

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

SPECIAL ISSUE  
Mid-America  
Constituency  
Report

**COLLABORATING**  
*for ministry*  
**IN THE HEARTLAND**

SEPT 2016  
outlookmag.org



## CONSTITUENCY SESSION REPORT | SEPT 2016



COLLABORATION



DIVERSITY



RESPONSIBILITY



Headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Mid-America Union Conference facilitates the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout a nine-state region in the Mid-western United States. Organized into six local conferences, our territory spans Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and San Juan County in New Mexico.

We provide services and resources for over 69,000 church members in more than 550 churches or companies throughout our territory, as well as 74 elementary and secondary schools, one college, nine summer camps and a number of youth and young adult programs.

All members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are part of a constituency, which is defined as a group of voters in a specified region who elect representatives to a legislative body. In this case, church members of the Mid-America Union Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, have designated 356 regular delegates who will represent them during the eighth quinquennial constituency session occurring Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016.



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### WHAT HAPPENS AT SESSION?

Every five years representatives elect union leadership, receive reports from union leaders and entities, and vote on general decisions and church business. Reports on finances, church membership, audits and other statistics are also received and voted. Additionally, the delegates will vote on proposed changes to the union constitution and bylaws.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The union president and vice presidents will present their reports at the session. Each in-house department of the union will be included in a video report, and the president of Union College will also give a report, since Union College's Constituency Session is joined with the Mid-America Union's.

But there's more than business reports and votes! It's also a celebration highlighting mission, evangelism and the blessings of the Lord in the past five years. It's an opportunity to analyze the state of the Mid-America Union—organizationally, financially and statistically—and to cast a vision for how next to advance God's work in the heartland of America.

### WHO IS REPRESENTING ME?

Please contact your local conference for a list of the delegates from your area.

### CAN I GET LIVE UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Yes! Follow the constituency session on Sept. 11 through OUTLOOK's Facebook or Twitter.

Issue designed by: *Raschelle Hines*

# THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MID-AMERICA

The Mid-America Union is one of nine unions in the North American Division. There are six conferences in the Mid-America Union.

The Adventist Church structure places the individual member at the top, with the remaining structures in place to offer support.

## BY THE NUMBERS

69,321

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (AS OF JANUARY 2016)

### Membership by Conferences

14,157

CENTRAL STATES

overlaps the entire  
Mid-America Union territory

4,056

DAKOTA

11,743

IOWA-MISSOURI

11,878

KANSAS-NEBRASKA

9,558

MINNESOTA

17,929

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

556

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES,  
COMPANIES AND GROUPS

74

NUMBER OF K-8/K-12 SCHOOLS

1

COLLEGES

6

ADVENTIST HOSPITALS

\$54,878,447

TOTAL TITHE FOR 2015

The Mid-America Union would like to thank each member of the Executive Committee for their term of service to our organization:

#### MID-AMERICA UNION

**Gary Thurber**  
President

**Gil Webb**  
VP for Administration

**Troy Peoples**  
VP for Finance

**Nancy Buxton**  
Womens' Ministries  
Director

**Darrel Huenergardt**  
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**Joann Herrington**  
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**Daniel Munene Mwangi**  
Pastor

**Dwayne Williams**  
Layperson

#### DAKOTA CONFERENCE

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**Robert Forbes II**  
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**Josh Huenergardt**  
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Pastor

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**Ed Barnett**  
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Layperson

**Kirby Treat**  
Layperson

**Mitch Williams**  
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#### CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES

**Diane Thurber**  
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#### PORTER ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

**Morre Dean**  
CEO

#### SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER

**Ken Bacon**  
President/CEO

#### UNION COLLEGE

**Vinita Sauder**  
President

#### ROTATING MEMBERS

Conference Treasurer

Conference Secretary

Conference Education  
Superintendent

MAUC Departmental  
Director

#### MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE

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VP for Administration  
Gil F. Webb

##### VP for Finance

Troy Peoples  
Communication  
Brenda Dickerson  
Education

John Kriegelstein  
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# COLLABORATING FOR MINISTRY



Mid-America Union Staff, May 2016

**T**he Adventist movement was born out of a longing and passion to see Jesus come and to be finished with the troubles of this world. The Great Commission calls us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19, NIV). We are part of a church that is dedicated and passionate about spreading the Three Angels’ Message around the world. Our portion of the world for doing this work is in the Mid-America territory. It is an awesome responsibility and privilege given to us by God to share our message of hope with our communities.

At the 2015 General Conference session in San Antonio we heard over and over the theme of every member involvement. It will only be when we are all united and collaborating under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to accomplish our mission. All are needed to use the gifts the Lord has given to see our work go forward.

## MID-AMERICA UNION’S MISSION

Desiring to promote hope and wholeness, the Mid-America Union offers itself as an enabling, coordinating organism to enhance the ministries of Adventist entities within its territory. The Mid-America Union Conference is made up of the Central States, Dakota, Iowa-Missouri, Kansas-Nebraska, Minnesota and Rocky Mountain conferences. Many have asked what role the Mid-America Union plays in our church organization. Primarily, we exist to support our conferences, schools and other entities by:

**Sharing opportunities to work collaboratively** for mission and to support and facilitate vision and mission in each conference.

**Providing administrative assistance** when requested or needed.

**Providing a representative**

**voice at the North American Division and General Conference** level of our church. The union officers not only attend NAD and GC committees and boards, but the local conference committees as well to hear what is happening on the local level and maintain communication with the NAD and GC.

**Providing oversight in the election processes at constituency meetings** and for conference president positions if there is an opening between sessions.

**Offering leadership growth opportunities** for officers and departmental leaders.

**Communicating the happenings around our union**, along with inspirational articles, through OUTLOOK magazine and a weekly e-newsletter produced by our communication team.

**Providing support to the conference’s various ministry departments** including: Education, Youth/Young

Adult/Pathfinder/Children’s Ministry, Ministerial, Treasury, Stewardship, Women’s Ministries, Evangelism, Religious Liberty, Communication, Human Resources.

**Assist in capitol project funding for schools and churches** through the Mid-America Union Revolving Fund.

As we move forward, we also want to provide greater support for Community Service/Disaster Relief and our Hispanic Ministries.

## HOW MID-AMERICA UNION WORKS

Over the past few years, the union has been defining the core values by which it operates. Here are some important ways we constantly endeavor to go about our ministry:

**Strengthening our mission** through Collaboration, Responsibility and Diversity.  
**Modeling the Fruits of the**

Spirit, thereby reflecting the character of God.

**Responding to conferences' needs** and working collaboratively with them.

**Stewarding our resources** in the best possible manner to maximize funds for "hands on" ministries at the local level.

**Always remembering** that front-line ministry happens in our churches and our schools.

Included in this special issue are reports from each of our six conferences, as well as Union College and Adventist Health System. All of them have great stories to tell of the amazing ways in which the Lord has blessed their ministries. It is the Mid-America Union Conference's great honor and privilege to support all of them in their mission.

## UNION COLLEGE

Our college is one of the greatest united ministries in the Mid-America Union. President Sauder and her leadership team are exploring new programs and continuing to encourage and support the teaching excellence that is contributing to our upward tick in enrollment numbers, despite a softening trend among our sister schools. We endeavor to enhance the ministry of Union College through providing leadership and support for their various committees and boards, along with financial support for both operating expense and capital projects.

## MEDICAL MINISTRY

In addition to building up our conferences and college, MAUC happily supports the medical ministry of Adventist Health System which operates a number of hospitals and clinics within our territory. This medical work touches the lives of over four million patients a year with the stated mission of *extending the healing ministry of Christ*.

The leaders of AHS are deeply committed to this medical ministry and to our church. Through programs such as CREATION Health, our churches have new opportunities to collaborate with AHS to bless our communities through our health message.

## MOVING FORWARD

I began serving in the Mid-America Union Conference during the final year of its five-year term. Elder Tom Lemon provided leadership for the first four, leaving big shoes to fill. In July 2015 the world church recognized Elder Lemon's outstanding leadership qualities and asked him to serve as a vice president for the General Conference. While he is greatly missed here, it is good to know that people with his skills, giftedness and spiritual commitment are making a difference globally for our church.

As a movement, we can't be standing still. To move forward, we need to unite as never before. We do not have time

to be a discouragement to one another—only an encouragement as we look forward to the coming of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The words of the song *Welcome Home Children* have always been very special to me because of the hope they portray:

*A great day is coming,  
Heaven's gates will open wide,  
And all who love the Lord will enter in.*

*And joined with our loved ones,  
Who in Jesus Christ have died,  
Our eternal life together will begin.*

*And the Lord Himself shall greet us. Oh! What joy will fill my heart,  
When with the smile of the proudest father,  
He'll look at us and say....*

*Welcome home Children,  
This is the place I've prepared for you.*

*Welcome home children,  
Now that your work on earth is through.*

*Welcome home Children,  
Ye who have followed so faithfully*

*Welcome home Children,  
Welcome home Children,  
Here where I am ye shall always be,*

*Forever rejoicing, forever rejoicing,  
forever rejoicing with Me!*

I believe Mid-America Union's greatest days of ministry lie just ahead. If we will collaborate and "press together" as Ellen White exhorted us to do, we will see God moving in mighty ways as never before. **D**



**GARY THURBER**  
is president of the Mid-America Union.



**RAYLENE JONES**  
is executive administrative assistant to the president.

# BRIGHTENING OUR CORNER



**G**iving the gospel and growing the church about which Jesus said “the gates of hell shall not prevail against” is a grand and marvelous enterprise. It has been an honor to serve you in the capacity of vice president for administration of the Mid-America Union Conference since January 2013. It seems as if time has accelerated since being in this office.

My role and function is to collaborate with the other officers and departmental directors of this great union in making sure that each of our six conferences and all other Adventist entities within our vast territory are strengthened in their missions. We serve as a resource (or search out resources) so that the desired outcome is achieved, maximized or noted as a viable ministry.

Sharing statistics, keeping accurate records, and being aware of policies and their application are some of my additional responsibilities.

## THE TERRITORY

The Mid-America Union Conference territory includes 10 states: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, part of New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Within these states there are approximately 1,358 cities and towns.

The statistics reported in this special edition of the *OUTLOOK* are numbers that reflect the growth of our conferences throughout our union territory—growth that you, under God, participated in making happen.

## THE NUMBERS

Several factors impact membership totals including baptisms, transfers, deaths, apostasies and missing members. The following statistics signal that our growth has been slow but steady. In 2011 we reported a six percent gain in membership from 2006-2010. During that period we baptized 7,679 precious souls. We began this quinquennium (January 2011 through December 2015), with a membership of 64,573. After 7,977 baptisms—and all the other items mentioned earlier that factor into membership—we finished with 69,321 members, which gives a seven percent gain in membership.

According to the latest eAdventist report, we presently have 457 churches, 74 companies and 25 groups within our union. That means that in 556 locations there are people of all ages from a myriad of backgrounds gathering for prayer, worship, Bible study and fellowship at varied times and in multiple languages. We are blessed to have members who have migrated from various continents of the world and with the assistance of conferences, and in some cases jointly with the union, have established places of worship. Those places of worship provide them with opportunities not only to grow spiritually and emotionally but also socially and morally. In some cases these groups of members are

**DO NOT BE DAUNTED  
BY THE ENORMITY OF  
THE WORLD'S GRIEF.**

**DO JUSTLY, NOW.  
LOVE MERCY, NOW.  
WALK HUMBLY, NOW.**

**YOU ARE NOT OBLI-  
GATED TO COMPLETE  
THE WORK, BUT  
NEITHER ARE YOU  
FREE TO ABANDON IT.**

—*Wisdom of the  
Jewish Sages*

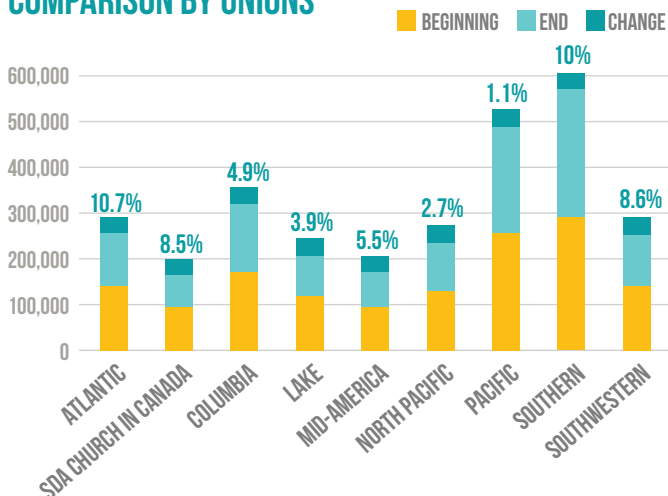
able to reach others from their homeland or same tribe with the everlasting gospel, having fewer cultural barriers to break down.

## THE NEED

In John 15:16 (TNIV) Jesus says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

The text suggests that we were chosen and appointed by Jesus to go and mingle with people, having asked the Father to show us favor as we seek to bear fruit for His glory among the human family. We

## 2011-2014 NAD MEMBERSHIP GROWTH COMPARISON BY UNIONS



For the sake of comparison within this report, here is the NAD Membership Growth Comparison from 2011-2014. The graph above gives you an idea of how we compare with the rest of the division over a four-year span.

also remember the promise that the Father will give us what we ask in the name of Jesus.

The turmoil, trouble and tragedy in our world informs us that the time is right and ripe for us to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. We have neighbors, coworkers, family members, friends and foes who need to know they are valued by God rather than vilified by His chosen ones, and that they can be assets in His cause rather than be accused by His appointed.

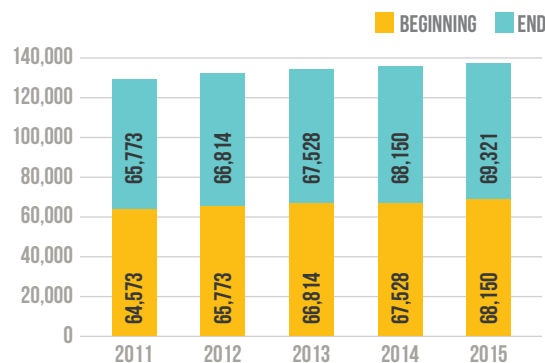
We may not have another five years, but we do have the here and now, so let's band together and be a blessing to our world today. Let's brighten the corner where we are.

## THE ACCOLADES

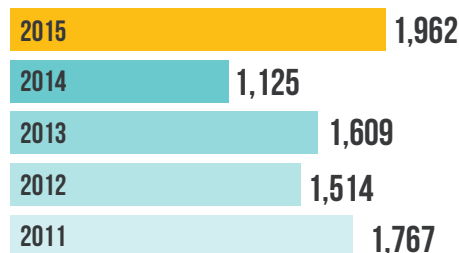
I thank you, Raylene Jones, for having served as my first administrative assistant. You patiently helped me acclimatize to my new job. Pennie Marshall, my current administrative assistant, your diligence and persistence are assets I appreciate.

Last but by no means least, Pat, my wife, you pray for me, encourage me, and serve as a sounding board and a source of strength. Thank you for the many phone calls you make to pray with me and keep me posted as I travel from city to city, meeting to meeting. I appreciate you greatly.

## MAUC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CHANGES 2011-2015



## MAUC BAPTISMS FROM 2011-2015



We cannot refute the reality that God has blessed us here in Mid-America, but there is so much more He wants to do with us and through us. There are brighter days ahead!



**GIL WEBB**  
is vice president for administration of the Mid-America Union.



**PENNIE MARSHALL**  
is executive administrative assistant to the vice president for administration.

# FUNDING OUR MISSION

It might seem obvious when looking at the list of people who work at the Mid-America Union office what their roles are. I'm guessing most people will say the role of the office of treasury is to keep track of the money God has entrusted to the union. And that would be correct. What isn't quite as obvious is how we do that. It's a team effort, with much of the day-to-day work being done by our well-qualified staff.

## THREE MAIN ROLES OF A TREASURER

Our overall role can be broken down into three areas: historian, forecaster and manager. The area most people see is that of the historian. The office of treasury reports facts of what has already happened. When you see a financial statement or a graph of the data contained in that financial statement, you are looking at what has happened in the past. Reporting accurately what has taken place

is the most visible part of what we do, although in many ways that is the easiest part.

As you can see from the graph of the tithe over the last five years, the union taken as a whole had steady growth with a very slight down turn in 2015. If you look at the graph of the operating balance sheet, you will see that operating assets had a steady rise till 2015, with a slight increase in liabilities and a slight decrease in net assets in 2015 because we chose to send some evangelism money back to the local conferences, as well as to help Union College with cash flow at year end.

Looking at the graph of the combined funds balance sheet, you will see the overall trend is a slight downward turn, which was intentional. The combined funds graph includes our Revolving Fund that is set up to make loans to local churches and schools for building needs. Back in 2012 we chose to severely restrict deposits that could be made to the Revolving

Fund because we had enough funds to cover expected loan needs. The Revolving Fund exists for one reason—to make loans to churches and schools—not to hold money for the union's bottom line. When there is additional need for loans that we do not have enough funds to cover, we will re-open the Revolving Fund for deposits to people who are interested in helping God's work by investing their money in church and school loans.

Union College is Mid-America's college, and there isn't a brighter star in Adventist college education anywhere. We all can be very proud of what Union has done in the past, and is continuing to do today. To help support the college, all the conferences that make up Mid-America Union contribute toward a subsidy given to the school, and along with those funds the union office also puts a part of our operating budget toward that subsidy. As you can see from the graph, the regular subsidy has been fairly steady

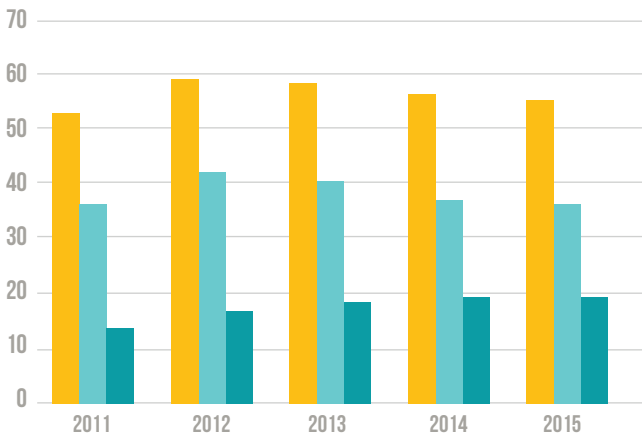
since it is based on tithe, with some spikes reflecting special subsidy given at times out of the union reserve funds.

## BALANCING BUDGETS

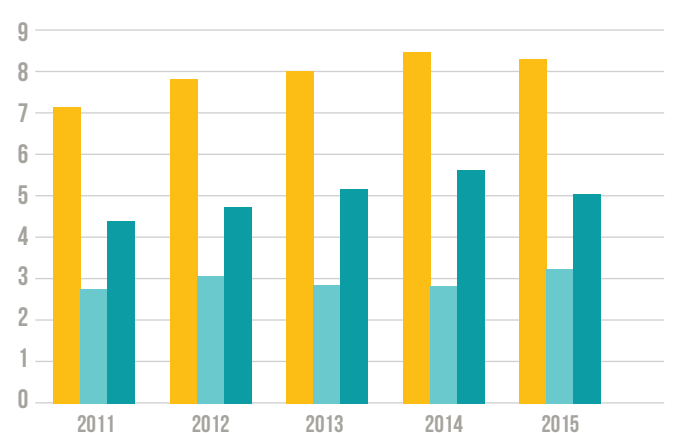
The next most visible part of treasury work is forecasting, or budgeting as most people know it. It's our best guess, a year out, of what we think will happen. It's an educated guess, but still a guess. This is where we look at what has happened in the past, collaborate with the other officers and department heads on what they want to see happen in the coming year, project what we expect the income to be in the future, and then decide what we can afford to spend toward those goals.

Budgeting can be a stressful time, as there never are enough funds to do everything people want to accomplish. But it's also an exciting time to see what new things are planned to help spread

COMBINED (IN MILLIONS) ■ ASSETS ■ LIABILITIES ■ NET ASSETS

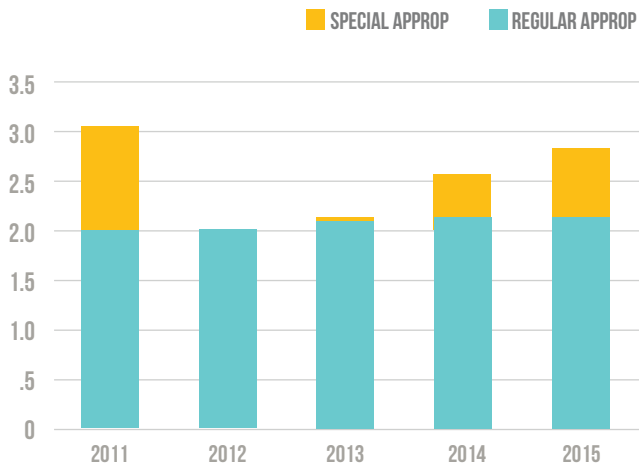


OPERATING (IN MILLIONS) ■ ASSETS ■ LIABILITIES ■ NET ASSETS

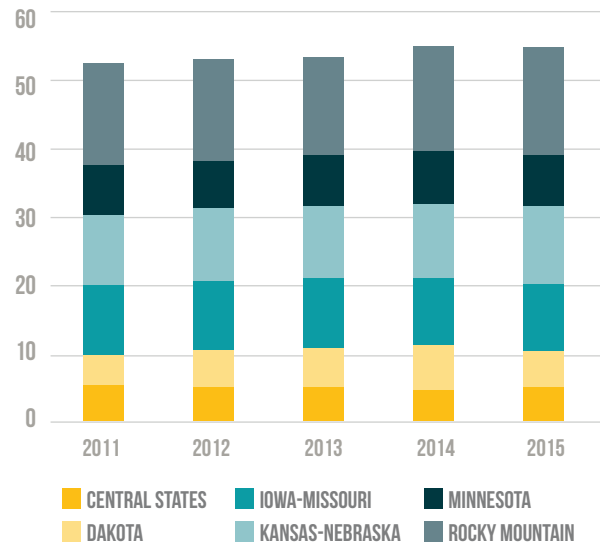




## UNION COLLEGE SUBSIDY (IN MILLIONS)



## TITHE (IN MILLIONS)



the good news of Jesus' soon return.

The hardest part of the treasury job is the least visible. It's the everyday job of trying to look at what money we have, what we have planned to spend, and balancing the two. However, there is nothing more rewarding than to be able to say *Yes* to a new idea and see the gospel go in new ways. These opportunities are not always budgeted items, and

there often seem to be emergencies that come up.

However, that is where a strong working capital reserve comes in. For the majority of the past five years MAUC was blessed to have Elaine Hagele as our treasurer, and she worked hard to build those working capital reserves. Elaine retired last year, at least from working full time. She still is very busy helping MAUC entities (and others)

and we are glad she is willing to do this.

Elaine's official retirement in January 2015 started an eventful year of trying to fill positions in treasury here at the union. I was asked in March by our Executive Committee to be the next MAUC treasurer, and in November Gwen Speak accepted the invitation to become the associate treasurer. During the nine intervening months, Evelyn Cornforth

and Pennie Marshall worked overtime to make sure things operated smoothly.

As we look around us, the world is changing ever more quickly, and we know that change will continue to happen in Mid-America also. Our goal in the treasury department is to collaborate in finding new ways to spread the good news of God's soon return by using wisely the money that you have entrusted to His church. **U**



### TROY PEOPLES

is vice president for finance of the Mid-America Union.



### GWEN SPEAK

is associate treasurer for the Mid-America Union.



### EVELYN CORNFORTH

is the accountant and manages the Revolving Fund for the Mid-America Union.



### PENNIE MARSHALL

is executive administrative assistant to the vice president for finance.

# EMPOWERING LOCAL LEADERS



THE COMPREHENSIVE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION MAKES PATHFINDERS THE SINGLE STRONGEST MINISTRY.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

In October of 2014 and 2015, over 200 Children's Ministry leaders from around the Mid-America Union met at the union office to receive specialized training, in either Spanish or English, for the NAD Basic One Certification (Understanding Children) and NAD Basic Two Certification (Teaching Children), and Children's Health EXPO. Because of growing numbers, this annual event will convene in larger facilities on the Union College campus beginning in January 2017. Additional offerings in the future will include the NAD Creative Arts Certification, GO FISH Child Leadership Development Training, and introduction of the new Seventh-day Adventist VBX (Vacation Bible Experience) program for each new year.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

NAD Family Ministries Certification Training was conducted by local conference and union directors in Kansas City (2013); Denver (2014); and St. Louis (2016). The Mad About Marriage seminar was held in the Iowa-Missouri Conference with outstanding results.

## HEALTH MINISTRIES

The Mid-America Union is partnering with the Rocky Mountain Conference Health Ministries Department to sponsor a Health Summit at the Village at Breckenridge, Colorado, Oct. 11-16, 2016, with a focus on the prevention and reversing of diabetes and an emphasis on mentorship.

The goal is to lower blood cholesterol, hypertension, and blood sugar levels and reduce

excess weight by improving dietary choices, enhancing daily exercise, increasing support systems and decreasing stress.

Additionally, CHIP Summits have been conducted in many local churches in the Mid-America Union during the past five years.

## PATHFINDER AND ADVENTURER CLUBS

Pathfinders is the Adventist camping/educational ministry for youth ages 10-15. The annual Bible Experience competition challenges Pathfinders to learn Scripture, with teams memorizing entire books of the Bible in order to earn a first place award.

In July 2012 over 1,200 Pathfinders met for the first time in the Black Hills of South Dakota for the Mid-America Union Pathfinder Camporee with dedication

services held in the amphitheater at Mt. Rushmore. The event was so well received that 1,500 Pathfinders are expected to attend in July 2017.

In 2014 nearly 2,400 Pathfinders from Mid-America joined 50,000 from around the world for the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

In 2015 the Mid-America Union sponsored the first MAU Teen Camporee in Yellowstone National Park, with over 100 in attendance.

Yearly training, fun and educational activities, along with the comprehensive structure of the organization, make Pathfinders the single strongest ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide.

Adventurer clubs for children ages 6-9 are well established in all local conferences in the Mid-America Union and are a primary feeder for Pathfinder clubs.



## SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp is top priority for local conference youth departments with outstanding facilities and the most beautiful locations in the country. Hundreds of children and youth make important decisions for Christ and choose baptism every summer while discovering life-changing lessons in God's second book of nature. Our nine camps in Mid-America are:

- Camp High Point
- Flag Mountain Camp
- Northern Lights
- Camp Heritage
- Camp Arrowhead
- Broken Arrow Ranch
- Glacier View
- Mills Springs Ranch
- North Star Camp

## SENIOR YOUTH

In addition to the many conference-sponsored youth rallies during the last quinquennium, MAUC Academy Leadership and Bible conferences are conducted yearly at

Camp Arrowhead and Broken Arrow Ranch where academy students learned skills for leadership and outreach. A union-wide Bible conference for public high school students is planned for the fall of 2016.

In 2012 and 2013, Hispanic youth and young adults gathered for Hispanic Youth Congresses during Memorial Day Weekend on the campus of Union College, and in July 2015 at Broken Arrow Ranch for the Hispanic Youth Camp. These three events combined saw the gathering of over 1,000 Hispanic young people.

The NAD Just Claim It Prayer Congress was held in Ohio (2010); North Carolina (2012); Florida (2014); and California (2016). Students from Mid-America received instruction and inspiration at these events to take the prayer movement back to their local churches and schools.

The Black Youth Directors Association organized the United Youth Congress in Miami, Florida in 2011, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, in April 2016 with hundreds of youth from the Mid-America

Union in attendance.

Two years ago the Mid-America Youth Department began development of the first manual series in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the training of local Sabbath School Youth Leaders (Youth Group). The first two books of the five-set series were published by AdventSource titled: *A Place To Belong* (2014) and *Building A Great Team* (2016).

## YOUNG ADULT / PUBLIC COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY

In 2011 the Mid-America Union Constituency Session delegates voted a new initiative to reclaim and involve young adults. An advisory group met several times with recommendations for the establishment of young adult

ministries in local conferences. The Mid-America office sponsored iEngage gatherings throughout the union in 2015 in Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado. Gatherings were varied in style as needed by local conferences, including training for local youth leaders, weekend rallies and the beginning of public college/university chapters of Adventist Christian Fellowship.

An ACF training program for pastors, campus chaplains and seminary students around the North American Division was sponsored by the Mid-America Union at the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska in May 2012. ACF chapters have been established on several public campuses in Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado, North Dakota and Nebraska.

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**HUBERT CISNEROS** is director of Youth, Young Adult, and Church Ministries for the Mid-America Union.



**ADELA MARTINEZ** is administrative assistant to the director of Youth, Young Adult, and Church Ministries.

# CONNECTING, INFORMING AND INSPIRING

**T**he Mid-America Union Communication Department serves fellow departments at union headquarters and our six conferences in helping local churches meet their goals for nurture and outreach through providing a variety of resources and mentoring.

OUTLOOK magazine is the signature product of our department, serving various readerships through print, online and social platforms. In addition to OUTLOOK Online, we diligently maintain our organizational website ([midamericaadventist.org](http://midamericaadventist.org)) to serve the functions of an institutional resource.

In conjunction with the MAUC's mission of strengthening its conferences and institutions, a major goal in all our communication is to facilitate collaboration among conferences and to share ideas and activities that are working in communication, outreach and nurture.

In everything we do, the communication department aims to serve the needs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mid-America in a way that promotes the church's good name in the community and to its membership—all for the glory of God and the building up of His kingdom. **U**



## SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS

OUTLOOK's former designer/art director Raschelle Hines (front, far left) received the Young Professional of the Year award for 2015 from the Society of Adventist Communicators.



## OUR MISSION

To communicate news and inspiration with excellence, efficiency and grace via various media throughout the Mid-America Union.

## OUR VISION

To create a compelling and comprehensive awareness of how members, leaders and institutions are fulfilling the gospel calling of the Adventist Church throughout our nine-state territory.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Quality  
Relevance  
Missionality

# OUR KEY PRODUCTS



## OUTLOOK PRINT

OUTLOOK is mailed 10 times per year to approximately 28,000 homes of Mid-America members (an increase of about 2,000 in the past five years). We generally plan our themes a year in advance and work with an average of 15-20 people on producing each issue. We're pleased to offer paperless options for our advertisers through using PayPal since 2012.



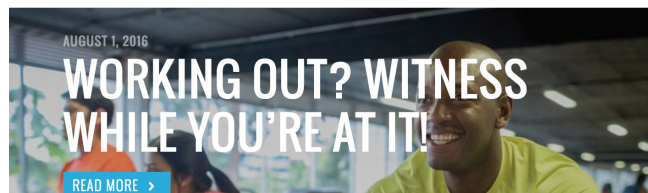
## MYOUTLOOK E-NEWS

Our free weekly e-newsletter, launched in June 2015, offers local, NAD and world news and inspiration.

Stay in the loop by signing up: [bit.ly/myoutlook](http://bit.ly/myoutlook).

## OUTLOOK

NEWS FEATURE STORIES BLOGS PRINT EDITION ADVERTISE



## OUTLOOK ONLINE

OUTLOOK Online is a 24/7 source of news, information and inspiration that was redesigned in 2013 to be mobile friendly (fully responsive).

We reach a monthly readership of approximately 8,000 people from over 50 countries around the globe.



## MAUC WEBSITE

The Mid-America Union website provides organizational facts, resources and a continually updated calendar. The site was redesigned in 2014 as a "single page" for quick usage.



## OUTLOOK'S SOCIAL LIFE

Keep in touch through our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Vimeo.



**BRENDA DICKERSON** is editor of OUTLOOK and director of Communication for the Mid-America Union.

# HAVING NOTHING TO FEAR



IF WE FAIL TO  
TEACH OUR  
YOUTH TO  
FOLLOW CHRIST,  
THE WORLD  
WILL TEACH  
THEM NOT TO.

**W**e've all been around the precocious three-year-old who is always asking *Why?* Sometimes the question is motivated by the inquisitive, developing mind bringing meaning to the natural world. Sometimes it is their search for meaning with the complexities of human relationships, especially in an age of disposable marriages. Often the question is asked just to hear someone talking. Whatever the reason for the question, "Why" leads to evaluation, understanding, and development of constructs by which we hope to make a better world.

So let me ask the million dollar question: *Why do we collectively spend millions of dollars on Adventist education?* It doesn't reach every Adventist school-aged person. Some say it is way too expensive. Unfortunately, there are some who feel it is inferior to other options. These are tough questions, yet we must explore where we've been and where God is leading us in Adventist

education in the Mid-America Union Conference.

## ENROLLMENT

Yes, there have been declines during the past quinquennium. There have been school closures. However, last year's enrollment stayed steady. There were three schools either opened for the first time, or re-opened after a few years of being closed.

Last year Dakota Conference opened Payabya Adventist Mission School on the Payabya Reservation (pictured above, left). In 2014 Lighthouse SDA Christian School opened in Fort Morgan, Colorado with one teacher and 18 students. Last year it grew to 22 students and two teachers. MAUC schools are driven by an evangelistic emphasis with a number of schools serving more community students than Adventist students. A very few of our schools are totally populated by students from non-Adventist

homes. In these situations, does *Why* even need to be asked?

There is a decrease in the general population of students across North America. It is easy to assume that the same number of Adventist students that were available during the 1980s is still there today. According to the Pew Research Center, U.S. census numbers show that the average population of all households dropped from 2.76 in 1980 to 2.56 in 2007. While the difference is not that great, it translates into a large number of potential students not available to our schools. Couples are waiting longer to have children or not having any at all. Consequently, where enrollments have stayed steady, it is usually by increasing the number of community students in the school.

## TEACHER COMPETENCY AND QUALITY

But wait—there is reason to celebrate! The preparation

of teacher candidates coming out of our institutions of higher education is amazing. Union College has a unique program that prepares our new teachers for teaching in small schools (defined as one- and two-teacher) across the North American Division. Of the 67 elementary schools in the Mid-America Union, 80 percent are small schools.

The majority of our teachers do a wonderful job of opening naturally inquisitive minds to the wonders of the world around them in the context of an Adventist worldview. These teachers are constantly asking themselves and others what can be done to better prepare youth for the world they live in and heaven to come.

During the past five years the MAUC Office of Education began organizing and partially funding teachers on a rotating basis to attend national conventions such as the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and National Council of

Teachers of Mathematics. These professional growth events are eagerly attended. The resulting influence of the attending teachers on other teachers extends the learning to a wider audience. Thus, students in a greater number of classrooms are exposed to current, brain-friendly pedagogy that enhances student learning. During the annual teacher inservice meetings at the beginning of each school year, superintendents are careful to include professional growth opportunities that equip teachers with an ever-enlarging tool bag of teaching methodologies.

A recent radio report stated that only five percent of potential technology for the next 10 years is available today. Educational technology is already much more than just using computers in the classroom. Teachers of both small and larger schools are learning how to fully integrate technology into all aspects of the classroom so that students are using it to

explore their world. Students are exposed to programming robotic activities, utilizing the Internet under careful supervision as a research tool, and doing science projects that use technology to explore their world through the scientific process of data collection and analysis. Several schools have a one-to-one program that allows the student to carry their own device (ChromeBook or iPad) with them at all times. Thus, homework started at school can easily be continued at home.

While no single teacher can be totally skilled in all aspects of student learning, it is easy to be proud of the competencies that our teachers bring each morning as they open the school doors to eager students.

### UNIQUE CURRICULUM

It is crucial that the Adventist worldview be consistently reinforced in every aspect of Adventist education. This cannot be

compartmentalized into a Bible class or worship time in the classroom. This understanding has driven the North American Division Office of Education to invest millions of dollars of donor money given by those who support this need in the development of curriculum that is uniquely Adventist. The resulting text and resource materials are impressive.

Currently, authors are adapting the Adventist Encounter Curriculum from the South Pacific Division. This K-12 Bible program uses the latest pedagogical methodology in the teaching units, encouraging students “to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men’s thoughts” (*Education*, 17). The learning activities encourage a solid Biblical knowledge and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Encounter is currently available for grades 9-10 with the remaining grades being completed as rapidly as possible.

### SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

As already stated, every aspect of the school program needs to exude Adventism. Bible class, English class, handwriting and spelling, math, practice for programs, and even the completion of daily cleanup jobs need to breathe of the sweet aroma of a safe place where Jesus is in attendance. The words spoken by the teacher to encourage, cheer, gently reprove, and praise all need to remind the student of Jesus. After all, students spend more time with the teacher in the classroom than they do with their parents around the supper table. How good it is to know that there are Spirit-filled men and women in the Mid-America Union Conference who have dedicated their lives to bringing kids to the feet of Jesus, there to be taught of God through the face, eyes, words and actions of the Adventist teacher. □



**JOHN KRIEGELSTEIN** is director of the Office of Education for the Mid-America Union.



**LOUANN HOWARD** is associate director of the Office of Education for the Mid-America Union.



**KRISTI GRIFFITH** is registrar of the Mid-America Union.



**BARB ENQUIST** is administrative assistant for the Office of Education.

# CARING FOR THE CHURCH'S PERSONNEL



FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS ARE CALLED TO STAND OUT—TO BE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR INDUSTRY.

**T**he Human Resources Department of the Mid-America Union Conference is a new endeavor embarked upon by the union and its Executive Committee in April 2015. Our goal is to be a resource to our conferences and the MAUC staff. Since the conferences do not have the resources needed for keeping up with the HR world in today's environment, we are here to help meet those needs.

Personnel represent the largest part of an organization's budget. Most organizations spend 40-80 percent of gross revenue on compensation (salaries and benefits). In order to best manage investments in human capital, we strive for missional hiring, which means finding employees with the passion and will to uphold the teachings and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Across the Mid-America Union territory (including

our six local conferences, Union College and the MAUC) statistics for 2015 show we employed 725 full-time employees, 367 part-time employees and 474 casual (temporary) workers for a total of 1,566 employees. We strive to provide trust, compassion, stability and hope for all employees.

## SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES

People are the heart of the Mid-America Union, and I am thankful for the privilege and opportunity to serve in this role. While it is not necessarily a job requirement, it certainly helps to have an upbeat, friendly personality while dealing with a variety of employees. Patience is a necessity in helping and working with people and sorting out problems. It also helps to be a good listener and to show that you care.

We strive to protect the interests of employees and

the organization in accordance with NAD, MAUC and Human Resource policies and governmental laws and regulations through fairly applied employment practices such as remuneration and benefit policies, hiring and termination practices.

We coordinate use of insurance carriers, health consultants, employee benefit providers, employee evaluations and other outside resources. We update and maintain employee service records, job descriptions, the employee handbook/policy manual, as well as help complete and submit retirement forms and applications.

## LESSONS ON LEADING

Faith-based organizations are called to stand out—to be different from other organizations in their industry. There are many verses and stories about biblical leadership in God's Word. An

article\* by Faith Life Partners describes the following six important leadership principles from the Gospel of Mark:

**Reputation Matters.** God directs us to conduct ourselves in such a way that others may know whom we represent and be drawn to Him.

**Leaders Remain Calm When Storms Approach.** Jesus' demeanor in the midst of a chaotic storm can be mirrored in a faith-based organization's leadership.

**Delegation.** "And He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits." Jesus not only performed miracles and served others Himself, but gave His followers authority over certain directives, allowing them to be His hands and feet in the community.

**Handling Conflict on Your Team.** Jesus set an example with His disciples for us concerning how to deal



**CREATING A WHOLESOME WORK ENVIRONMENT IS PART OF THE MISSION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.**



with conflict within a team we lead. He addressed the situation quickly and directly and began with a question rather than accusing—even though He already knew the answer. He reminds us of the importance of a leader having a servant’s heart.

Be “All In.” Jesus didn’t do anything halfway, and He calls us to live in the same way when it comes to following Him. As believers, we are to commit our entire selves to serving Him, including the work we do on a day-to-day basis.

Leaders are to be totally committed to the mission at hand. If the leadership has one foot in the door and one foot out, team members will be able to sense this, and it will not only affect the organization’s enthusiasm, but its effectiveness. Leaders can help shape a mission they are passionate about, and then be “all in” when it comes to making it a reality.

**Think Big.** Jesus challenges



us in Mark 11 to believe and trust in God for big things—to have faith that God is not only able to do those big things, but that He will do them for those who trust in Him. For leaders, this is particularly important. A leader’s state of mind affects the entire organization; if the leadership believes God will use the organization in major ways to further His kingdom, the possibilities are endless! <sup>10</sup>

*\*<http://faithsearchpartners.com/6-executive-leadership-principles-from-the-gospel-of-mark/>*



**RAYLENE JONES** is director of Human Resources for the Mid-America Union.

## OUR MISSION

The MAUC Human Resources Department affirms its commitment to the Gospel Commission and strengthening God’s work by providing professional services to administrators and staff in the areas of strategic planning, staffing compensation and benefits, employee relations, personnel data management, training and development, and employee services.

A high priority of MAUC HR is to assist in creating effective policies, practices and a mutually acceptable alliance between the Mid-America Union Conference and those who work within the organization. Therefore, MAUC HR offers leadership in providing:

- A workplace atmosphere where the Christian workstyle, lifestyle and commitment to mission is exemplified.
- Practical methods that assist departments in making sound employment-related decisions.
- In-house processes and programs that promote spirituality, fairness, consistency, equity and multiculturalism in the work place.
- Open lines of communication with staff and administration.
- Opportunities for spiritual growth, skills enhancement and training.
- Supervisors with training and development tools to help reflect Christ as they lead, supervise, counsel and develop employees.

# ENCOURAGING OUR PASTORS

**T**he Ministerial Department of the Mid-America Union is an office that operates mostly “under the radar” of the general church membership in our territory. While I am available to preach in local churches or for special weekends or camp meetings, most of my work is done out of the public eye. We don’t create events or documents designed for the general membership.

The mission of the Ministerial Department is to provide support and encouragement to the approximately 200 pastors and their families serving local churches in Mid-America territory. While I do provide pastoral leadership coaching and mentoring for pastors when requested, this mission is mostly accomplished through direct support of the excellent ministerial directors in each local conference. My job is to build a collegial and supportive relationship with these leaders and help them with resources, insights and support as they in turn support their pastors.

In addition, our office plans wide-scale retreats and training opportunities for various groups such as pastoral interns (planned for this fall) and our cadre of female pastors (who now make up five percent of our union-wide pastoral work force). Finally, I work closely with the conference ministerial directors to plan our MAUC-wide pastors’

convention, which is scheduled for July 30-Aug. 2, 2017 in Omaha.

## WHY IS THIS WORK SO IMPORTANT?

It is easy to forget that pastors and their families share most of the same human struggles that all of us face. Members often seek the help, counsel and support of their pastor when they face challenges. But to whom do pastors turn when their needs surface?

In addition to the normal stresses that all of us face, a recently-released stress study conducted jointly by Andrews University and the Ministerial Department of the North American Division brought to the surface a number of issues that uniquely challenge pastors and their families.

For example, many pastoral families have to deal with unrealistic expectations. Some pressures come from the range of work required of them while others stem from church member expectations that their family life and children will be exemplary. If they don’t measure up, they are sometimes criticized or become the subject of gossip. “Life in the fishbowl” is very real for them.

And there’s more. When a pastor is called upon to move to a new church or district, this uproots the family completely. It tears them away



IF YOU WANT  
A BETTER  
PASTOR,  
PRAY FOR  
THE ONE  
YOU’VE GOT!

from friendships, familiar schools and teachers, and often creates significant difficulties for the spouse’s work.

They must deal with all these things in addition to managing their own humanity, plus the expectations of congregations that pastors will be serious and consistent students of the Word, good preachers and administrators, and be ready and able to respond to needs of church members, in addition to standing on the front lines for outreach and evangelism.

One author, only partly tongue-in-cheek said it this way:

“If I wanted to drive a manager up the wall: I would make (him/her) responsible for the success of an organization and give (him/her) no authority; I would provide (him/her) with unclear goals not commonly agreed on within the organization; I would ask (him/her) to provide a service of an ill-defined

nature, applying a body of knowledge having only a few absolutes, and give (him/her) only volunteers for assistance; I would expect (him/her) to work 10 to 12 hours per day and have (his/her) work evaluated by a committee of 500 people; I would call (him/her) a minister and make (him/her) accountable to God—and to everybody!”\*

I don’t share all of this to ask you to feel sorry for our pastors! They do what they do because they feel called and honestly want to serve Christ Jesus faithfully. I mention these challenges because while your pastors love their work and they love you, if we don’t nurture, support and care for them, they will be far less able to be faithful to their calling and their ability to serve you. At worst, they may burn out and leave the ministry.

*The Ministerial Department in the Mid-America Union and in each local conference is*

*\*Duane Swanson, Menniger Foundation*



there for the express purpose of providing a supportive and caring presence in the organization that can respond to the very real needs of pastors.

We are the safe place where pastors can turn to share their challenges and joy, and gain assistance, so that they can better serve you and the Lord Jesus. While you might not have thought of this before, every pastor needs a pastor. And that's what the Ministerial Department team in our union and local conferences is for *your* pastor.

## HOW TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE IN THE MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENT

There is so much need for supporting and caring for pastors that I could use many volunteer associates to help me and your conference ministerial director in this work. If you want to become a volunteer associate in the Ministerial Department to help support your pastor, here are four things you can do:

**Pray for your pastor.** And I mean really pray for your pastor. I couldn't help but

smile when I once read, "If you want a better pastor, pray for the one you've got!" If you want to talk about your pastor, talk to Jesus about him or her. Often. And with loving intercession and caring.

**Acknowledge them occasionally.** When October rolls around (Pastor Appreciation Month) or at Christmas time, find some way to acknowledge and thank them for their work. Provide for a special meal out or a trip to the zoo or a gift certificate to Men's Wearhouse. Just find some way to let them know that you recognize the sacrifices they regularly make to serve you.

**Allow them and their family members to be human, just like you.** And that means giving them space when they need it. Protect them from gossip and complaining. Don't expect perfection from them or their family members. Acknowledge that Jesus is still at work in them and will bring that work to completion at the same time He will in you (Phil. 1:6).

**Become usefully involved in your church's local ministry.** By responding to your pastor's ministry investment in you, you will fuel his or her energy,

which in turn will make your local church a real force for God in your community.

If we encourage and strengthen our pastors, our churches will be stronger and the kingdom will grow. And that's worth all the investment we can make!

I want to especially thank my kind and able assistant, Adela Martinez, for all her hard work. She is a joy to work with, and is a real asset to the Ministerial Department here in Mid-America. **□**

ALLOW THEM  
AND THEIR  
FAMILY TO  
BE HUMAN,  
JUST LIKE  
YOU.



**MIC THURBER** is director of the Ministerial Department for the Mid-America Union.



**ADELA MARTINEZ** is administrative assistant to the director of the Ministerial Department.

# DESARROLLANDO EVANGELISMO EN LA COMUNIDAD



Es un privilegio servir en la obra del Señor en el Corazón de América, donde tenemos una gran representación de miembros de diferentes lugares en el mundo del habla hispana, tanto del Norte como Centro y Sudamérica, así como las Islas del Caribe. Contamos con un espectro pastoral representativo de Estados Unidos, México, Venezuela, Colombia, Perú, Argentina, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana, Belice, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba y lo más precioso, es que todos llevan consigo el pasaporte de la Nueva Jerusalén impreso en lo más profundo de sus corazones.

Nuestro remarcable crecimiento durante estos cinco años ha sido atribuido a que como unión apostamos a hacer del evangelismo el estilo de vida en hermandad de las iglesias, usando todas las herramientas que están a nuestra disposición y enfocados en hacer del discipulado, la fuerza motriz de las iglesias.

El tener un equipo de líderes comprometidos de manera espiritual y misionera, así como profesional a nivel

de conferencia, como lo son los pastores Roberto Correa, de Kansas-Nebraska, Rubén Rivera, de Rocky Mountain y Yulian Tinoco, de Minnesota, y el equipo de pastores a nivel distrital con esas mismas calificaciones, proveen a las iglesias con un talante misionero excepcional. Todo lo mencionado anteriormente conlleva, con la bendición y el poder de Dios, a obtener victorias y logros espirituales.

No podemos obviar que también tenemos un liderazgo muy involucrado, a nivel de las iglesias locales, quienes están trabajando con el único objetivo de proclamar en sus comunidades acerca del pronto regreso de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Hemos sido bendecidos con este equipo de hombres y mujeres.

## CRECIMIENTO EN MEMBRESÍA Y FINANZAS

La obra hispana en los estados que componen el Centro o Mid-América, es en la mayoría de los campos, de desarrollo reciente. Creo que el deseo por el trabajo misionero de los

recién llegados; inmigrantes ya convertidos en sus países de origen así como los que han conocido el mensaje adventista en Estados Unidos, le han dado un sabor y un fresco aroma de inspiración a las iglesias que han ido naciendo a lo largo y ancho de nuestro territorio.

Otro aspecto en el crecimiento misionero es la inmersión de las iglesias en la comunidad, brindando servicios que anteriormente eran ofrecidos regularmente solo por las iglesias de habla inglesa. Una buena parte de las iglesias hispanas están ofreciendo programas de salud, orientación matrimonial, servicios de inmigración, programas de aprendizaje de inglés y en algunos lugares servicios de adoración en inglés para angloparlantes, no solo hispanos de segunda o tercera generación, sino blancos americanos.

A nivel de conferencia hemos desarrollado seminarios para laicos (SAL) donde se les provee el adiestramiento requerido en las diferentes áreas de servicio, incluyendo el programa de plantar nuevas iglesias. Durante este periodo, se han establecido más de 25 nuevas iglesias, esto sin sumarle las compañías y grupos que están en continuo crecimiento.

En el área de mayordomía y finanzas estamos aportando un promedio de 4 millones de dólares anuales solamente en diezmos. Un elemento relevante en el progreso de esta área es que la mayoría de

las iglesias de nuestra unión tienen templos propios o en proceso de adquisición.

## NUESTRA MISIÓN

Sabemos por los recientes estudios revelados por Pew Research Center entre los años 2007 y 2014, que la población cristiana en América cayó de un 78.4% a un 70.6%. Esto es el resultado de que la mayoría de los adultos en los Estados Unidos ya no se identifican con la religión organizada. La caída de la afiliación es particularmente notoria entre los jóvenes adultos, sean graduados universitarios o aquellos con una educación media. Este fenómeno se observa tanto en los blancos, como en los afroamericanos y latinos en el país. Y el mismo elemento de disociación religiosa se nota tanto en hombres como mujeres.

El desafío que se nos avecina, teniendo como telón de fondo el cumplimiento profético, es extraordinario y emocionante a la vez: la misión a cumplir de proclamar el mensaje de los tres ángeles de Apocalipsis y la recepción del efluvio poderoso del derramamiento del Espíritu Santo. Hoy, más que nunca, nuestro enfoque debe centrarse en que el propósito para la iglesia del Señor es predicar el evangelio y que esta misión de la iglesia puede lograrse “no con ejército, ni con fuerza, sino con su Espíritu”.

# DEVELOPING COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

It is a privilege to serve in the Lord's work in the heartland of America, where we have a wide representation of members from around the Spanish-speaking world including North, South and Central America and the Caribbean Islands. We have a representative spectrum of pastoral workers from the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. How precious it is that each of them carries the New Jerusalem's passport printed in the depths of their hearts!

Our remarkable growth during the past five years can be attributed to a commitment to evangelism in its various phases; the lifestyle of the brotherhood of churches; using all the tools at our disposal; and discipleship focused on mission as the driving force of the churches.

The committed Hispanic leadership team includes the pastors Roberto Correa in Kansas-Nebraska; Roberto Coronado in Central States; Ruben Rivera in Rocky Mountain; and Yulian Tinoco in Minnesota. At the district and local church levels we have a team of pastors with outstanding qualifications who encourage churches with exceptional missionary spirit. These dedicated workers, with the blessing and power of God, gain many victories and spiritual achievements.

We also have a very involved membership at the level

of local churches, who are stationed and working in the trenches of duty with the sole aim of proclaiming in their communities the good news of the soon return of Jesus Christ. We have truly been blessed by heaven with this team of men and women.

## MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL GROWTH

The Hispanic work in the states that comprise the Mid-America Union is actually newly developed in most places. The missionary zeal of newcomers (immigrants committed to their countries of origin, as well as those who have learned the Adventist message in the United States), has given a scent or flavor that inspires churches who have been birthed throughout our territory. Obviously, the arrival of immigrants to different locations throughout the country has prompted the (nerve?) missionary brotherhood.

Another aspect is the immersion of the churches in the social life of the community, providing community services that were previously offered regularly by the English-speaking churches. Many of the Hispanic churches are conducting programs in health, marriage counseling, immigration services, English as a second language and, in some places, worship services for English-speaking people—not only second and third generation Hispanics but also white Americans.

At the conference level we have developed lay seminars (SAL) to provide training required in the different areas of service, including the process of planting new churches. During this period, we have established more than 25 new churches, in addition to the companies and groups that are continuously growing.

In the area of financial stewardship we are contributing an average of \$4 million annually in tithes alone. A significant element of progress in this area is that most of the Hispanic churches within our union have their own way of acquiring church buildings.

## FULFILLING OUR MISSION

We know from recent information released by Pew Research Center that according to a study conducted between 2007 and 2014 the Christian population in America fell from 78.4 percent to 70 percent. Furthermore, a majority of adults in the United States no longer identify with organized religion. The fall in membership is particularly noticeable among young adults who are college graduates. This phenomenon is observed in whites, African Americans and Latinos. The same element of religious disassociation is noted in both men and women.

The challenge that lies ahead, against the backdrop of prophetic fulfillment, is at the same time extraordinary and exciting: to fulfill the mission

of proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation and to receive a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Today, more than ever before, our focus should be preaching the gospel and achieving the mission of the Lord's church "not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit." □

## MAUC HISPANIC STATISTICAL REPORT 2015

**29** PASTORS

**86** CHURCHES/ COMPANIES

**7,255** MEMBERS

**474** BAPTISMS/  
PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

**\$3,637,901** TITHE



**JUAN ACOSTA**  
is director of Hispanic Ministries for the Mid-America Union.

# FILLING HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES



**W**omen's Ministries is dedicated to helping women find and fulfill their calling. God has gifted women with unique abilities and they can minister in ways that are especially meaningful to other women.

It comes as no surprise to most that the U.S. population has been consistently loosening its ties with church. What may come as a surprise is the increasing number of women who are part of this shift away from churchgoing. The simple fact is many women—and especially moms—feel like they don't have time for church in today's busy, fast-paced life. Another factor to women's disengagement from church is that they find little or no emotional support there. Without strong relational bonds within a church community, it is easy for a woman to slip away and no one even notices. Also, women who find less and less time in their life for church are

less likely to take time to read their Bible, pray, volunteer and give financially.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Armed with the above information, Women's Ministries is a valuable tool to give emotional support and to help women get involved in church and the community. At the same time, while encouraging women to spend time with other women, the time must be well planned and worth the effort.

We recently asked a group of women if Women's Ministries is still relevant and needed today. That question brought a resounding **YES!** from every woman. They feel that because our society is more and more detached from human contact, the ability to come together in person, to have ladies talk with one another and build those relationships, is so much more important than in times past.

## USING NEW METHODS

Women's Ministries is moving in new directions. While the traditional retreats are still important, they are not the only way of ministering to women. One church in Minnesota has begun GATE Dates. The 4th Sabbath of every month they have a laid back lunch after church and a guest speaker comes to talk on different aspects of peace (the theme for this year), followed by group activities and opportunities to share and grow together. They are really touching and changing lives, and connecting women in powerful ways. It has been a great avenue for inviting members who no longer attend church.

A young woman in the Rocky Mountain Conference posted an invitation on a website (meetup.com) to join a group called NoCo Virtuous Women Leadership. Five young women from the community responded and met at a coffee shop and spent time getting to know each other. They made lots of plans—Bible study time as well as social/activity time.

## BEING INTENTIONAL

As we talk to women one thing becomes clear: we are all looking for ways to be encouraged and loved and valued. Social media doesn't do it, church time doesn't do it (there's only so much you can know about a person in the short time they meet at

church), even small groups don't necessarily do it. But when someone has been intentional about setting up an environment of inclusion and acceptance and grace where you have the opportunity to be yourself and to share honestly, that is when you fill the needs—that's when you change lives.

This ministry is changing. We are becoming more intentional about reaching out to the community. We are more intentional about including all ages of women. We are more intentional in thinking outside the box to reach women who need community but don't know where to find it.

I believe God has given Women's Ministries a big vision to inspire and encourage all women to experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus. **■**



### NANCY BUXTON

is director of Women's Ministries for the Mid-America Union.

# STRENGTHENING MEMBERS' COMMITMENTS

In 1984 when I was asked by Elder Joel Tompkins if I would be interested in heading up the Religious Liberty program for Mid-America Union, I did not know where accepting would lead me. During the past 32 years it has been my pleasure to work with an estimated 1,000 church members who have faced a choice between their religious beliefs and their employment.

I wish I could report that we were successful in obtaining accommodation in every case, but that is not the truth. Over the years it has become more difficult to obtain accommodation due to court rulings that favor an employer. Also, religious accommodation has become more prevalent in society, and as a result employers are more informed about the bare minimum required of them. That bare minimum is as far as many of them will consider going.

The guidelines that are available to an employer that prevent or limit accommodation are:

**1) The employer does not have to take any action contrary to a union contract or seniority policy of the company.** The provision in a union contract that is most problematic is the seniority provision. It may be possible for the employer to create a position that accommodates the employee's beliefs, but when created it must

be given to the most senior employee that desires it. It is common that the employee needing the accommodation has very little seniority.

**2) Any accommodation must not adversely impact other employees.** If the employer does not schedule the member employee to work on Friday nights or Saturday, someone else must cover the schedule, and Friday nights and Saturday are popular times to not work, which results in those employees feeling that they are disadvantaged because of the accommodation.

**3) The accommodation cannot adversely impact the productivity of the company.** To leave a position unfilled during Sabbath hours can result in work not being completed in a timely manner, which impacts the productivity of the company.

**4) The accommodation does not need to be made if it costs the company more than a very minimal amount.** One court has held that to provide health insurance, vacation time, retirement and other benefits for an employee who works only four days because of no Saturday work is a cost to the employer of more than a minimal amount because the company gets only four-fifths of work from the employee but has to provide 100 percent of the benefits.

## SEEKING ACCOMMODATION

Even with these guidelines in place we are able to obtain accommodation for employees. It has been my experience that if the employer is impressed by the work performed by the employee, great effort will be made to arrange an accommodation. If the employer does not care if the employee continues to work for the company, very little effort will be made to arrange an accommodation. And the above guidelines do not exclude all accommodations. We do what can be done to help look for ways that accommodation can be accomplished without going contrary to the guidelines.

As hard as the church works at obtaining accommodation, it is my experience that what is not humanly possible can be accomplished by the working of the Holy Spirit. It is rewarding beyond description when a seemingly impossible situation turns out to be made possible by divine intervention. Never discount the power of prayer.

## A PLAN AND A PLACE

One other thing I have learned over the years is that while the short term result may seem to be a failure, God

has a long term plan to take care of the situation.

In this world of sin good people will experience disasters. We do our best to avoid them, but it does not always work out. The one overriding guideline is that God does have a plan and a place for each of us. That place may be with the three Hebrews in the furnace. But the result we all long for is hearing the words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

The most impressive part of the experiences I see is the faithfulness of God's children when facing economic crisis. That is more rewarding than any victory in a courtroom. **10**



**DARREL HUENERGARDT** provides religious liberty education and legal counsel for the Mid-America Union.

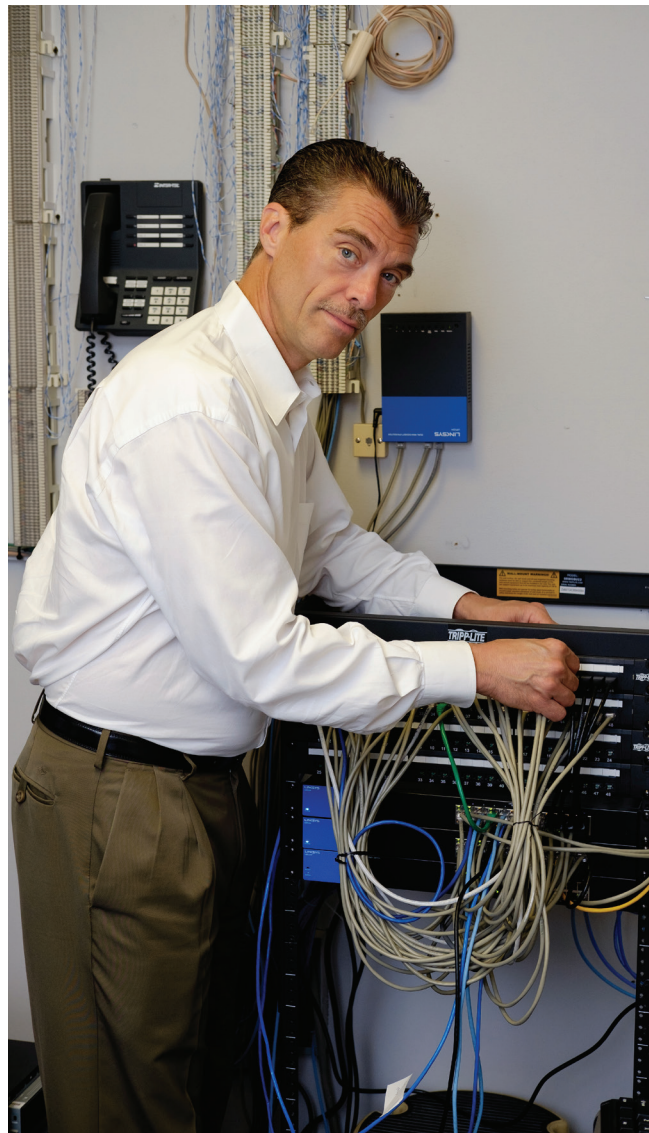
## MAINTAINING MAUC'S FACILITY



**R**oy Schaecher has filled the role of maintenance engineer for the Mid-America Union for the past 23 years. He is responsible for keeping the 10 acres that the MAUC office occupies looking nice year round. He also maintains the interior of our 25,360 square-foot building. His work includes:

- Mowing and fertilizing the lawns
- Pruning shrubbery and weeding
- Custodial work throughout the building
- Purchasing and delivering supplies
- Delivering mail to and from the Post Office daily
- Assisting with room setup and teardown for events
- Facilitating recycling and shredding
- Helping with audio visual equipment during meetings
- Keeping the sidewalks free of ice and snow in winter
- Repairing "pretty much anything."

## PROVIDING IT SUPPORT



**T**he Mid-America Union has contracted with AdventSource to provide the union IT support. Ed Sharon is head of the IT department of AdventSource and is our main contact person.

Part of Ed's duties include software and

hardware support for the union office, and union wide APS (payroll) software support for all our conferences.

In addition, Ed and his staff have custom-written a program to assist our conferences in transitioning off the old Trust Accounting software.



# RESOURCING OUR LOCAL CHURCHES



**A**s the official Adventist resource center for the church in North America, *AdventSource* provides practical materials and information that help congregations develop ministries for their members and reach their communities. Here is a brief look at some highlights from the last five years.

## NEW BUILDING

*AdventSource* has occupied space on the Union College campus since our beginning in 1982. In early 2012 Union College determined that our space in the south end of the Don Love Building was the ideal location to house their growing physician's assistant and international rescue and relief programs.

Union College offered the option for the construction of a new facility at 51st Street and Prescott Avenue, allowing *AdventSource* to continue hiring college students and providing services to the college. This created a unique opportunity for us to design our own space customized to

fit our staff, equipment and workflow.

We opened for business in our new facility on Jan. 2, 2013. Our new 17,300-square-foot building houses all of *AdventSource's* departments including the call center, graphic design, accounting, IT, resource development and website support, along with production and warehouse space. The new building represents a big step forward for *AdventSource* and has increased our capacity for supporting ministry.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In 2013 *AdventSource* began serving as publisher and distributor for the North American Division Children's Ministries Department's annual VBS program. VBS is one of the most effective outreach programs churches can offer and these programs equip churches to share a distinctly Adventist message.

Kidsville, the 2016 program, focuses on the theme of friendship. Each day the kids not only learn what it means

for Jesus to love them, but how Jesus can use them to love others. While Kidsville includes traditional VBS stations such as Bible story, crafts, snacks and games, it also includes two new stations—life applications, where kids explore the lessons through relational activities, and prayer. Visit [www.adventistvb.org](http://www.adventistvb.org) to learn more.

## PATHFINDER AND ADVENTURER CLUBS

*AdventSource* is the official Pathfinder and Adventurer resource distributor in North America and we are excited about the development of new resources to support these important discipleship ministries. In 2016 a new Adventurer Club curriculum for kids in preschool through grade 4 was released. Our team worked with NAD leadership to create a complete kit for Adventurer leaders. The new curriculum features updated program ideas that engage kids in learning through age-appropriate activities.

The Pathfinder Club curriculum for students in grades 5-10 was also completely updated with a focus on experiential and hands-on learning. Our resource development and graphic design team was actively involved in this project.

## EVENT REGISTRATION

*AdventSource* continues to support the ministries of the NAD and Mid-America

Union by providing registration for many events, such as the MAU Children's Ministries Convention, ASI meeting and Truth 2 Freedom Pathfinder Camporee. If you are looking for ministry training events for your church's leaders, you can search and register at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or call 800.732.7587.

## WEBSITES FOR CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Through Adventist Church Connect, *AdventSource* currently provides websites to more than 425 churches in the Mid-America Union. If your church or school is not yet using this free website service, visit [www.adventist-churchconnect.com](http://www.adventist-churchconnect.com) or call 877.518.0819. Sites include free set up, hosting and support.

## LOOKING FORWARD

*AdventSource* is here to help you find everything you need for your church's ministries. We continue to expand our online store, which includes more than 4,000 resources such as guides for ministry leaders, seminars, training DVDs, Sabbath school supplies and Adventist logo apparel. Visit [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or call and talk with one of our ministry consultants at 402.486.8800.

# EXPERIENCING A SEASON OF BLESSING



**Vinita Sauder**  
President  
of Union College  
since 2014

Over the past five years, Union College has experienced a period

of unprecedented blessings, both in the size and diversity of our student body and in the physical look and services of our campus. Thanks to your generosity, we have completed several major building projects and launched new academic majors.

While I have only been at Union College a relatively short time, I have been greatly encouraged by the support from you, the Adventists in the Mid-America Union.

- Your financial support through conference subsidies makes up nearly 10 percent of our budget and allows us to offer competitive tuition rates.
- Your leadership support from conference and union administrators on our Board of Trustees helps strengthen our decisions and direction.
- Your young people make up the backbone of our student population and create a friendly environment that attracts students from around the world.
- Your prayers give us courage and strengthen our resolve to provide the highest quality spiritual and academic experience for your young people.

Please keep Union College in your prayers as we continue to seek to make a top-notch Adventist education available to anyone who wants it.

## 2010

### JANUARY



#### ▶ HAITI RELIEF

International rescue and relief students and staff members land in Haiti less than one week after a massive earthquake.

### MARCH



#### ▶ WORLD WIDE LIBRARY

Despite limited physical space, the Union College Library expands access to online books, databases, catalogs and other resources.

## 2011

### SUMMER

#### ▶ NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EDUCATION

The education program receives another seven-year certification from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

### JUNE



#### ▶ WAGNER BACK AGAIN

John Wagner comes out of retirement to lead Union for a third time.

#### ▶ OUR PROMISING FUTURE

Union launches the \$14.5 million "Our Promising Future" capital campaign to fund the construction of a new home for the Division of Science and Mathematics. The campaign ultimately raised nearly \$15 million for the project.

### SEPTEMBER

#### ▶ ENCOURAGING GREAT WRITING

The first annual \$1,000 Union College Board of Trustees Writing Awards were given to students who entered exemplary writing in one of four categories.

## 2012

### FEBRUARY



#### ▶ PROJECT IMPACT LIGHTS UP LINCOLN

Nebraska recognizes Union College with the Governor's Point of Light Award for 30 years of making a difference in Lincoln through Project Impact. The day off from school has led to 18,300 volunteers giving more than 115,000 hours of voluntary labor to serve Lincoln.

### APRIL

#### ▶ BACK TO THE FUTURE

The library moves the Heritage Collection online to a searchable database featuring many Union College and Adventist historical photos and documents.

### MAY

#### ▶ 10,000TH GRAD

IRR major Topher Mercill becomes Union's 10,000th graduate.



#### ▶ MAJOR BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS

Faculty and students create a biomedical science degree, designed specifically to prepare students for medical, dental, PT or PA school.

## 2013

### JANUARY

#### ▶ A QUEST FOR CALLING

A \$50,000 grant from the Council of Independent Colleges launches the Quest for Calling program designed to help Union students and employees discover their spiritual gifts, passion, and God-given calling.

#### ▶ GETTING SOCIAL

The communication program adds an emphasis in emerging media, designed to prepare students to effectively reach audiences using online platforms such as social media.

### SUMMER



#### ▶ JOINING FORCES

Union College joins Southern Adventist University and Southwestern Adventist University to form the Adventist Educational Alliance—seeking to find ways to work together to strengthen each member institution.

### OCTOBER



#### ▶ NEW LEARNING SPACES

The physician assistant studies and international rescue and relief programs move into newly renovated facilities located in the Don Love Building formerly occupied by AdventSource.

## 2014

### JANUARY



#### ▶ PRACTICAL MINISTRY

The Division of Religion launches a new ministry practicum—the first of its kind in North America—that places each theology student as an associate pastor in a district under the guidance of a senior pastor for a semester.

### MARCH



#### ▶ NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

The Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics officially opens, featuring 55,000 square feet of modern, high-tech learning and research space.

### MAY



#### ▶ RED CROSS HEROES

Union's Red Cross club is honored at the Red Cross annual Tribute to Heroes event for their support of emergency workers and victims in Lincoln.

## 2015

### AUGUST



#### ▶ ADMINISTRATIVE FACELIFT

Thanks to gifts from generous alumni who helped fund the project, the first floor and both entrances of the Everett Dick Administration Building were renovated to provide a modern look and more usable space.

#### ▶ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Union launches a new international relations major designed to prepare students for international business and law, and government foreign service.



#### ▶ AFFORDABLE ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Union unveils a new scholarship program that gives all incoming freshmen from \$6,500 up to free tuition scholarships each year for four years.

#### ▶ GET ON THE BUS

After relying on Jerome Lang to provide large-scale transportation for 45 years, Union College purchases a 1999 MCI 56-passenger motorcoach.

## 2016

### SEPTEMBER



#### ▶ CELEBRATE 125

Union College will turn 125 with a special birthday event on September 30, 2016.

## 2018

### AUGUST

#### ▶ OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Union plans to launch an occupational therapy assistant program in August 2018.

## FUTURE

#### ▶ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Union College continues to seek new ways to provide the best Adventist educational experience for anyone who wants it.

We are developing new programs to prepare students to compete in changing and growing job markets as we lay plans for new and renovated facilities to support these new and growing programs.



# FAMILY YOU WANT TO BE PART OF



Courtesy Central States Conference

Local church elders pause for prayer at a recent event.

The past few years have not been without their challenges, but the Central States Conference family has stayed focused and concentrated on three areas—growing spiritually, numerically and financially. I am pleased to report that we experienced growth in all three areas.

Through tough financial times, we were able to finish 2015 with a modest increase. We held a number of major evangelistic meetings and God's kingdom was increased. Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, executive secretary of the North American Division, hosted a successful meeting in Kansas City, Missouri where 104 people were baptized. Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life and senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama conducted a meeting in St. Louis,

Missouri where 89 souls were baptized.

Our pastors also ran successful seminars and evangelistic meetings all around the conference and God richly blessed our efforts. The workers and our members were extremely intentional about prayer and fasting and sharing the love of Christ through the evangelistic endeavors. This intentionality helped us grow in our relationship with God.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

As we look to the future, it is our desire to continue to stabilize our conference financially. We also have set a goal of seeing the conference grow by 2,000 members or more—membership that will not go out the “back door” by the end of the next quadrennial. Some of the ways we plan to accomplish this are to have churches that feel like warm,

inviting, informative and innovative families who seek to provide biblical but practical, relevant teaching and have an ongoing climate of evangelistic passion. It is also crucial to have creative outside-the-walls-of-the-church ministries, and an increased presence in our communities so people know who we really are as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

We are committed to seeing ourselves as a family that loves and cares for each other as we strive to grow together in Christ to fulfill the great commission (Matt. 28: 19-20). We would like to see ourselves as one great spiritual university with various campuses, each different, but all a part of the whole.

## ACTIVE YOUTH

We want to reclaim our young adults by letting them know they are loved, needed and valued here in this conference. We want our youth to grow spiritually and see them utilized in the life of the church. We would like to see revamped AYs, intramural sports activities brought back, more social activities, church exchanges and new, creative initiatives to engage our youth.

We want to see strong, vibrant, solvent schools that provide excellent academic and spiritual education so our members can feel comfortable to entrust us with their children.

## EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

We also have an objective to utilize our “Seasoned Seniors.” They have a wealth of wisdom and we still need their contributions to this conference.

We want to make sure our workers are growing by providing workshops, trainings, continuing education credits, resources and incentives designed to inspire and motivate our workforce. While these initiatives may seem challenging, together we can make them a reality.

Personally, I would like to thank the constituents of Central States for always rising to the challenge and for giving me the opportunity to serve them for the next four years. Central States is truly a “Family You Want to Be a Part Of!”



**ROGER A. BERNARD** is president of the Central States Conference.

# CENTRAL STATES CONSTITUENCY REPORT NEWLY ELECTED POSITIONS

June 12, 2016  
Kansas City, KS

## President

Roger A. Bernard

## VP for Administration

Cryston Josiah

## VP for Finance

Tonya L. Brown-Anderson

## Communication

Brittany Winkfield

## Youth/Young Adult

Darriel Hoy

## Pathfinders

Rachel Banks

## Health Ministries

Byron/Alfredia Conner

## Message Magazine

Gary Collins

## Ministerial Secretary

Mark Paris

## Women's Ministries

Terri Perkins

## Family Life Ministries

Marlon/Denise Johnson



**Elder Rafael Small**, member of Denver Park Hill Church, was on vacation and wanted to organize and share his photos securely with a group of family and friends. Today, social networking websites have become the go-to method allowing you to share pictures, messages, files and even up-to-the-minute information about what you are doing and where you are.

Although these networks can be very useful, and promote social interaction both online and offline, when using them you may be making information available to people who

want to abuse it. That's why Small has created Sliver, the seamless photo sharing app.

Sharing photos with a friend, a group of friends, or with all your friends—all at once—has never been easier. Every photo can be shared automatically with everyone in your group.

What's different about Sliver? You can lock your photos! You control whether someone can share your personal pictures or not. Take the worry out of sharing photos. Now you can protect and control your pictures.

Sliver is great for camp meetings, vacations,

graduations, weddings, family events, group outings or everyday selfies. For those who live on social media, you can save your photos from Sliver to your phone and send them to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

"I never got the pics from camp meeting. Can you send them to me?" This is the last time you will ask that question!

Good at taking pictures? Submit your favorite photo and if selected, your photo will be featured on the Slivergrouppics.com website.

Welcome to easy, fun, safe photo sharing. Welcome to Sliver!

# HEAVENLY MODEL LESSENS CHALLENGES



Gwen Speck

Pastor commissioning of Brad and Kristen Gienger at Dakota camp meeting in June.

**T**he Dakota Conference has changed so dramatically in the last five years it is difficult to comprehend its significance. Considering Dakotas' original immigrants were a European aggregate of agrarian people, like my grandfather and grandmother who homesteaded the land over 100 years ago, Dakota is now witnessing an amazing second wave of people groups pouring into the two states.

Step into many of Dakotas' Adventist churches on a Sabbath morning and you may be treated to language-sounds in French, Swahili, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Sgaw, Pwo, Pa'o and yes, a little Dakota English. We attribute the rapid change to enhanced immigration allowances by the United States government, job availability in the oil fields, and the opportunity to raise a family in wide-open spaces. All this change has created its challenges, but we believe the

heavenly model is working. What is the heavenly model? Worshiping together instead of segregating churches according to race, color and language.

The last five years has also brought a boom, and now a bust, in the economy. While most people are thrilled with lower fuel prices at the pump, it has caused a real turn around in our conference's tithes and offerings. The Dakota economy relies on commodities like wheat, corn, oil and coal. When prices are down for those products money becomes tight and ministry suffers. We are praying for an improvement in some prices with the hope that programs for youth, churches and schools can maintain a level that glorifies God.

Following are the five most important ministries we have participated in over the last five years and what we would like to continue in the next five.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

First, we want to place a bold focus on young people. Keeping young people in the church is foundational to the future of any conference. We believe that process starts in Sabbath school, moves to camping programs, church schools, academy and college. What about those who are not able to attend Seventh-day Adventist schools? Dakota Conference has put an emphasis on secular campus ministries with three fulltime pastors in that area of ministry.

## EDUCATION

Second, we want continued effort placed in the area of growing church schools and the academy. In the last five years Dakotas' church schools have grown by 30 percent. We are thrilled and want that expansion to continue.

## EVANGELISM

Third, there is a huge need to reach those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. We have struggled in this area, but have definitely not given up. Public evangelism continues in cooperation with friendship evangelism, Bible study and outreach. We are praying for continued God-given insights into ways to reach the secular mind.

## CHURCH GROWTH

Fourth, we want and need to grow churches. The Dakota population has experienced a major transition between those living in rural and small town

locations to those living in more populated centers. This has caused rural churches to decline or disappear and many city churches to expand. This shift has been painful, and continues, but we are seeing a stabilization of this trend for the future. The Dakota Conference's goal is to continue to pour resources and support into local churches so they may more adequately reflect Jesus.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Fifth, it is our desire to see spiritual growth among our church members. Churches need to cease bickering over minutia and start focusing on the Lamb of God. He is our only hope. Through workshops, camp meetings, women's and men's ministries, plus youth weekends, our goal in the next five years is to focus on Jesus as never before.

We solicit your prayers.



**NEIL BILOFF** is president of the Dakota Conference.

# PRISON MINISTRY CLASSES ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT

Church members who are not active in visiting inside the prison have a card ministry from the church.



Bill Edwards

North Dakota church members (l-r) Sarah Christenson, Karen Schneider, and Marilyn Heilman are reaching inmates for Christ.

Chaplain **Daniel McManus** of the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland, Virginia, and Prison Ministry director for the Minnesota Conference, **Debra Coklas**, presented a region-wide prison evangelism convocation and training weekend in Harvey, North Dakota the first weekend in May. The theme of the weekend was Evangelism Behind Bars: Empowering for Effectiveness.

Seven seminars provided information and training for

- Conducting effective and successful evangelism at a local prison and/or jail
- Showing the institutional chaplain/volunteer coordinator a commitment to excellence
- Helping avoid risks to safety and the institution's security
- Avoiding pitfalls that would impede a successful outcome.

A certificate from the Dakota Conference and the Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates was presented to those who attended all the lectures.

The Harvey and Manfred, North Dakota churches have had an active prison ministries program for about five years and have been successful in reaching inmates for Christ in the Rugby Regional Jail in Rugby, North Dakota. This is a short-term facility, but through the influence of church members sharing Christ, there are inmates who have been transferred to Illinois, Washington, Colorado and other locations who are sharing Christ as a result of their contact with these churches' prison ministries.

Church members who are not active in visiting inside the prison have a card ministry from the church. They send notes of encouragement,

GLOW tracts and small *Signs of the Times*. "Sometimes the inmates enjoy these more than the visits because they can take them back to their cells with them," says **Tom Deede**.

The prison ministry members studied with one gentleman, **Dion**, for about a year before he became convicted about the Sabbath. One Saturday he called his sister in Jamaica and asked what she was doing. She replied that she was getting ready for church because her daughter had shown her from the Bible that Saturday was the Sabbath. He was thrilled that his prayers for his family were being answered even before he had shared what he was learning. He calls himself a Seventh-day Adventist, "because it is the church which believes most like what the Bible teaches." Dion's desire, upon his release, is to go to college and become a minister.

Recently, guards came in to Dion's cell in Rugby and asked if he was ready to go. Dion was not aware that he was being moved. He was sent to the Bismarck penitentiary where his cellmate was a Muslim. As part of becoming acquainted, Dion asked the gentleman to tell him about his religion. The man said, "No, tell me about Jesus," which Dion gladly did. He also gave the man his Bible. Shortly thereafter the guards came to move the Muslim gentlemen to another location

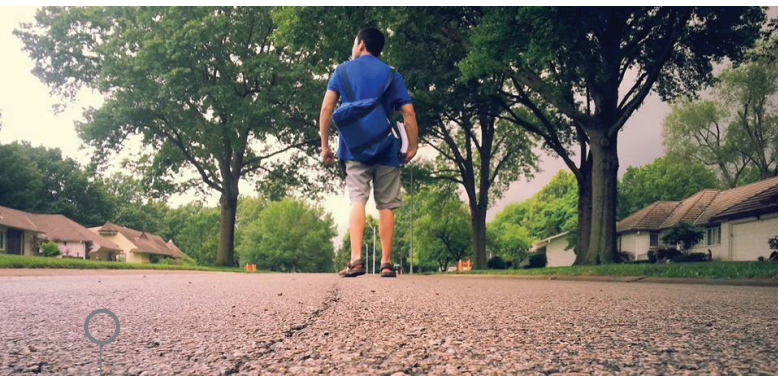
and then moved Dion back to Rugby. Dion says one of the stories he wants to tell his son is how God sent him to Bismarck to witness to a Muslim gentleman.

**Pastor Bill Edwards** explained to Dion that he may have to be satisfied with being a pastor in jail. Dion replied that whatever happens, he accepts it as the will of God. "Keep me in your prayers every Sabbath," he requested. "I am unworthy, but God is good." Dion feels that the Harvey and Manfred churches' pastor and prison ministry members are like family to him.

Dion is now sharing Christ in Minnesota where he has been transferred. The prison chaplain noted his ability to teach and asked if he would teach Bible classes every other day, besides the Bible studies he is giving. Dion agreed and requested books and supplies from the Harvey and Manfred churches. They gladly sent him copies of the *Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ* and GLOW tracts, but were doubtful he would receive them, as prison policy states only things ordered from Amazon.com are passed along to the inmates. God intervened, however, and Dion is currently using the books as part of his classes.

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

# SERVING BEYOND OUR BORDERS



Courtesy/ Iowa-Missouri Conference

During the summer of 2015, the Youth Alive student literature evangelism team distributed more than 12,150 pieces of literature, and over \$120,300 was received in donations, with the majority of that money going for scholarships.

**O**n behalf of the administrative team of the Iowa-Missouri Conference, I would like to thank our members, employees and volunteers for the prayers, support, generous giving and hard work that make all the ministries of this conference possible. Here is just some of what has been accomplished during the last five years, thanks to those efforts.

## OVERSEAS MISSION

Since 2007 Sunnydale Academy has been sending students and staff on short-term mission trips to India. Beginning in 2011, teams started going to Africa; and in 2013 and 2014, Nepal received help from SAA student/staff/volunteer teams as well. This evangelistic emphasis in our academy has been continuous throughout the last five years. Trips for adults in several of our churches have also increased, and the services of those who have participated in missions

around the globe have greatly blessed our field and the countries visited.

Project offerings were collected at Women's Ministries retreats, and volunteer evangelistic speakers were sent to three continents this quinquennium: North America, Africa and Asia.

## YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Our Youth Alive student literature evangelism team has been busy each summer knocking on an average of 70,000-80,000 doors. Approximately 17-23 academy and college students, as well as a handful of students in leadership roles, participate in this program. In addition, elementary Magabook programs are increasingly helping students with needed school scholarships.

Our Pathfinder and Adventurer programs have been growing, and attendance at Camp Heritage has also increased, with record breaking numbers during the camp

seasons of the last three years. Plans are being laid for more housing for campers.

We've maintained solid enrollment in our schools during the last five years at approximately 120 academy students and 300 elementary students each year. We now also have 35 refugee young people being sponsored at our schools with plans to increase that number substantially as funds allow.

## HEALTH MINISTRIES

Twice during the last five years our conference received Adventists InStep for Life Awards from the North American Division for most miles of physical activity reported and top member participation rates in the Mid-America Union.

We're also grateful to be participating in Your Best Pathway to Health's free healthcare clinics, with the San Antonio event during this last quinquennium and again recently in Los Angeles.

## REFUGEE MINISTRIES

Conference-wide participation in serving the refugee families in our territory has been strongly encouraged during the last five years, and in 2015 we started a Refugee Ministries department.

I mentioned above that we have 35 refugee young people being sponsored in our schools. Four years ago we had none sponsored by the conference. Thousands of refugees are being

placed in the Midwest, by God's grace. May we effectively take the gospel to these persecuted people groups!

## LOOKING AHEAD

Our greatest challenge and opportunity in the Iowa-Missouri Conference during the next five years is big city evangelism. With more than 3 million people in St. Louis, 1.5 million people in Kansas City, 500,000 in the Des Moines area, and the large population in the Council Bluffs/Omaha metro area, the task to carry the gospel of hope to these cities is daunting.

To catch people's attention in this age of skepticism and unbelief seems at times impossible. But God is good, and the promise is sure: "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself" (John 12:32, NKJV). On this we can rely.



### DEAN CORIDAN

is president of the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



# TWO PASTORS ORDAINED DURING CAMP MEETING



Randy Harmdierks

Ordained pastors from around the Iowa-Missouri Conference lay hands on pastors Jerry Duvall (center) and Mark Welch as conference secretary Robert Peck prays over them during their ordination service.

Pastors **Jerry Duvall** and **Mark Welch** were ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, June 11, during a special service at the 2016 Iowa-Missouri camp meeting.

“These men have demonstrated God’s grace and the proof of His calling into the gospel ministry, through faithful service, servant leadership, evangelism and preaching the gospel,” said **Robert Wagley**, ministerial director for the conference. “We thank God for their calling into the ordained ministry of the Word and are most grateful for God’s faithfulness and grace in their lives.”

Ordained pastors from around the conference laid hands on Duvall and Welch as conference secretary **Robert Peck** prayed over them. Also present were **Wagley**, conference president

**Dean Coridan**, Mid-America Union ministerial director **Mic Thurber**, and Andrews University professor of theology **Dr. Richard Davidson**.

In his message, Dr. Davidson described the experience of Joshua as the first person in the Bible to receive the laying on of hands (see Num. 27, Deut. 34). “The hands can be laid today, but God’s secret of success is what you do from here on out,” Davidson said. Then, reading from Joshua 1, he shared God’s formula to a successful pastoral ministry:

- Undaunted courage, as a result of...
- Unwavering confidence in God’s promises, which results in...
- Unreserved commitment to His will, which can be known through...
- Uninterrupted communion with God in meditation on His Word.

Pastor Duvall, who currently serves in the Knoxville/Marshalltown/Newton district, was raised in a Southern Baptist home and joined the Army in 1982 as a drafting specialist/construction supervisor. He was later accepted into the intelligence community as a counterintelligence agent.

While in the Army he attended the University of Maryland and Kansas State University, earning an associate degree in computers and a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology and criminal justice.

Duvall never considered becoming a pastor until one day God impressed him to pursue that course. He sold his tire and automotive business and within two months had begun working in the ministry. “When God asks you to do something, He not only provides a way for you to do it, but surrounds you with godly people,” he said, giving credit to those who supported him along the way and thanking those who were instrumental in his development as a pastor.

Jerry and his wife, **Jennifer**, met in Weimar, California in 2008 while learning how to better share God’s Word and serve His people. Jen provides vital support for Jerry and serves alongside him in many areas.

Pastor Welch, who currently serves in the Hannibal/Moberly district, was born in Mountain View, Missouri. During his childhood, he and his family

spent seven years serving as missionaries in Taiwan.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and then earned a Doctor of Law degree from the University of Nebraska, College of Law in 1995. Welch worked in the insurance industry in Marketing, Legal and Underwriting before accepting the call to fulltime pastoral ministry in June 2012.

Before that, Welch had been serving in a volunteer capacity at the New Horizons church plant in Springfield, Missouri and had initially turned down an offer to enter fulltime ministry. “It’s just amazing that the God of the universe calls people like me to serve Him in this way,” said Welch, jokingly adding, “Especially someone who said ‘No.’”

Mark and his wife, **Karie**, met at Union College and were married in July 1993. Karie taught at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas until the arrival of their first child, **Spencer**, who was joined later by **Graham, Sheldon** and **Gracelyn**.

Randy Harmdierks is communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Watch the ordination service and other camp meeting services at [youtube.com/imsdaconference](https://youtube.com/imsdaconference).



# DIVERSE, YET UNITED



Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference

Delegates vote at the 2016 Constituency Session held in Lincoln, Nebraska in June.

**A**s I prayerfully review our journey in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, here are a few things that give me great confidence in God's gracious leading into the future.

## ENGAGED CONGREGATIONS

Local congregations are beginning to take more and more personal responsibility for the influence they have in their community. Church boards are praying for guidance. New and creative ideas are becoming realities. Conference evangelism funds are no longer just for public meetings and traditional evangelism. We trust each congregation to dream and vision under the direction of God's Spirit.

## DEDICATED PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership makes a difference. The blessings of God have enabled us to grow our paid pastoral team. We currently have 55 pastors, up seven from 2011. Not only are there more

pastors, they are younger. As important as experience and age is, we have confidence in the next generation because their youthful zeal, fresh dreams and can-do attitude are making a difference for good. We are also committed to qualified and called men and women in pastoral ministry.

## ADVANCING ADVENTIST EDUCATION

The Conference Scholarship Program is supporting about 50 young people needing to attend Adventist boarding schools outside our conference each year. Our Kansas-Nebraska schools are also receiving significant scholarship monies to assist families with their tuition costs. This investment in our youth is worth it, now and into eternity!

## NEW EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES

We are unable to predict how the Spirit will lead. The growing immigrant population

in our territory is eager to hear the gospel. Many were taught about Adventism in their homeland (formerly Burma). The Karen people are a growing population in Omaha, Lincoln and parts of Western Kansas. We now have a Karen pastor in Omaha and their church is packed every Sabbath.

## STREAMLINING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

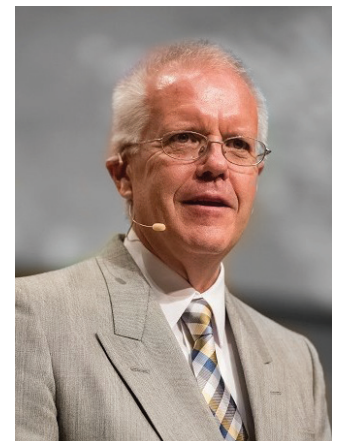
We are regularly evaluating how effectively we are using the tools and resources given us. Recently, several full-time positions have been eliminated by attrition at the conference office. This was not because of financial pressure, but because of changing times and conference mission priorities. Our desire is to see the largest possible amount of funds dedicated to front line ministries, our churches and schools.

## UNITING IN TRUTH

The Kansas-Nebraska Conference is made up of

ordinary people. We are Seventh-day Adventist Christians, yet so varied and diverse. Some have been around for a long time; many are new. We are young and old, weak and strong, victorious and struggling, believing and doubting, American-born and immigrant. Some have significant means, and others are barely making it from paycheck to paycheck. We may not agree on everything. Yet Jesus urges us to be united (Eph. 4:1-6). That does not mean that we look alike, think alike, enjoy the same music, or even like the same foods. It means we are united, in our diversity, around one grand purpose. Our differences don't have to separate us.

We are called to unite around the great Biblical truths such as compassion, grace, forgiveness, God's Sabbath, the second coming...the main things. We are called to circle tightly around Jesus.



**RON CARLSON** is president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

# CONFERENCE HOSTS MID-AMERICA PRAYER CONFERENCE

“It showed me that prayer is a true friendship with Jesus.



Virgil Covel

Participants at the 2016 Mid-America Prayer Conference attend an evening meeting at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

**O**n April 22-24 the Kansas-Nebraska Conference hosted a Mid-America Prayer Conference at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The meeting brought 85 people

together from conferences within our union. “A prayer conference is really about inviting people into a living, loving relationship with Jesus,” said **Virgil Covel**,

ministerial director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, who lead out in the planning and organization of the prayer conference. “Prayer is about coming into a relationship with God and being changed by Him. The prayer conference was designed to provide teaching, inspiration and time for individual prayer and reflection.”

Presenters shared experiences and thoughts on starting prayer ministries in their churches, keeping prayer journals and leading dynamic prayer lives. Keynote speaker **Ron Carlson**, president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference,

reminded attendees that Jesus uses broken people in powerful ways.

One attendee, reflecting on the conference, said, “It gave me a chance to reconnect with God in a special way, and it also reminded me of the assurance of salvation through grace alone.”

Plans are being laid for another Mid-America Prayer Conference in the spring of 2017. Join us and learn how prayer can change your life and the lives of others around you.

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Stephanie Gottfried is publications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

## Panhandle Camp Meeting

September 30-October 1, 2016 | Scottsbluff, NE

**Speaker: Dick Stenbakken**  
First-Person Presenter  
Author | [www.biblefaces.com](http://www.biblefaces.com)

Dr. Dick Stenbakken has been honing, researching, developing and professionally presenting biblical first person characters for over 30 years.



**John on Patmos**  
Friday evening



**The Leper of Matt. 8**  
Sabbath worship



**The Centurion at the Cross**  
Sabbath afternoon

# EYES ON ETERNITY

Courtesy Minnesota Conference



Revelation Speaks Peace attendees packed the Minneapolis Convention Center night after night during the largest Adventist reaping event in the Twin Cities' history.

**T**he Lord is doing many wonderful things in the Minnesota Conference! Using the acronym from our EYES on Eternity motif, here are some highlights from around the conference.

## E FOR EVANGELISM

During the past few years there has been an intentional focus on training and equipping churches for outreach ministry and the implementation of a discipleship track. With God's blessings during the recent quadrennium, 1,583 people united with Christ and His church in Minnesota through baptism or profession of faith.

The use of mass communication has also increased. In many communities, church members formed corporations establishing at least 11 FM radio stations broadcasting the gospel, with three more stations going on the air in 2016. Other churches have formed media ministries broadcasting via the Internet. Others have used the printed page, mailing literature or

fliers to entire zip codes, or distributing door-to-door.

## Y FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Our new youth director, José Torres, continues to build on the work of those who served before him. We expanded the team's conference-level leadership by sharing responsibilities with two associate youth directors: Pastor Vanessa Pujic focuses on Senior Youth Ministry and Pastor Sean Lee focuses on Young Adult Ministry. Our Adventurer and Pathfinder programs continue to grow through the efforts of volunteers Jim and Alvina Cook.

The most obvious change in youth ministry is the re-development of North Star Camp. At our 2008 Constituency Session, a vision plan was approved to move forward as funds became available. Since then, the Lord provided funding and personnel to replace all the camper cabins, build new staff cabins, renovate five buildings, and construct our new lodge.

## E FOR EDUCATION

In Minnesota, we have an excellent team of Adventist educators. Maplewood Academy serves our conference with multiple connected campuses, allowing us to reach more students. Stacy Stocks is our principal, and Terry Nennich serves as vice principal for finance. Terry has created an agriculture program that provides student labor and a source of income for the school.

Our former superintendent of education, Connie McCormick, has retired. Her caring, compassionate leadership focused on improving the quality of all our schools. Our part-time interim superintendent, Mindy Salyers, brought conference-wide training through the Olweus Anti-bullying curriculum. This was a cutting-edge move within the North American Division, and the quality of the content and level of implementation also impressed state officials.

We are pleased to announce that John Bedell is now serving as our superintendent of education and children's ministries director. John brings 33 years of experience in a variety of settings, including connected campuses and interaction with homeschoolers.

## S FOR SPIRITUALITY, STEWARDSHIP, AND SERVICE

Spirituality is difficult to measure. We encourage our members to spend time daily with God in prayer and Bible

study, building their relationship with Him.

Jesus makes it clear that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. Therefore, financial stewardship statistics provide one measure of growth. Assembling ourselves together also indicates spiritual growth. Consequently, church membership and attendance provide another measure of spirituality.

Our vice president for administration, Brian Mungandi, came to our team in 2014, bringing strong leadership and wise counsel. Reggie Leach, former vice president for finance, has left Minnesota after 12 years to serve in the Arizona Conference.

I want to thank our members for their service to the Lord. I'm so grateful for their faithfulness and all they do to advance His cause in Minnesota and the rest of the world as we keep working with our EYES on Eternity.



**JUSTIN LYONS**  
is president of the Minnesota Conference.

# KAREN LEWIS COMMISSIONED TO SERVE



Elders offer prayers of dedication for Karen and Steve Lewis at a commissioning service in Stillwater last April.



Photos: Courtesy Stillwater Church

**K**aren Lewis was commissioned as a gospel minister at the Stillwater Church in Minnesota on April 16. Karen joined the Minnesota Conference in 2013 as a Bible worker trainer, as well as associate pastor to the Stillwater Church. She is the only female pastor in Minnesota to have a two-church district, which also includes the Hinckley Church.

The Minnesota Conference Board of Trustees affirms Karen Lewis because she has given satisfactory evidence

of her calling and preparation for the work of the gospel ministry. The Board of Trustees therefore voted to authorize her to perform all the functions of a commissioned minister within the scope of the tenets and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Karen and her husband, **Steve**, have been married for 33 years. Steve is a retired CPA with U.S. Customs and is very supportive of his wife's ministry. He teaches Sabbath school as well as preaches.

They have two grown daughters and a very active 5-year-old grandson.

Karen was baptized by **Elder Mark Finley** in Chicago, Illinois in 1982. The Lord continues to bless Karen Lewis' ministry, and her churches have seen significant growth by baptisms and professions of faith. She is constantly lifting up Jesus, leading men and women to Christ.

.....  
Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

# EVANGELISM IS OUR LIFESTYLE

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



Mile High Academy celebrated the grand opening of its new facility in August 2015.

**F**ive years of inspiring outreach with hundreds of new believers joining our church, along with the committed involvement of young people, are a few top-of-the-line expressions of God's leading in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

But it's not the increased membership numbers, impressive statistics in stewardship, and educational achievements that make up Adventism in Colorado, Wyoming and the Northern tip of New Mexico. What is etched in the annals of the last quinquennium are the people who are called to follow Jesus and are involved in forging a faith community to inspire neighbors and society at large.

Our RMC mission statement, *To lovingly support and empower every member to know Christ and to make Him fully known*, is reflected in the initiatives and activities of our institutions.

From our corporate office in Denver, Colorado, we facilitate and support a palette of ministries, among them the following programs:

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry provides us with the inspiration to create witnessing programs. An international mission program, known as the Kaleo Project, began in 2013 and continues each year. The student missionaries not only work on building or refurbishing churches but have the opportunity to engage with a different culture and to preach the good news.

## LITERATURE EVANGELISM

Literature evangelism involves dozens of students supporting their studies financially and sharing the gospel through canvassing. Moreover, the summer and winter camps at Glacier View Ranch in Colorado and Mill Springs Ranch in Wyoming are an example of the program's success.

## EDUCATION

Education ministry in our conference is well established with 21 schools, including two K-12 academies—Campion and Mile High. Engaged with

project-based learning, our schools are beacons of light to their communities. All RMC schools are following a unified program known as CHERISH, emphasizing Christ-centeredness, Honor, Exploration, Responsibility, Integrity, Service and Heroism.

## EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

Evangelistic outreach in RMC is exploring innovation in evangelism. Plans in support of 2020 Vision, an outreach initiative to reach every home in the conference, will involve all our local churches. Members will be encouraged and organized to deliver leaflets, books and invitations to local church and community events.

Initiated at the 2012 Awaken Wyoming camp meeting, a grassroots movement, took off. The Awaken Wyoming project has the goal of bringing revival and reformation to Seventh-day Adventists across the state with a large-scale evangelism effort across their region. With an increased number of baptisms, we are expecting to reach the 18,000-member mark by the end of this quinquennium.

## HEALTH MINISTRY

Health ministry in RMC includes quality healthcare and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through CREATION Health. This is also well exemplified by the presence of five Adventist hospitals, part of Centura Health in Colorado.

Among the ministerial initiatives of RMC is an annual

pastoral evaluation, known as FAITH, established in 2015. The program affirms pastoral work and fine tunes it, when needed, to align more closely with the life of the local congregations and outreach plans of the church at large.

## COMMUNICATION

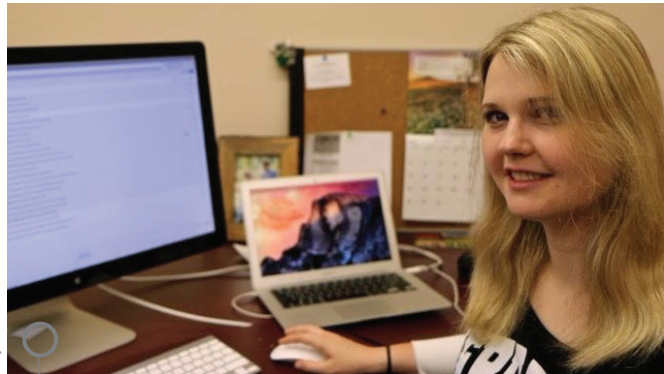
Communication is a ministry we strongly support. The weekly e-newsletter, *NewsNuggets*, and *Mountain Views* magazine, provide our church members with information and inspiration. Our commitment to communication is also seen in supporting an internship program, which along with interns in the youth ministry, is an investment we intentionally are making.

For RMC, evangelism is a lifestyle. It centers on reliance on God's leading and faithfulness in being committed to His Commission—to take Jesus into the community. Jesus is leading us to this end.



**ED BARNETT**  
is president of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

# SUMMER INTERN JOINS RMC COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Rajmund Dabrowski

Union College student Stefani Leeper practices her writing art.

It's no surprise that **Stefani Leeper** is spending her summer as communication intern for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Past teachers encouraged her talent. And her writing bears witness to it.

"I can see you being a great writer someday," said her high school English teacher in response to a story she wrote.

"This has potential for publication," a college professor voiced after Stefani submitted a research paper on Islamic Female Suicide Bombers.

Their predictions were set in motion and multiple Adventist journals published her articles, including *Mid-America's OUTLOOK*, several Union College publications, including the *Clocktower* for which she served as lifestyle editor, *Spectrum Magazine*, *Adventist Today*, *Insight* magazine and the *Collegiate Quarterly*. Her journalistic skills were tested in the summer of 2015 when Stefani was chosen as an intern with *Adventist Today* for the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

As part of an honors

program at Union College, Stefani was one of seven students who recently traveled to Hong Kong, Malaysia and China to study "wealth and poverty," Stefani explains. They were exploring the questions, "Are Christians doing enough to help the poor?" and "What are Christians supposed to do?" The study tour concluded with a research paper on her findings at the Bambang Seventh-day Adventist School.

"My writing has become more concrete because of **Dr. Cochran** and **Chris Blake**, both professors at Union College," comments Stefani. "They are very intense editors and they're willing to sit down and explain things."

Stefani's expertise will be a boon to the Communication Department this summer. We welcome her and look forward to the contributions she will make. She follows **Katie Morrison**, who was RMC's summer communication intern in 2015.

Carol Bolden is administrative assistant for communication for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

# STUDENTS TAKING GOOD NEWS TO COLORADO HOMES



Courtesy Emily Wood

Twenty-three students dedicated their summer to canvassing and evangelizing homes in Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Grand Junction.

We are off to another great start this summer," says **Joe Martin**, director of the Rocky Mountain Conference's Student Literature Evangelism program, now in its 26th year.

"Joe's mission is sharing books; his goal is not about money. He wants to spread truth," explains **Emily "Emy" Wood**, a communication major in her second year of LE with the Rocky Mountain Conference. "For us, it's not about getting enough money for paying off school bills, but giving away as many books as we can to help others."

Wood's fiancé **Eliezer Roque Cisneros**, a theology major at Union College in his fourth year of colporteur, shared that his goal is planting seeds. "I'm not here to indoctrinate anyone," the Olathe, Colorado native shared. "I just want to leave books for Jesus."

Cisneros shares the following experience that shows how he is accomplishing that:

While standing outside this home, I could hear yelling and hostility. I knocked and the door opened to show a young woman, patiently waiting for her partner to stop yelling. She let me show her the books, despite her husband

still interjecting from the other room. The house began to grow quiet as I worked from *Peace Above the Storm* (a large-print *Steps to Christ*) to the *Desire of Ages*. Finally, I handed the young woman *The Great Controversy*.

Suddenly the man rushed to the door and took the book from her hands.

"This is *The Great Controversy*," he said with a shaking voice. "It's written by Ellen White." The woman was more shocked than I was. "This book is the truth about what will happen before Jesus comes back!" Then he pointed at me. "You—you're a Seventh-day Adventist Christian."

"What's going on? How do you know all this?" the wife asked, witnessing a new side of her husband.

"Because," he said with tears swelling in his eyes, "I was an Adventist when I was a boy. I left the church when my leaders didn't believe in their own prophet."

He bought all my books that day.

Union College student Stefani Leeper is the summer communication intern for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

# SHAWNEE MISSION HEALTH

A Vital Contributor to Kansas City



**W**ith a long-standing commitment of *Improving Health Through Christian Service*, Shawnee Mission Health has an unwavering devotion to new growth initiatives to better meet the needs of the Kansas City community. Over the past five years, SMH has proven its dedication not only through the building of new facilities, but also through the creation of outreach programs aimed to support members of the community and associates alike.

## MEETING GROWING DEMANDS

SMH is growing, and its new facilities are making a big impact. Most recently, the organization started construction on SMH – Blue Valley to meet the health care needs of a rapidly growing area south of the Kansas City metro. The new hospital will feature an emergency department, laboratory, imaging center and a medical office building

for physicians in a variety of specialties. The expansion will provide better access to a wide variety of health services for people of all ages.

In an effort to meet the growing demand, the Bariatric Surgery Program at SMH – Prairie Star expanded its inpatient medical/surgical unit. With a record-breaking 1,514 bariatric procedures performed in 2015, the program helps patients with weight-related health conditions begin the journey to a healthier life.

SMH expanded its urgent care network in September 2015 by opening its first Centra Care Shawnee Mission Urgent Care location. Staffed with Board-certified physicians, Centra Care offers conveniences for those seeking walk-in care. Currently, SMH has two Centra Care locations with plans to open two additional locations by the end of the year.

With the opening of the Shawnee Mission Cancer Center in early 2014, patients receive the full continuum of care—from

diagnosis through inpatient and outpatient services and even prosthetics, support groups, classes and spiritual renewal—all on one campus. Patients have the opportunity to learn about the Seven Levels of Healing as well and participate in survivorship, spiritual, wellness and fitness programs designed to treat the whole patient.

In February 2013, SMH opened the Shawnee Mission Birth Center offering expert, compassionate care with a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. In 2015, the Center set a record with more than 5,000 births. SMH delivers more babies than any other hospital in the Kansas City area.

## COMMUNITY CARE

Giving back to the local community is the cornerstone of SMH's mission, and facility growth is just one way the organization contributes. For the past three years, SMH has partnered with City Union Mission to make a difference in the lives of homeless men in Kansas City. SMH associates volunteer their time regularly to serve meals and offer fellowship to the Mission's Long-Term Men's Group.

As part of a partnership with Johnson County Med ACT, SMH sponsors a CPR school program that adds thousands of lifesavers to our communities through providing training at area

schools as part of the regular health curriculum.

To assist SMH associates, the Spiritual Ambassadors Program opened a food pantry within the hospital. The Food Pantry is open year round and provides food and other items to associates needing support.

A new doctor match resource from SMH, MyHealthKC.com, helps patients find the right doctor in a matter of seconds. After answering a 12-question survey, visitors see a selection of primary care doctors in the SMH network who share their approach to health care, as well as personal interests, needs and lifestyles.

SMH's latest announcement includes plans to build the B.E. Smith Children's Center, a unique place where the Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center can help children with special needs and their families become better prepared for the future through therapeutic treatment and early education. The new center will also house the SMH Early Learning Center, which offers Christian-based early education to 600 children of associates and physicians.

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Anthony V. Vera Cruz is the director of Marketing and Brand Strategy for Adventist Health System.



# CROSSING HEARTS, HOPING TO CONNECT



Tom Dory and Libby Davis teamed up to facilitate a new cardiac rehab support group.

**H**ow can I get in touch with the support group?" **Dr. F. Tom Dory** asked shortly after beginning Phase 2 of the Cardiac Rehabilitation program at Shawnee Mission Health. Much to his surprise, one did not exist at the time.

To improve his health after going through bypass surgery following recent stent placements, Dory visited Cardiac Rehab three times a week to better understand his condition and start exercising safely under the careful watch of nurses and certified exercise physiologists.

Fast forward six months, and Cardiovascular Pulmonary Rehab manager **Libby Davis** asked Dory to facilitate a new support group following his completion of the program.

"After a heart condition or life-changing heart event,

patients are confronted with so many life changes," said Davis. "In these situations, the best people for our patients to talk to are those who have gone through the same thing."

Now in full swing, the support groups have been meeting on the first Friday of every month since February 2016, providing patients with a space to share their emotions and concerns in addition to their weekly exercises.

An extension of the Shawnee Mission Heart and Vascular Center, the Cardiac Rehab program consists of two phases, beginning with patient-intake and concluding with maintenance after patients have completed 12 weeks of exercise and education related to their heart conditions.

"Here at Shawnee Mission Health, we value caring for

the whole person, not just physical health," said Davis. "The new support groups strive to meet patients' spiritual and emotional needs as they adjust to changing circumstances."

To comply with busy schedules and the time-intensive cardiac program, the support groups take place during normal exercise hours. Every first Friday of the month, patients can choose to wrap up their exercises 20-30 minutes early to attend one of seven group sessions throughout the day, all led by Dory.

Dory, a retired pastor, college professor, high school music accompanist and support director, and pastoral counselor, is experienced in helping people relate to one another. He does so in a way that makes each person feel valued, said Davis.

As a heart patient himself, having gone through surgery and three stent placements, Dory knows first-hand about life alterations that come with a major heart condition. In response, he has formed a curriculum of themes that align with what patients may be going through.

After welcoming patients at each group session, Dory guides conversations surrounding the meeting's area of focus. Topics include first-time reactions to cardiovascular disease, what support looks like, finding peace and contentment, common feelings, attitudes and what makes change so difficult.

Not only have these meetings created a network of support for over 40 patients, but also a mentorship program. While the groups mainly focus on Phase 2 patients who come to Cardiac Rehab three days a week for training, Phase 3 patients are also invited to attend group sessions to share their experiences with the program and battle with cardiovascular disease.

"Everyone needs support from others," said Dory. "Our hope is that patients will find it here as we continue crossing hearts and sharing thoughts, fears and advice with one another."

To learn more about the Shawnee Mission Heart and Vascular Center, including the Cardiac Rehab program, visit [ShawneeMission.org](http://ShawneeMission.org).

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Ashley Maska is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

# ROCKY MT. REGION ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM

## A Strategic Approach to Community-Focused Mission

**T**he mission statement for Centura Health and the Rocky Mt. Region of Adventist Health Systems, which touches one out of every five Coloradans, is to “extend the healing ministry of Christ by caring for those who are ill and by nurturing the health of the people in our communities.” As such, one of the key strategies is to improve “well care,” in addition to “sick care.” This is being accomplished through the Community Health Improvement Process, community health partnerships, and through Global Health Initiatives.

The Rocky Mt. Region Adventist Health System is using the CREATION Health construct, created by Adventist Health Systems, to promote the Adventist philosophy of whole person care in many of the efforts noted below. CREATION is an acronym representing eight areas of health (Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition).

### COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, enacted in March 2010, added new mandates for nonprofit hospitals. It requires conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment once every three years to gauge the health

needs of communities and to develop implementation plans for addressing them. Fortunately, this activity aligns perfectly with Adventist Health System’s ongoing mission. Through this process the RMRAHS determined that mental health, obesity and access to healthcare are the most common pressing community health needs, and are currently developing strategies to meet these needs, as outlined below:

For mental health, strategies are being developed and training has already begun to combat mental health stigma, improve screening and prevent suicides. To combat obesity, the CREATION Health team has developed a curriculum for a community course titled *Pathways to Health and Wellness*. In addition, a HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) strategy includes an online tool called CaféWell that can be accessed through [Coloradocreationhealth.com](http://Coloradocreationhealth.com).

For healthcare access, community health advocates are working in hospital emergency rooms, service areas, physician offices, and community centers assisting people with no health insurance in finding access to healthcare through new insurance options. As a result of these initiatives, and others across the state, the uninsured rate in Colorado has declined from 15% in 2011 to 6% in 2016.

Doctors Care, an organization focusing on the needs of underserved populations

under the age of 35, has a special emphasis on young mothers and children. Since 2012 they have worked with RMRAHS physicians, who volunteer their time to provide primary and specialty care access to this vulnerable population. RMRAHS hospitals are also collaborating with physician practices to create community centers of wellbeing. These new centers are working toward the goal of making Colorado the healthiest state in the U.S. and are focusing on mental health and obesity.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Through the RMRAHS partnership with Adventist Community Services, 68,912 duplicated clients were served in 2013 through all programs (19,000 unduplicated individuals from 2,300 families); including 64,844 through FamilyCare. FamilyCare is the core program at ACS and provides basic needs in times of crisis such as food, clothing, blankets, diapers, utility assistance, temporary housing, emergency shelter, job training and more. FamilyCare encompasses the third largest food bank in Colorado.

RMRAHS has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Conference to create the Friendship Camp program at Glacier View Ranch. Since 2010, more than 1,200 children of hospital staff, who

have other than Adventist faith traditions or are nonaffiliated with a church, attended the Adventist summer camp program.

In September 2015 a unique day of service was sponsored by the CREATION Health teams at the Denver-area Adventist hospitals that brought together Adventist churches, schools and hospitals, along with other community organizations. Love Matters Most was an event involving 300 people, five houses, hundreds of paintbrushes, dozens of gallons of paint, and a concert for the homeowners. This is scheduled to become an annual day of community service.

### GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The RMRAHS has sponsored 50 global health medical mission trips by partnering with three Adventist hospitals in Peru, Nepal and Rwanda. In the last five years more than 1,000 volunteers traveled to these hospitals with a focus on training local physicians, nurses and administrators.

Anthony V. Vera Cruz is the director of Marketing and Brand Strategy for Adventist Health System.

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Castle Rock, CO 80109  
Phone: 720.455.5000  
Web: [castlerockhospital.org](http://castlerockhospital.org)



## LITTLETON

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Littleton, CO 80122  
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Web: [mylittletonhospital.org](http://mylittletonhospital.org)



## PARKER

9395 Crown Crest Blvd  
Parker, CO 80138  
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Web: [parkerhospital.org](http://parkerhospital.org)



## PORTER

2525 S Downing St  
Denver, CO 80210  
Phone: 303.778.1955  
Web: [porterhospital.org](http://porterhospital.org)



# SHIRLEY ENGEL 1924-2016



**S**hirley Beth (Polzin) Engel was born Sept. 26, 1924 in rural Deuel County, South Dakota, and passed away May 17, 2016 at her home in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was 92.

Shirley graduated from Marietta Minnesota High School in 1942, then joined the war effort doing assembly work in a glider factory in the Twin Cities area. When the war was over, she married Marvin Engel in 1946.

After raising four children, Shirley returned to the work force doing secretarial jobs. For almost 24 years she served as assistant editor of OUTLOOK magazine,

keeping this publication going during long periods between official editors, and never missing an issue. Those who worked with Shirley remember her as always being reliable, professional and pleasant.

After retiring Shirley did volunteer work at Union College and St. Elizabeth's Hospital for almost seven years.

Shirley's hobbies were reading, knitting and china painting. Her favorite part of the Bible was the Sermon on the Mount as found in the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Matthew, which she had memorized. It

begins with the blessings Jesus bestows on His followers, then continues to how we should relate to and treat one another. In the sixth chapter He tells us how to worship Him—giving alms, praying and fasting.

Among Shirley's favorite memories was a four-week vacation in Australia; trailer-traveling and camping, including backpacking in the Grand Canyon; having a hot-air balloon ride; and flying in a small, open-cockpit plane.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin; daughters and sons-in-law, Nadeane and Tom Diede, and Connie and Mike Williams; one son, Blair; five grandchildren, Tanya

(Diede) Bindernagel Sanchez, Kristina Hood, Therese Diede, Steven Williams, and Matthew Williams; two great-grandchildren, Michael and Macrina Bindernagel; one sister, Donna Magedanz; and one brother and wife, Claydon and Marion Polzin.

Shirley was preceded in death by her daughter, Anita Hood; grandson, Benjamin Hood; parents, Carl and Fenna Polzin; two brothers, Rodney and Lyle Polzin; one sister, Marguerite Gilbert; and brothers-in-law, Charles Magedanz and David Gilbert.

**Atkinson, R. Ronald**, b. Feb. 3, 1927 in McAllen, TX. d. May 28, 2016 in Lawton, MI. Member of Springfield Church. Preceded in death by wife Wilma; daughter Wanda. Survivors include daughter Nola Garner; 7 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren. Served as Adventist pastor, teacher.

**Boykin, Ardelia**, b. May 1, 1931 in Muskogee, OK. d. June 15, 2016 in Columbia, MO. Member of Columbia Church. Preceded in death by husband Randolph. Survivors include daughter Lily Smith; sons Michael and Curtis Love.

**Brown, Sandra R.**, b. June 9, 1966 in Milan, MO. d. May 17, 2016 in Kirksville, MO. Member of Kirksville Church. Preceded in death by husbands Rick Walburn and Charlie Brown; 1 brother. Survivors include parents; 4 sisters.

**Chilson, Anna C.**, b. Feb. 9, 1925 in Pine Island, MN. d. Apr. 26, 2016 in St. Joseph, MI. Member of Rochester Church. Preceded in death by husband Arbey; 1 infant son Scott. Survivors include daughter, Deborah; sons Bennett, Robert, James, and Todd; 2 siblings; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

**Dobyns, Connie M.**, b. Aug. 25, 1944. d. Apr. 21, 2016 in Springfield, MO. Member of Willow Springs Church. Preceded in death by son Roy. Survivors include husband Robert; daughters Valva Ryser and Ellen Smith; sons Richard, Ronald and Randel; 16 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

**Downing, Aletrice**, b. Apr. 7, 1934 in Denver, CO; d. Apr. 7, 2016. Member of Kansas City (MO) Central Church. Preceded in death by daughter Diane; son Brad Schuman; 1 brother. Survivors include husband Donald; daughters Jennifer Hammer, Pam Teter, Kim Davis and Donita Downing; sons Jim and Greg Schuman; 2 sisters; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**Engstrom, Julie**, b. Feb. 14, 1932 in Conception, MO. d. Apr. 1, 2015. Member of Lee's Summit, Church. Preceded in death by husband Kenneth; siblings Linus, Ronnie, Connie, Kenny, Bob and Rita. Survivors include daughter Marsha; sons Stephen and Mark; 4 sisters; 2 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

**Fox, Drusilla F.**, b. Feb. 5, 1919 in Clinton, MO. d. June 20, 2016 in Bison, KS. Member of La Crosse Church. Preceded in death by husband Lynn. Survivors include daughters Carol Bales-Speer and Lois Fox-Felkel; sons Charles and Donald; 8 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**Henderson, Henry**, b. Jan. 21, 1948 in Pittsburg, KS. d. May 4, 2016. Member of Three Angels Church (MO). Survivors include wife Annette; daughters Jannelle Trinkle and Heather Henderson; sons LaRon, Mika, Mikeal and TeFeri; 8 siblings; 8 grandchildren.

**Henson, Charles**, b. Aug. 18, 1942 in St. Louis, MO. d. Apr. 11, 2016 in St. Charles, MO. Member of Mid-Rivers Church. Survivors include wife Maggie; daughters Chris Gibson, Kim Tipton and Susan Flynn; 2 brothers; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

**Hodges, Edna M.**, b. Jan. 17, 1923 in Monterey, IN. d. May 18, 2016 in Liberty, MO. Member of Gladstone Church. Preceded in death by husband Joe; 7 siblings; 2 grandchildren. Survivors include daughter Jean Allen; 1 grandson; 2 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Isaak, DeLane W.**, b. June 14, 1935. d. June 12, 2016. Member of Dakota Conference. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Joanne; children Mary Leader, Greg Isaak and Geoffrey Isaak.

**James, Carl**, b. Aug. 30, 1923 in Omaha, NE. d. Apr. 16, 2016 in Rolla, MO. Member of Rolla (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Gladys; 3 siblings.

Survivors include wife Barbara; daughters Linda Rogers and Carolyn Sowards; 3 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

**Lawson, Dorothy "Dot" L.**, b. Dec. 7, 1924 in Belle, MO. d. June 27, 2016 in Cuba, MO. Member of Rolla Church. Preceded in death by son Kenneth. Survivors include husband Glen; daughter Karen; sons Lary and Gary; 3 siblings; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

**Martinez, Paul E.**, b. Dec. 11, 1940 in Trinidad, CO. d. June 13, 2016 in Loveland, CO. Member of Greeley Church. Survivors include wife Evelyn; children Cynthia, Regina and Mark.

**Rasche, Paul**, b. Dec. 5, 1945; d. Oct. 16, 2015. Member of St. Louis (MO) Central Church.

**Stockwell, Virginia**, b. Sept. 18, 1938 in Browerville, MN; d. Apr. 24, 2016. Member of Ft. Madison (IA) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; daughter RoxAnne

Spoores; 2 infant children; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include husband Donald; daughters RaeLynn Fowler and Rebekah Stockwell; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

**Vietz, Joann**, b. Nov. 30, 1929 in Craig, NE. d. June 7, 2016 in Rugby, ND. Member of Goodrich Church. Preceded in death by 4 siblings. Survivors include daughters Karen Vietz, Vicky Reile; son Kevin; 3 grandsons.

**Ward, Darnell**, b. Sept. 22, 1937 in Pitcher, OK. d. May 14, 2016. Member of Lamar (MO) Church. Survivors include daughter Danette Boatwright; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Whitehill, Patsy**, b. July 8, 1950. d. July 25, 1916 in Omaha, NE. Member of Golden Hills Church. Survivors include daughter Jennifer Dunham; son Jonathan; stepson Jamie Whitehill; 3 grandchildren.

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Sept 2	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30
	Denver	7:27	7:16	7:05	6:53	6:42
	Grand Junction	7:41	7:30	7:19	7:07	6:56
	Pueblo	7:25	7:14	7:03	6:52	6:41
	IOWA					
	Davenport	7:32	7:20	7:08	6:56	6:44
	Des Moines	7:44	7:32	7:20	7:08	6:56
	Sioux City	7:56	7:44	7:31	7:19	7:07
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	8:06	7:55	7:44	7:33	7:23
Goodland	7:14	7:03	6:51	6:40	6:29	
Topeka	7:50	7:39	7:27	7:16	7:05	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	7:43	7:30	7:16	7:02	6:48	
International Falls	7:51	7:36	7:22	7:07	6:52	
Minneapolis	7:46	7:33	7:20	7:06	6:53	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	7:36	7:25	7:14	7:03	6:52	
Kansas City	7:45	7:34	7:23	7:12	7:00	
St. Louis	7:27	7:16	7:05	6:54	6:43	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	7:55	7:44	7:32	7:20	7:08	
North Platte	8:12	8:00	7:48	7:36	7:24	
Scottsbluff	7:24	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:36	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	8:18	8:04	7:50	7:36	7:22	
Fargo	8:02	7:48	7:34	7:20	7:06	
Williston	8:31	8:17	8:02	7:48	7:33	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	8:14	8:01	7:48	7:35	7:22	
Rapid City	7:25	7:12	6:59	6:46	6:33	
Sioux Falls	7:58	7:46	7:33	7:20	7:07	
WYOMING						
Casper	7:36	7:24	7:11	6:58	6:46	
Cheyenne	7:28	7:16	7:04	6:52	6:41	
Sheridan	7:40	7:27	7:14	7:01	6:48	

## SERVICES

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## EMPLOYMENT

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and students, to ensure the Library's platform develops and performs as expected. Maintain and improve internal and external processes to ensure optimal efficiency. Be aware of and adopt the latest trends in technology, and responsible for external relations with donors. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1089>

**Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy seeks Full Time faculty in the Departments of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences.** Candidates for the Department of Pharmacy Practice must possess a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree; candidates for the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences must possess a PhD degree. Prior teaching experience is desired, but not necessary. Interested individuals, please send CV and letter of intent to Jen Mathew, Office of the Dean [atjmathew@llu.edu](mailto:atjmathew@llu.edu).

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**Security Analyst for Department of Information Technology at Southern Adventist University:** maintains security to protect computer systems, networks, and data; administers SIEM, anti-virus, federated authentication services, and intrusion detection systems; maintains Southern's configuration management software; performs risk assessments and testing of data processing, and conducts software patching. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in related field, certification (CISSP, CISA, CEH) preferred; five years systems/network management experience, understands programming concepts, and troubleshooting skills. Send resume: [sarahshelburne@southern.edu](mailto:sarahshelburne@southern.edu). More info: [www.southern.edu/hr](http://www.southern.edu/hr)

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**Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education** and eligible for NAD teaching certification. Primary responsibilities include: teaching curriculum and instruction courses and supervising elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience, including lower grades and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2017. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, [dewhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dewhite@ucollege.edu).

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**Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend**, Oct. 7-8 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12. For more information call 701.258.9000 x236 or visit www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

**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.

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## Legal Notice of the Eighth Session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the eighth session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held September 11, 2016 at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. This regular session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports, electing officers, adopting a constitution and bylaws, and transacting such business as may properly come before the session. The meeting will convene Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm. The delegates to this session are the regularly elected delegates from the conferences and institutions in the territory of the Mid-America Union Conference.

Gary Thurber, president  
Gil F. Webb, vice president for administration

## Legal Notice of the Quinquennial Session of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists, legal corporations, the regular business session will be held at the time of the eighth business session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting of the associations will convene Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees, receive reports and to transact business that may be properly come before the corporation at that time. The members of these associations are the accredited delegates in attendance at the meeting of the Mid-America Union Conference Session.

Gary Thurber, president  
Troy Peoples, vice president for finance

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