate Christmas Stores at Porter, Littleton and Parker Adventist Hospitals. The hospitals provide conference room space, decorations and financial gifts to purchase the presents. Hospital employees and church members work alongside one another, volunteering their time and energy to man the store and wrap the gifts. Hospital leaders hope to see the Christmas Store program expand in future years.

"This is exactly the kind of community outreach that we should be involved in," says **Morre Dean**, CEO of Porter Adventist Hospital. "It blesses our employees; it blesses our churches; and it blesses our neighbors. It's what the spirit of Christmas is about. And it's just another example of seeing our mission—Extending the healing ministry of Christ"—in action.

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/Centura Health, where he serves the five Adventist hospital campuses in Colorado. It was written by Mark Bond.

To find out more about the Christmas Store program, contact Centura Health's Office of Mission Integration at 303.778.5683.



Communicators Gather to Sharpen Skills

Alicia Adams



(l-r, front row) Raschelle Hines, MAUC; Aphee Messer, AdventSource; Cassie Martsching, AdventSource; Michelle Hansen, Iowa-Missouri Conference; (back row) Brittany Winkfield, Central States Conference; Rosa Velder, AdventSource; Brenda Dickerson, MAUC; Dustin Comm, media consultant; Ray Dabrowski, Rocky Mountain Conference.

A group of communicators from Mid-America Union Conference territory met with other communication professionals from around North America and beyond at an annual conference of the Society of Adventist Communicators on Oct. 15-17 in Chantilly, Virginia near Washington, DC.

Advancing professionalism in how the church communicates its message in today's media market dominated more than a dozen presentations and workshops attended throughout the weekend by over 170 professionals. Consultants and

media specialists presented numerous seminars covering topics such as how to respond to attention the church receives in the media in the context of **Dr. Ben Carson's** presidential bid, and effective engagement with social media. Other benefits of the gathering were opportunities for networking, exchanging questions and answers, and sharing fresh approaches in making the church's communication relevant and effective.

Martin Doblmeier presented the keynote address in which he pointed out a need for Adventists to consider more attentively the church's assets

of healthy living, and care for creation (environmentalism). Attendees also viewed clips from Doblmeier's newest film focusing on chaplaincy ministries.

Several plenary and workshop session conversations expressed concerns that far too much attention is being given to in-church communication and far too little in engaging with issues and needs of society at large. "We need to stop selfie-broadcasting and start learning to speak to a secular audience and learn the language of our younger audiences. Speaking to ourself is not evangelism,"

Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, communication expert from England, told fellow communicators.

She added that "developing culturally relevant content is far more important than the time and money we spend in perfecting availability of technology. Media is not an option—it's here and we as believers, pastors and leaders need to become media literate so that we can understand how to communicate cross-culturally to reach today's post-postmodern secular audiences."

Next year's convention is slated to be held in Denver, Colorado.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

OUTLOOK's Designer Wins Award



Mic Thuber

OUTLOOK's designer, **Raschelle Hines**, took home the Young Professional of the Year award given at the annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention held Oct. 15-17 this year in Chantilly, Virginia. Nominations for the award are evaluated based on the nominee's portfolio, work experiences, skills, character, creativity and productivity. Nominees must be under 35 years of age.

Hines was hired by the Mid-America Union in January 2014 as a communication intern. Later that year she began designing OUTLOOK and working on other design projects for various departments at the MAUC. She also mentors Union College design students as they work on the annual student-produced issue of OUTLOOK (February).

The Mid-America team believes Hines is entirely deserving of this award and is excited that she will be transitioning to "regular employee" status in January 2016.

Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union.

Baker, Ruth R., b. Nov. 11, 1932. d. July 15, 2015. Member of Boulder English Church.

Bechthold, LeRoy H., b. Nov. 26, 1924 in Harvey, ND. d. Oct. 26, 2015 in Harvey, ND. Member of Harvey Church. Preceded in death by 3 siblings. Survivors include wife Irene; daughter Dixie Hammargren; son Henry; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Bickhard, Richard T. Jr., b. June 15, 1939. d. June 2, 2015. Member of Denver South Church. Survivors include wife Marjorie; sons Richard T. III, Andrew and Daniel; 2 siblings; 2 granddaughters.

Bosgal, Avah E., b. June 7, 1921 in Uncompahgre Valley, CO. d. May 13, 2014. Member of Montrose Church. Preceded in death by husband Joseph; 3 siblings. Survivors include 2 sisters; numerous nieces and nephews.

Collier, Adelaide A., b. Oct. 18, 1943 in Bend, OR. d. Sept. 14, 2015 in Clifton, CO. Member of Palisade Church. Preceded in death by father; 1 sister. Survivors include daughters Louise Stanworth, Faynell Collier and Kathy Collier; son David; mother; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Crowell, Mary E., b. Dec. 31, 1922 in Osage, MN. d. Sept. 4, 2015 in Detroit Lakes, MN. Member of Detroit Lakes Church. Preceded in death by husband Gordon; daughter Leona; sons James and Lowell; 2 siblings; 2 grandchildren. Survivors include daughters Wanda Green, Laura Fjeld and Cheryle Rude; sons Fred Walter and Tom; 20 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Davis, James E., b. June 15, 1920 in Richville, MN. d. Sept. 8, 2015 in Perham, MN. Member of Detroit Lakes Church. Preceded in death by wife Carol; son Bruce; 2 sisters. Survivors include son William; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren. Served in World War II.

Eastland, Jackie, b. Oct. 16, 1939 in Omaha, NE. d. Oct. 1, 2015 in Elmo, MO. Member of Albany Church. Survivors include husband Donald; daughters Donna Parnell, Brenda McCoy, Barbara Dunekacke and Rebecca Donaldson; 2 siblings; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

Forde, Duane M., b. Oct. 3, 1935 in MN. d. Oct. 20, 2015 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Pipestone Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include wife Darlene; children Judy Sorensen, Rick Forde, Pam Asher and Terry Forde; 9 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren. Served as Treasurer and Head Elder of Pipestone Church.

Jackson, Jon, b. Oct. 14, 1936 in Decatur City, IA. d. Aug. 27, 2015 in West Burlington, IA. Member of Burlington Church. Preceded in death by wife Janice; 6 siblings. Survivors include daughters Jean Strunk and Joy Jackson; sons Jon, Jack, Jerry and Jason; 3 siblings; 8 grandchildren.

Jones, Irene, b. Dec. 28, 1919 in Rich Hill, MO. d. Aug. 29, 2015 in Butler, MO. Member of Nevada Church. Preceded in death by husband Earl; 7 siblings. Survivors include daughter Joetta Wineland; sons Jerry Jones and Lindy Barrett; 13 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Leach, Edith, b. Apr. 2, 1918. d. July 13, 2015. Member of Campion Church.

Lokken, Leona G., b. Feb. 13, 1929 in Minneapolis, MN. d. Aug. 28, 2015 in Apple Valley, MN. Preceded in death by husband Oscar; daughter Sandra Kesler; 4 siblings; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include children Linda Brigino, Barbara Lokken and Daniel Lokken; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Maline, Bernice, b. Feb. 25, 1929 in Gothenburg, NE. d. Sept. 25, 2015 in North Platte, NE. Member of Gothenburg Church. Preceded in

death by husband Stanley; an infant daughter; 2 siblings. Survivors include children Judy Little, Cheryl Gonzales, LuAnne Barner, Ronda Kreifels and Randy Maline; 3 siblings; 18 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Millard, Patricia, b. June 29, 1940 in Maugansville, MD. d. Sept. 26, 2015 in Mountain View, MO. Member of Willow Springs Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 3 grandchildren. Survivors include daughters Patricia Holland, Joan Holland, Robin Nieto, Elizabeth Bailey and Melissa Holland; sons James and Daniel; 6 siblings; 17 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Morris, Raymond, b. Mar. 11, 1924. d. July 7, 2015. Member of Aurora First Church.

Neeley, Clifford, b. Nov. 22, 1954 in Bono, MO. d. Aug. 22, 2015. Member of West Plains Church. Preceded in death by mother; 3 siblings. Survivors include wife Sandra; sons Jason and Joshua; 3 siblings.

Olson, Donald E., b. Dec. 28, 1936 in Buckingham, CO. d. Aug. 28, 2015 in Cheyenne, WY. Member of Cheyenne Church. Survivors include wife Margaret; daughters Alethea Torbert, Marlene Shafer and Deborah Cooley; 2 siblings; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Pierce, Crawford G., b. Apr. 2, 1958 in Lincoln, NE. d. Oct. 21, 2015 in Williamstown, KY. Member of College View Church. Survivors include wife Terri Lynn (Schwartz); daughter Brooke; son Alec; mother Gloria; 2 sisters.

Ricketts, Errol F., b. Oct. 20, 1942. d. Oct. 10, 2015. Member of Colorado Springs Central Church.

Somers, Jack, b. May 22, 1934 in Delphos, KS. d. Sept. 22, 2015 in Nevada, MO. Member of Nevada Church. Preceded in death by 4 siblings; 4 great-grandchildren. Survivors include wife Loretta; daughters Cheryl Milano and

Carolee McMillen; sons Jack, Robert and Steven; 6 siblings; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Spaulding, Guadalupe, b. Apr. 28, 1946. d. Oct. 10, 2015 in Pueblo, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Survivors include husband Charles.

Tilley, Ethel, b. June 9, 1932 in Mincey, MO. d. Sept. 28, 2015 in Branson, MO. Member of Branson East Church. Preceded in death by husband Emmett; daughter Kathleen; 6 siblings. Survivors include daughters Gail Madonna and Carol Tilley; son Larry; 1 brother; 9 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Vance, Jerome M., b. Dec. 3, 1954 in Williston, ND. d. Sept. 30, 2015 in Ray, ND. Member of Dakota Conference. Preceded in death by parents; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Sandra; children Nichole Braathen, Kerissa Schaffer, Chantal Helde and Jordan Vance; 5 siblings; 7 grandchildren.

Waterhouse, Gary S., b. Nov. 29, 1946 in Minneapolis, MN. d. July 14, 2015 in Oregon City, OR. Member of Tabernacle Church. Preceded in death by father; 1 sister. Survivors include wife Arna; daughter Mindy Thygeson; son Mark; mother; 3 siblings; 5 grandchildren. Pastor for 40 years.

Wood, Lois M., b. Sept. 25, 1939 in Peoria, AZ. d. Jan. 22, 2013 in Sallisaw, OK. Member of Waynesville (MO) Church. Survivors include daughters Colleen Collyer-Billett and Collette Crawford; son Michael Crawford; 4 siblings; 9 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Ziegler, Marlene, b. July 17, 1944. d. Oct. 7, 2015. Member of Loveland Church.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email Raschelle Hines at raschelle@outlookmag.org. Questions? 402.484.3012.

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Southwestern Adventist University's Business Department seeks finance faculty to begin Spring or Fall term, 2016. Successful candidate will possess

proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas, preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist Masters Prepared PA faculty member. Ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. Prior teaching experience desired but not necessary. Start date: June 1, 2016. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin: jochewak@ucollege.edu.

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EVENTS

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NOTICES

Mission opportunity for Sabbath school groups, families or individuals! ACI (Adventist Child India) coordinates sponsors for Adventist children in India to attend school. \$420 (\$35/mo) will provide tuition, lodging, food, books, clothing and medical for a child for one year. Visit www.acichild.com for more info or contact Charlene Binder at rdbinder42@gmail.com.

SUNSET CALENDAR	Colorado	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1
	Denver	4:36	4:36	4:37	4:41	4:46
	Grand Junction	4:52	4:52	4:54	4:57	5:02
	Pueblo	4:38	4:38	4:40	4:44	4:49
	Iowa					
	Davenport	4:33	4:32	4:34	4:38	4:43
	Des Moines	4:45	4:44	4:46	4:50	4:55
	Sioux City	4:53	4:53	4:54	4:58	5:03
	Kansas					
	Dodge City	5:21	5:21	5:23	5:27	5:32
	Goodland	4:23	4:24	4:25	4:29	4:34
	Topeka	5:00	5:00	5:02	5:06	5:11
	Minnesota					
	Duluth	4:21	4:20	4:21	4:25	4:31
	International Falls	4:19	4:18	4:19	4:23	4:28
	Minneapolis	4:32	4:32	4:33	4:37	4:42
	Missouri					
	Columbia	4:47	4:47	4:49	4:52	4:57
	Kansas City	4:56	4:56	4:58	5:01	5:06
	St. Louis	4:40	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50
	Nebraska					
	Lincoln	4:59	4:59	5:01	5:04	5:09
	North Platte	5:15	5:14	5:16	5:20	5:25
	Scottsbluff	4:24	4:24	4:25	4:29	4:34
	North Dakota					
	Bismarck	4:56	4:55	4:56	5:00	5:05
	Fargo	4:39	4:38	4:40	4:53	4:59
	Williston	5:02	5:01	5:02	5:05	5:11
South Dakota						
Pierre	5:03	5:02	5:03	5:07	5:12	
Rapid City	4:15	4:15	4:16	4:20	4:25	
Sioux Falls	4:51	4:50	4:52	4:55	5:01	
Wyoming						
Casper	4:31	4:31	4:33	4:36	4:42	
Cheyenne	4:31	4:31	4:32	4:36	4:41	
Sheridan	4:28	4:27	4:28	4:32	4:37	

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- JAN** Health Ministries 11/23
- FEB** Union College Student Produced 12/21
- MARCH** Friendship Evangelism 1/25
- APRIL** Women's Ministries 2/22
- MAY** Youth Ministries 3/28
- JUNE** Connecting with Communities 4/25
- JULY/AUG** Adventist Education 5/23
- SEPT** MAUC Constituency Report 7/25
- OCT** Full-life Stewardship 8/22
- NOV/DEC** Union College Spotlight 9/19



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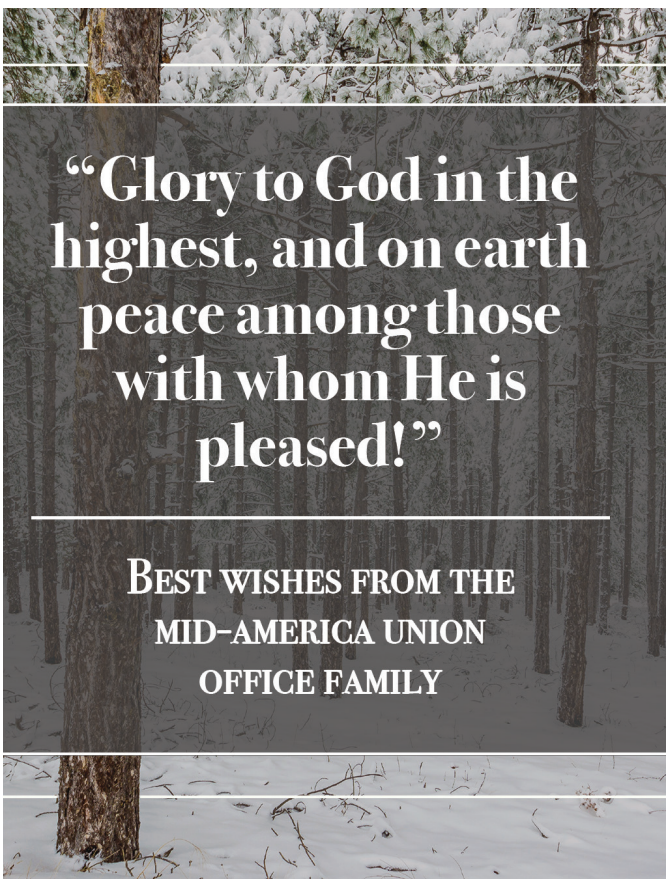
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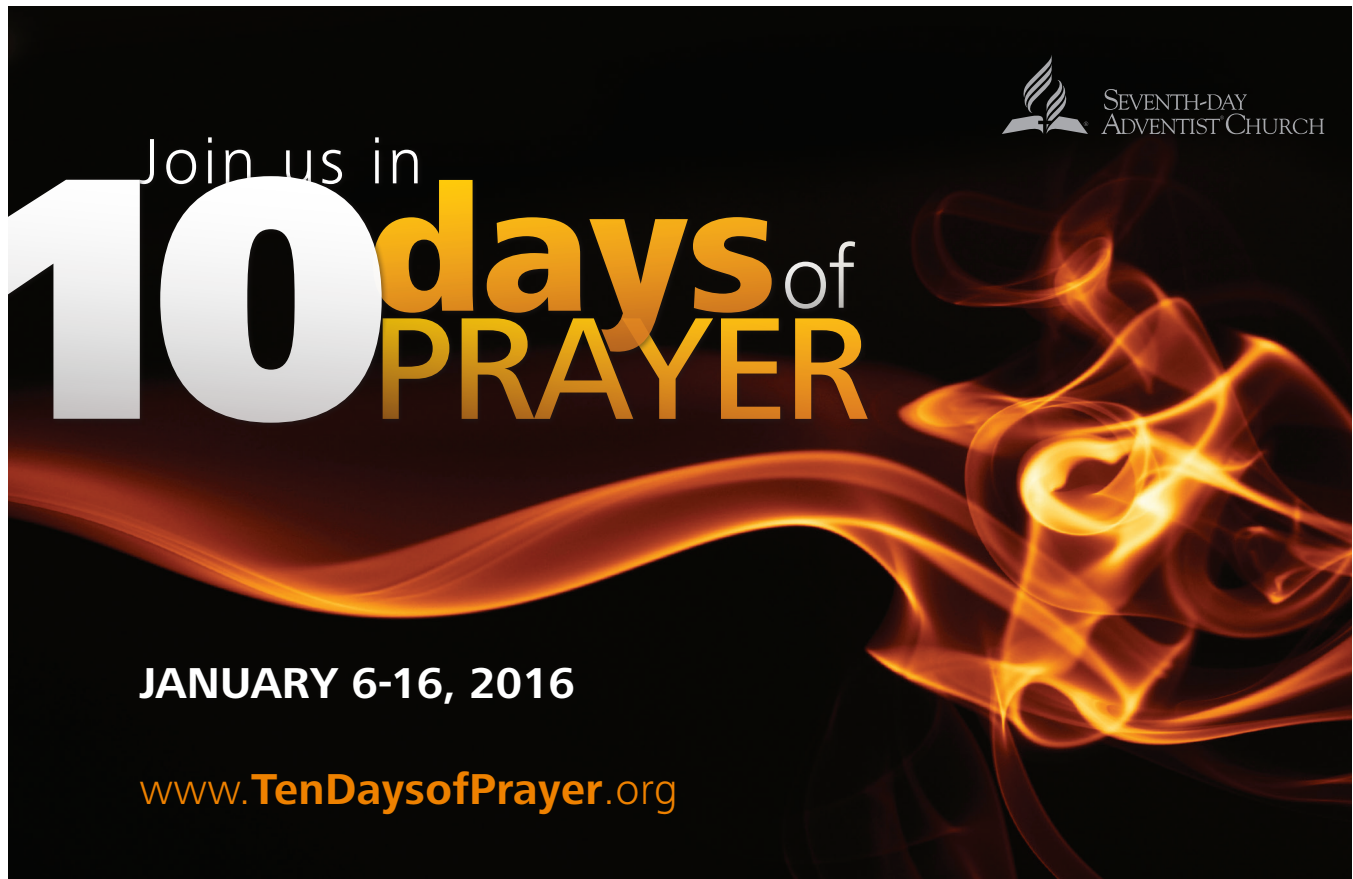
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