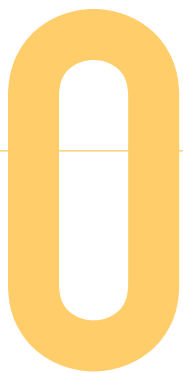


# OUTLOOK



**Managing our  
Resources** p. 6

**OCT2016**  
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### Full-life Stewardship: What, Why and How

Seventh-day Adventists value living simply, modestly and without excess. We live out these values through our choices—what we buy, what we eat, how we spend our time, what we wear, how we engage with other people.

This concept of full-life stewardship is critical for Christians because how we treat each other—and this planet—is how we will be living in our future home: the New Earth. Redemption has always meant the goal of reclaiming Planet Earth, not escaping it.

But creation care is more than just good stewardship. It is choosing to live respectfully. It is expressing thankfulness for the divine gift of the world we share with all forms of life.

#### Limited resources

Dr. Melissa Price, assistant professor of Natural Resources and Environmental Management at the University of Hawaii, points out that with 7.3 billion people in the world, there are limited amounts of food, medical supplies and other commodities for every person on the planet. “Every choice in the direction of excess takes away from the basic needs of others,” she says.

So how can we live responsibly? It turns out that what’s good for our own physical health also helps protect the environment! Price suggests that we should learn where products come from and where waste goes. We should take care of what we have and purchase only what we need—used or recycled when possible.

She further recommends avoiding plastic products and packaging, driving less (biking and walking more), buying locally grown food or growing your own, and composting green waste. In addition, you can ask your representative to vote for policies that protect our water, air and natural spaces.

Finally, Price advises us: “Choose to live simply so that others can simply live.” - Brenda Dickerson, editor

### ONLINE



#### Faithfulness in the Darkest Hour

[outlookmag.org/faithfulness-in-the-darkest-hour/](http://outlookmag.org/faithfulness-in-the-darkest-hour/)



#### Disruption and Megatrends

[outlookmag.org/disruption-and-megatrends/](http://outlookmag.org/disruption-and-megatrends/)



### ON THE COVER

(New York, after Hurricane Sandy, 2014)  
Whether our homes are being destroyed by natural disasters or as a result of climate change, we as Christians have a responsibility to manage our resources in the best way possible. More on p. 6.



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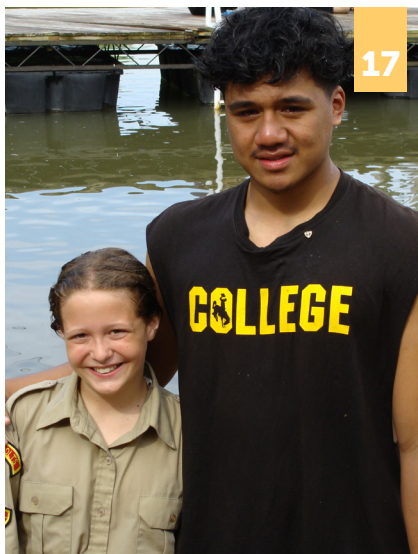
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# Imperative: A Relational Understanding of Salvation

**A**s we conclude this series on Adventist Identity, we have discovered that our destiny consists of two alternatives: either returning to right relationship with God (lost in Eden), or ceasing to exist. That's why we say that salvation means having a saving relationship with God.

But as Adventist Christians we have a problem in that, after speaking of such a relationship, we immediately return to speaking in legal terms. In fact, "justification" and "sanctification," words Paul uses to explain salvation, were common legal terms in the courts of his day.

This demonstrates a weakness in our theological discussion. If we intend to truly pursue the idea of a saving relationship with God, then we will have to use relational terminology and relational concepts rather than legal ones. In fact, when we look at it, we realize that laws exist because relationships fail.

## Restoring relationships

Let me demonstrate. In my state there are laws that dictate when and how divorces can take place. But I have no idea about the particulars of these laws, for one simple reason: My wife and I have a strong marriage, and we have no desire for, or intent to, divorce. Since our marriage relationship is strong, we have

no need of divorce law.

Contract law exists to regulate business relationships, but only becomes active in cases where that relationship breaks down or comes into question. So long as the relationship remains strong, the contract is superfluous.

So we see that rules exist to safeguard and to deal with breakdowns in relationships. At the same time, although they do give some general guidance as to how a healthy relationship can be maintained, rules still are primarily concerned with negatives—with behaviors that destroy relationships. Laws focus on behavior, because that can be observed; they cannot deal effectively with attitudes, which are less subject to observation. In a world of broken relationships, laws necessarily focus on behaviors that destroy relationships.

Finally, Jesus Himself testified that the purpose—the foundation—of the law itself, is relationships. When asked about the greatest commandment, He stated two, neither of which were listed in the Decalogue: You shall love the Lord with all your being, from Deuteronomy 6; and love your neighbor as yourself, from Leviticus 19. So the law itself is based upon the need to restore these loving relationships!

## New vocabulary, new concepts

The Ten Commandments do for these relationships what divorce law does concerning marriage: it describes and prohibits behaviors that undermine trust and betray love. Yet having a strong marriage is more than simply not abusing one another. And loving God is more than not worshipping idols; loving your neighbor is not simply refraining from murder, theft, adultery, and the rest. Those are the legal descriptions of behaviors that destroy those relationships.

If we want to transition from a legalistic understanding of salvation to a relational understanding of salvation, we must develop a different vocabulary, a different set of concepts. We're going to have to develop a series of concepts that explain how to build strong relationships, rather than focusing on how not to break them down.

The good news is that Jesus is in the business of restoring relationships and, if we are truly His church, then that is our business, too. And as we pursue that path of understanding and building positive relationships, we will find our true identity, our true purpose, and like the disciples in the upper room, once we are of one accord, differences of opinion will fade as we go about fulfilling our purpose as a light to the world. **□**

### ED DICKERSON

is a lay pastor, church planter, writer and speaker. He enjoys photography, golf, music, watching football and exegetical Bible study. His passion is to do everything in his power to see that, if the Lord tarries, there will be an Adventist church that his children and grandchildren want to belong to.

Ed has been blogging for OUTLOOK since 2009.



# Where is your **Focus?**

**T**he theme of this OUTLOOK issue is centered around stewardship. You are probably expecting to read much about the returning and giving of your financial resources to support the church. While this is important, this issue is not focused on money, but rather our stewardship of the gifts and talents the Lord has given us.

One person who is well known here in Mid-America is Ron Scott. Ron served the Iowa-Missouri Conference for a number of years as the youth director and educational superintendent. Ron was a gifted administrator, principal, teacher, and dearly beloved by the youth. I don't know of anyone, young or old, who doesn't love Ron and his wife, Paulette. They have a passion for people and used their gift set to help others the Lord put in their path.

## Unexpected shifts

Ron and Paulette retired a few years back and were greatly enjoying time with their children and grandchildren. Then, as many of you know, about five years ago Ron was involved in a fluke skiing accident at Copper Mountain, Colorado. He was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with a spinal cord injury. Ron first had to fight for his life, and then learn about how to live life as a quadriplegic. I happened to live in Denver at the time

of his accident and had the privilege of visiting while he was first in the hospital and then as a patient at Craig, a world-renowned rehab hospital in Denver.

It would be my goal to go and cheer him up...but I never could. He would cheer me up instead! His attitude and spirit blessed me every time I was around him.

Ron's gift set changed significantly as a result of the accident, but his desire to be a blessing to others never left him. Ron now uses his mind, gracious voice and indelible spirit as a counselor in helping others who also are adjusting to a new way of life. Ron is one of the greatest "stewards" I know. He values people and is determined to bless others with all the Lord gives him!

## Sharing the love

How are you using the gifts the Lord has given you? Are you finding ways to bless others with your God-given talents? I have to ask myself the question, "*What kind of a church would we have if all of us determined to share in the treasures of time and talents lent us by God with those He puts in our path?*"

Phil. 2:1-4 speaks of our stewardship of each other: "Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same



Courtesy Ron Scott

Ron Scott, a gracious and inspiring counselor, is determined to bless and encourage everyone around him.

mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

I believe we would see amazing results in our churches if we all put this advice into practice! 📌

## GARY THURBER

is president of the Mid-America Union.





# Love in the Time of a Neglected House

According to environmental scientist Marcus Eriksen, it is estimated that there are over 5.3 trillion pieces of plastic, weighing nearly 270,000 tons, on the surface of the world's oceans.

**F**ollowing the Jewish tradition, my mum always relegated my siblings and me to deep cleaning duty on Friday afternoons. Dishes, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming and picking up toys and clothes—the goal was to get everything ready for Sabbath. The house was to be spotless and smelling of Fabuloso, not a rug or sock out of place.

Keeping the house clean was not just for the families

sharing Sabbath lunch with us. Taking care of the house wasn't just because the house was rented. Taking care of the house we lived in just made sense.

**If taking care of a building makes sense, isn't taking care of our home planet common sense?**

Let's take a look at our job description, as envisioned by

God in the beginning. "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us," reads Gen. 1:26, "they will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."

Then, God delivers His first command to the newly created humans. "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth . . . I am putting

# Being pro-science or pro-religion doesn't mean you have to be against the other, and coming to terms with this is important if we want to be productive members of a community with experts in both science and religion.

you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.” (Gen. 1:28, GNT)

The creation story creates a precedent for our role in our planet. With that in mind, let's for a minute entertain the idea that climate change is real and it is the key issue we face as humans.

From the time I was young, I remember hearing how each year was the hottest year on record, or the wettest in many years. The challenge we face is that so many people have placed high stakes on this subject. Everyone seems to have a side, and social media's name-calling and “preaching” exacerbates the issue.

The question then arises, *Is climate change too divisive a subject to be discussed in a Christian setting?* As a Christian, I want to keep a level head and peaceful demeanor. My duty as a Christian is to share a gospel of hope to a dying world. The Bible calls it an “everlasting gospel” because the core of the message I need to share is true despite the issues that may unfold around us.

## It's all about protecting people.

The truth is that climate change is permeating all aspects of daily life. A

majority of science and data point to rising temperatures and climate change effects on events ranging from the Zika virus, to the Syrian conflict, to dying coral reef communities and forests.

The worst part is that a large portion of the damage being done is irreparable—we are too late. These facts can seem completely overwhelming and may tempt us to leave the quest for raising awareness to others.

What we should keep in mind is that, beyond all corporate or political pressure surrounding hot-button topics, climate change is affecting *people*, because science, unlike *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, is true whether we believe in it or not. Since the church is comprised of individuals, we must protect them, their families, their stories.

Kiribati, an island nation in the Pacific, has asked for help evacuating its population since rising seas are rendering their land uninhabitable—an entire nation in danger of ceasing to exist because the ocean swallows it whole. I can tell you that Kiribati has a population of a little over 100,000 people. I can also tell you that the Adventist church has been present in the island since 1947. What these statistics cannot tell you is that every

one of those 100,000 people has a story, and every one of them, whether a member of the church or part of the population we have the duty to serve, is in danger of losing their homes.

## What can we do about it?

Being pro-science or pro-religion doesn't mean you have to be against the other, and coming to terms with this is important if we want to be productive members of a community with experts in both science and religion.

There are myriad ways of being pro-science or pro-religion without being anti-intellectual. Adventists have been on the cutting edge of many advances, especially in the health field. Today, we have the opportunity to become part of the solution once again.

We need to remember that the most important resource humans have is each other. We need to educate ourselves. Community action groups are operating around the country to bring awareness. New, exciting technology makes it easier for us to use cleaner, more efficient fuels.

I am a millennial, and along with my children and grandchildren, will inherit this planet we call home. While there are things that cannot

be changed, I can collaborate, innovate and become part of the solution using the gifts, tools, education and resources at my disposal.

Finally, I must learn to accept that what is too late to save is lost. However, from that loss I must remember that this doesn't have to be the end for all else that I love. In fact, climate change activism must start with love.

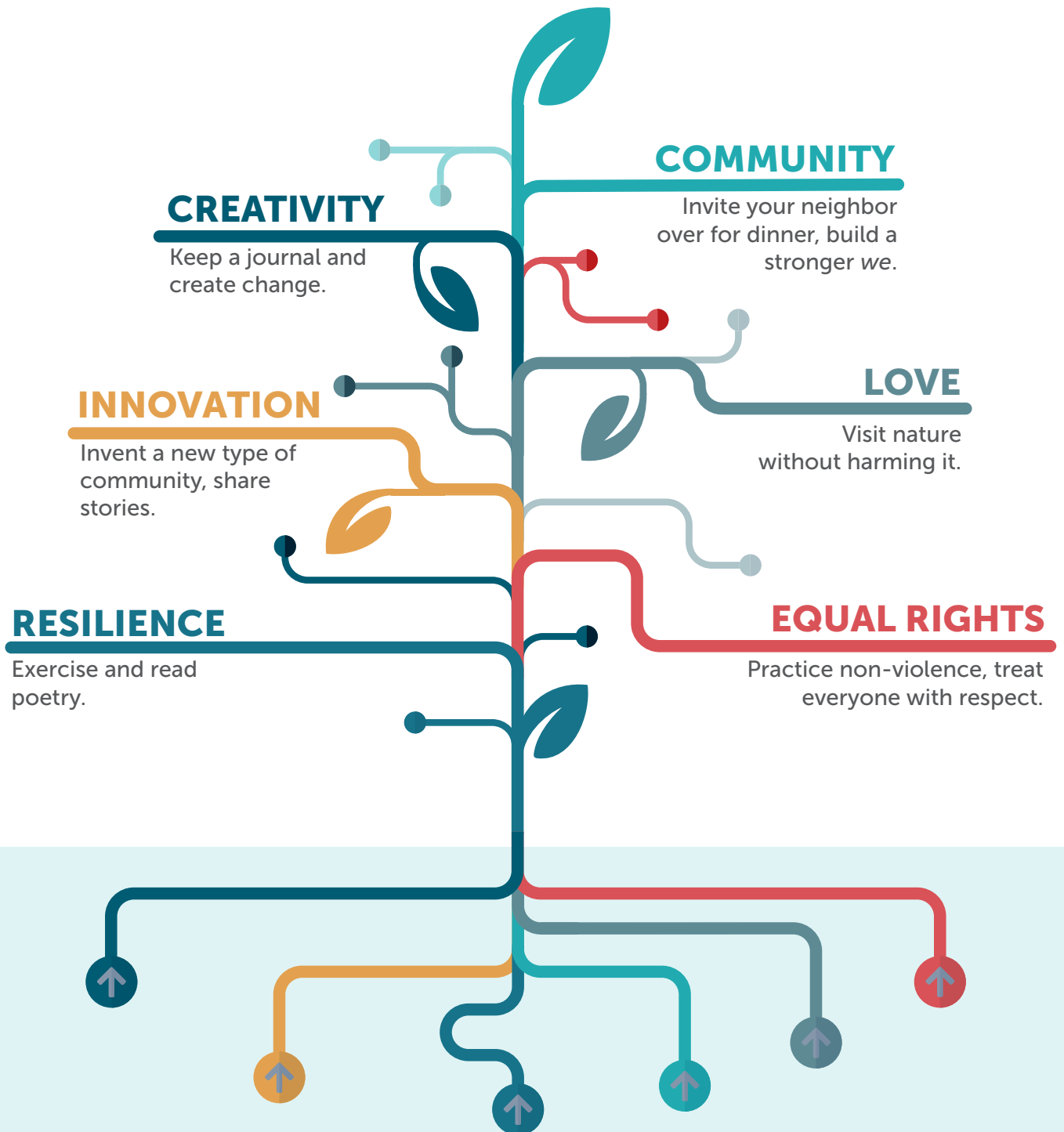
## True love motivates change.

Without love, I cannot care for the ecosystem that I do not see but sustains my livelihood. Without love, I cannot care for the well being of my neighbor. Taking care of my home cannot be a selfish endeavor. I must keep in mind that I share this world—the only one we have—with my neighbor. Have I shown my neighbors I love them?

Let's not wait—let's take action to clean our spills, our waste, the air we breathe. We are stewards of our planet. In the name of love, let's keep a clean house for each other and the children who come after us. [\[1\]](#)

Pablo Colindres-Moreno has recently joined the OUTLOOK communication team to manage the union's websites and social media (see p. 11).

**You've committed to act—so where do you begin? Activists around the world engage based on several concepts. Here are six you can start implementing yourself.**





# Bonita's

## Beautiful Life



Bonita Rapp has been keeping “her ladies” looking beautiful for 52 years at her hair salon in Lincoln, Nebraska. When they can’t drive anymore, Bonita drives herself to their homes or care facilities.

**B**onita Rapp seems to have a pretty good handle on the concept of full-life stewardship. At age 86, she still works five days a week at her hair salon in Lincoln, Nebraska where she has been located for the past 30 years.

“The Mid-America Union used to be in the front part of this building,” says Bonita. “The upstairs is still the old offices that they used 107 years ago.”

Bonita started out three blocks further up Calvert Street in the old Christian Record Services for the Blind building. After her husband died, she and her daughter, Kitty, lived in an apartment above the beauty shop where

Bonita worked long hours to support them. “My folks did a lot for me,” she adds.

These days, Kitty is a nurse in North Carolina, and Bonita has one grandson and two stepsons. Her younger brother, Max, has retired from teaching and lives in Las Vegas, while another brother, Bid, is still going strong with his painting business at age 78.

### Aging well

Bonita’s oldest client is 102. Another lady, age 97, has been coming to her salon for over 50 years. The lady’s daughter drives her into town every week. “But if people can’t come to me, I go to them,” Bonita says, smiling. She regularly drives to client’s homes

or nursing homes to keep her ladies looking lovely. “I’m not as busy as I used to be, but I’m always coming and going.” She laughingly adds that if she didn’t have income from her rental properties, she’d be living under a bridge. “When I get off work here, I go over to my rentals and work.”

Bonita has taken off work only two days in 52 years for being sick. How has she retained such good health? “I don’t know!” she exclaims. “I don’t really do anything. I eat a lot of chocolate (chuckles). One thing is that I don’t eat as much meat as I used to. I love roasted vegetables, and they taste so much better roasted with olive oil and salt. Otherwise, I just eat an average diet.”


She doesn’t take any pills. “No medicine,” Bonita declares. “I used to take vitamins and calcium, and I even quit that. I can still climb a ladder and get around steps pretty good. And I like to work in my flower beds.” She does go to Walgreens for a yearly flu shot.

“I don’t have a doctor,” she quips. “I don’t really need one. If I needed one, I’d go.”

### A changing world

One of the societal changes Bonita most appreciates is the decrease in public smoking. “I put up with that for years,” she states. “People used to sit there and smoke while I worked, right in my face. I’m so glad nobody can do that anymore.”

Other major changes are in the realm of communication. Bonita uses her cell phone for calls, but she doesn’t text. She does, however, have a computer and an iPad. “I use my iPad a lot. I’m on it because it has Facebook on there. I like that you can really keep in touch with people, like, from all over the USA. I think you are never too old to learn.”

As a life-long Adventist, Bonita has seen many changes in the church as well. “There is no comparison on how it used to be,” she observes. “We know how the people used to think about Adventists—they were all so odd, and fanatics. There are still some fanatics, but not like it used to be. And we’re less critical of each other. We’ve changed for the better.” 

.....  
Brenda Dickerson is editor of  
OUTLOOK.

# The Great Controversy Collection

What we can learn about stewardship from symbols, signs and seals in coins and medals

As a dedicated numismatist (coin collector) and biblical student, I have long been interested in coins and medals that relate to stories in the Bible. Not only are coins tiny bits of political art that one can hold in their hand, Christ also told several insightful parables using coins as object lessons.

Coins are one of the few physical objects that are still used the same way today as they have been for the past 2,400 years and thus are direct links to ancient times. Many of these ancient symbols continue to be used in the present day. In fact, our own American currency is full of symbolism.

## Prophecies and events

Over the years I have assembled a unique collection of more than 500 coins, medals, tokens and currency that portray the history of the Bible and the rise of the Christian (and Adventist) church as depicted on numismatic objects. While most of the events in the Old Testament occurred prior to the invention of coinage in about 600 B.C., the collection includes many coins that portray stories, events and personages mentioned in the Bible (Noah's ark, Daniel in the lion's den, Moses, and others). But far more than just an assemblage of biblical-era coinage, the Great Controversy Collection emphasizes the role of

biblical prophecy as understood through the historical-critical method of interpretation.

There are time prophecies and events in the Bible that have a definite starting and ending point in world history. Many of these are represented in the collection, including a medal commemorating the Lisbon earthquake, one in memory of the fall of the stars in 1833 and, of course, coins dated 1844 of which the collection contains examples from over 40 different countries, reflecting that prophetic events are transnational in fulfillment. One of the prides of the collection is a 'twofer,' a medal struck in 1844 to commemorate the fall of the Bastille and imprisonment of the pope in 1798. Two time prophecies in one medal!

Protestant coinage includes communion tokens, temperance medals, medals relating to the Sunday school movement and Missionary Society medals. The subject of the largest number of commemorative medals in the world is thought to be Martin Luther, who has hundreds of different medals struck in his honor, many of which are present in this collection.

## Adventist history represented

The Seventh-day Adventist church has had numerous



Photo not to scale

**Top Left:** Lincoln SDA school transportation token. Used in the 1950s for riding the church school bus. **Top Right:** Martin. This superb proof medal from 1888 commemorates Martin Luther's birth. **Bottom Left:** French medal struck in 1844 commemorating the storming of the Bastille. The French revolution culminated with the imprisonment of the Pope—and the end of the 2300-Day Prophecy. **Bottom Right:** Official Seventh-day Adventist medal commissioned by the General Conference.

numismatic items struck over the years, both officially and unofficially. This collection includes an example of the official General Conference medal presented to the pope by a past GC president, as well as a bus token used by schoolchildren at Union College Academy in 1958. Even fringe groups are represented: the Shepherd's Rod at Mt. Carmel, Waco, Texas made their

own paper money and the Brimsmead family had a store in Australia that issued tokens in the 1850s. □

Lawrence J. Lee is an Adventist coin collector who travels throughout the Midwest purchasing collections and giving presentations.

Read full article:  
[outlookmag.org/the-great-controversy-collection/](http://outlookmag.org/the-great-controversy-collection/)

# Colindres Joins MAUC Communication Team

**Pablo Colindres-Moreno** has accepted the position of digital media assistant for the Communication Department at the Mid-America Union Conference.

He will, among other duties, assist the communication director with further increasing Mid-America's online presence, including social media and original website content.

Previously, Colindres served as a workforce coordinator at the Nebraska Department of Labor, where he developed training materials as well as connected jobseekers with opportunities in education, training and securing stable, well-paying

jobs. He began blogging for OUTLOOK in April of this year.

"I'm excited to work in a communication department again," said Colindres. "I hope my background in crisis communication, program implementation and media can be put to good use to educate and inform our consumer base."

Colindres enjoys storytelling and listening to other's stories, which is what led him to a career in communications. "I believe that every person is an incredible well of new and exciting ideas. No two people have the exact same experiences, and this makes every person incredibly

important." In the setting of our community which includes churches, professionals and schools, stories that highlight our diversity in unity are paramount to the vision Colindres has going forward.

Born in Guatemala and raised in Texas, Colindres graduated from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in communication with an emphasis in journalism and a minor in international disaster management.

"We are excited to have someone of Pablo's caliber join the MAUC communication team. He has a wide skill set with a deep love



for his Savior and church," said MAUC president **Gary Thurber**.

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

## MAUC 2016 Summer Camps Successful



Summer camp is big ministry in the Mid-America Union with 10 camps around our nine-state territory. Instead of hearing ghost stories around a campfire, our campers hear the Great Controversy story. Counselors take time to listen and pray with campers. Each week camp pastors invite campers to give their lives to Christ.

**Get more information about summer camp:**  
<http://bit.ly/2016mausummercamps>

## Park Hill Hosts Food Festival and More



Denver Park Hill's Takin' Jesus to the Streets and the International Vegetarian Food Festival made for a weekend to remember! Some highlights include motorcycle rides, Piñatas, games, and a bouncy house for the kids.

We handed out backpacks, school supplies and clothing to the community youth. Adams County Workforce was present for employment resources along with our Personal Ministry booth that was full of helpful information.

We were blessed with prestigious guests, awesome testimonies, spoken word and a skit. The Korean Church

came with an amazing production for all ages. There was plenty of music, singing, ministry, fellowship and food representing Jamaica, Uganda, Mexico and India just to name a few!

To top the weekend off, **Pastor Stephen Brooks** brought us the Word. We look forward to serving the community again very soon, so if you missed this grand weekend stay posted for the next upcoming event... and don't miss out!

Stories by Brittany Winkfield, communication director for the Central States Conference.

## Living Debt Free

The Philadelphia Church in Des Moines, Iowa and is like many other churches. They have a building for worshipping in every week. They have leaders over various departments and members who are passionate about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. They have monthly board meetings and quarterly business meetings and regular Finance Committee meetings. Often, a great deal of time was spent focused on how to pay the bills, and many times that focus blocked them from being able to fund the areas of ministry that God has called the church to within their community.

In response, the leaders of Philadelphia voted to hold a 10-week financial program called Financial Peace University. FPU, a biblically based curriculum, teaches people how to handle money God's way. Through seven "baby steps" students learn how to get out of debt and on the road to financial freedom

using biblical references such as Prov. 22:7 (The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender) and Prov. 6:6-11 to promote eliminating and avoiding debt.

At the end of the class the group had paid off thousands of dollars in debt and cut-up many credit cards. And people were beginning to save. Excited and inspired, Philadelphia began to implement the same principles from FPU in church operations and in a little over a year all the church's debt was paid off.

What does being debt free as a church mean? **Pastor Keith Hackle Jr.** said, "It means a lot to the members of the church and the community because we're now freed to do ministry on another level. Our mission and method at Philadelphia is to Be, Teach and Inspire L.O.V.E. Being free allows us to Teach freedom and Inspire freedom around the world. Furthermore, it means a lot to the community because they get to see us as a church that practices what we preach."

New Community in Denver, Colorado has also facilitated FPU courses to implement and remain consistent with financial planning. The charge to each of us from Central States Conference is to practice good stewardship over what God has given.

If you are interested in hosting FPU at your church, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) for more information.



## Never Miss an Update

Join the CSC mailing list

Sign up at [central-states.org](http://central-states.org)

# Spotlight on Ministry

## Youth Quake Event



Youth Quake presents Lavonnie Woodberry with a \$500 scholarship.



JC Step Agency and Canon gather at Hinkley High School.

**Date and Time:**

October 15 at 6:30 pm.

**Location:**

Gateway High School.  
Admission: \$20.00 at the door (\$15.50 online)

**What you can expect at a Youth Quake event:**

- Great Entertainment
- Raffle Tickets
- Great Food
- Scholarship Give Away

**Connect:**

Like us on Facebook:  
@youthquake16

Website: [www.youthquakemovement.com](http://www.youthquakemovement.com)

Youth Quake was founded in September 2015 by **Dennis** and **Joann Paige**, members of Denver Park Hill Church, with the desire to better their community through gospel

entertainment. They strive to do this through gospel music, arts and dance while featuring professional gospel artists. Their mission is to incorporate music and dance as a tool to

enhance the kingdom of God. Their vision is to globalize Youth Quake to the masses by bringing in professional gospel artist and giving local gospel artists a platform to showcase

their talent.

Each year Youth Quake puts together a gospel concert that includes local artists and well-known gospel artists.

Van transportation is being offered for \$85 from the Central States Youth Center to Oakwood University. We will leave the Conference Youth Center at 12:00 am on Wednesday, Oct. 5 and arrive in St. Louis at 3:30 am.

We'll depart St. Louis at 4:00 am with a goal of arriving at Oakwood in Huntsville, Alabama at 11:00 am on Wednesday, Oct. 5. We'll leave Huntsville at 7:00 am on Sunday, Oct. 9 and arrive in St. Louis at 2:00 pm and

Kansas City at 6:00 pm.

For areas outside of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, please contact **Pastor Hoy** so we can figure out an economical way to get any interested youth to Oakwood Live.

# Ruth Chase

## Exemplifying a Life of Service



Ruth Chase served as a book keeper for both her church and her family's airplane business for nearly 30 years.

### Where did your expertise as a bookkeeper begin?

I was thrown into keeping the books for my husband's business without any education. I learned by trial and error and with the help of accountants who would do our taxes. I got so I could do a good profit and loss statement.

### Tell us about you and your husband's business.

**Bob** was a pilot, did aircraft maintenance, was a crop duster and rebuilt airplanes. He and his brother **Monroe**, who sold and traded airplanes, owned Midway Flying Service out of Hebron, North Dakota. We always paid tithe on our part of the business and God blessed us.

The city of Mandan, North Dakota asked us to become the managers for the Mandan airport. All that was there was a little city office. We built a shop and put up 10 T-hangers. My dad helped build those in 1962. To go there now you wouldn't believe it is the same place. The planes are much bigger. The hangers were built for Super Cub-sized airplanes.

In the early 70s we started Mandan Air Service. In addition, we also had a salvage business with our son called B & K Aircraft Salvage. We would drive to an accident location, take the aircraft apart, load it onto our trailer and haul it home. We would work with the insurance companies. That was difficult, especially if you knew the people involved. We hauled in a lot of airplanes.

We rebuilt mainly Super Cubs. My grandson's first word was airplane. I miss being around the airplanes. It was my life. If my son, or grandson, isn't too busy, they will take me up for a ride.

**D**akota Conference communication director **Jacquie Biloff** talks with **Ruth Chase** about church, family and their airplane business.

### Jacquie Biloff: How many years were you treasurer for the Mandan Adventist Church?

**Ruth Chase:** Probably 30 years. I am still an assistant and deposited church money this morning. I started out as an assistant treasurer back in the 80s and then I became the head treasurer. It's just this last year that I have trained someone else. Now I don't have to pay the bills anymore—that is the good part. I always took it seriously and worried if there wasn't enough money to pay the bills. Today some people try to get all they can get and let tomorrow worry about tomorrow, but I like it when bills are paid.



### **What was your position in the business?**

I did all the bookwork, cleaned the office, went on salvages, sewed fabric for the wings, rib stitched the fabric to the wings, and put on the N numbers. It was so nice when the regulations were changed from putting the numbers on the wings to putting them on the fuselage. The numbers were required to be painted on the bottom of one wing and on the top of the other wing so they could be seen if an aircraft was flying over or under you. They were large numbers. We had to measure precisely so they would be centered horizontally and vertically. The first one I did was red numbers on a white wing. I put them on backwards and upside down. It took a long time to sand those off.

### **How many years were you in business?**

We were married in 1956; Bob was spraying crops then. He helped rebuild a couple airplanes at the farm. When we moved to Mandan, Bob was the mechanic and Monroe was the salesman. We had planes lined up on the runway waiting for Bob to work on them because he was a meticulous mechanic. He maintained several doctors' airplanes and he always cautioned them to be careful when they took off. Bob was a cautious man and treated flying with respect.

On Oct. 8, 1998, Bob was cleaning the windshield of an aircraft; it was our grandson's birthday. He slipped off the tire, hit his head on the strut and then on the concrete. They did surgery but he did not fully recover. He died Nov. 2 from a blood clot. He had his 64th birthday in the hospital. We were just at the point to do some traveling. He was a very humble, faithful, dedicated man. He had been head deacon at church for many years. The Lord knew he was ready to go.

We sent *Signs of the Times* to all our customers for many years. Bob had quite a ministry going besides all his airplane work. He would copy sermons and send tapes and books. After the accident, I had two businesses to dissolve. I moved and bought a house in town.

Our entire church was praying for me; it was such a blessing. When it came time to move, the whole church showed up and had me moved by noon. At the funeral the church family fed over 450 people. My church is wonderful. I don't know if I would have gotten through without them. That's what church families are for. We are such a tight-knit family.

### **Were you raised as a Seventh-day Adventist?**

My parents were Lutheran. However, my dad's two brothers married Adventist ladies who worked with my parents until they were ready to be baptized. For some reason, something came up and my parents couldn't be baptized the same day. However, my mother didn't wait and was baptized. When she was baptized, I cried and cried. I thought they were trying to drown her. Dad became angry that Mom didn't wait and took away the car so Mom couldn't go to church. So a bachelor would come by and pick us up. Dad gave back the car. He always made sure we went to church, studied the lesson and sent us to academy.

Years later a pastor visited my dad and said, "Don't you think it is time to give you heart to the Lord?"

"I was just waiting for someone to ask me," Dad replied. After the baptism, Dad kept saying, "I did it—I finally did it." The church always asked Dad to help with the work, but never asked about his salvation. So many times we take people for granted. We forget to ask them where their heart is.

# Iowa-Missouri Youth Deliver Care Packages to Fire Fighters



Courtesy Jessica Rochholz



Randy Harmdierks

Speaker Nathan Cranson and two attendees of the youth rally illustrate how difficult it is to understand God's voice when our senses are blocked.

A small group of youth rally attendees visit with fire fighters after delivering a care package and thanking them for their service.

Young people from across Iowa gathered in August for the Iowa Youth Rally at the Des Moines Church. Many of those who came attend public or home schools, and the yearly event serves as a way to form friendships and connections that might not otherwise be possible. Quite a few young people from Missouri also came this year. There were over 40 attendees in all.

The theme for the weekend was Defending Your Faith, and speaker **Nathan Cranson**, pastor of the Ottumwa district, challenged attendees to spend

daily time in God's Word to bring their hearts and minds into full alignment with the will of God and to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in them.

"We all construct our own perception of reality, and that determines the way we interact with the world," he said. "Are you willing to be made a fool in your classroom? To be mocked by friends? To take a stand for God even if it means you're not cool?" After sharing stories from heroes of faith from the Bible he added, "Christ is waiting for you and

for me. He's waiting to see if you're willing to choose Him. Whether you are willing to live a life of faith."

On Sabbath afternoon, attendees were given an opportunity to share their faith through a random act of kindness. After being split into small groups, the young people made posters and assembled gift packages for Des Moines area fire fighters and delivered them to several stations around the city. They thanked the fire fighters for their service and prayed with them. The youth then had

an opportunity to converse more with the fire fighters while touring the stations and learning more about what it's like to be a fire fighter.

After the youth rally one participant said, "The speaker was great and I enjoyed helping the community." Another attendee who appreciated the worship talks said, "The messages were relevant for me. This weekend was awesome."

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



# Student's Loss of Perfect Attendance Leads to Two Baptisms



Courtesy, Marcia Clark

Shelby Halstead and Caleb Loa were baptized this spring during the Iowa-Missouri Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Heritage.

Along with just nine other students in her school, 11-year-old **Shelby Halstead** was on the verge of receiving an award for perfect attendance during the past school year.

Shelby had also earned several Pathfinder honors during the year and was looking forward to attending this year's Iowa-Missouri Pathfinder Camporee. However, that would mean missing a day of school and losing her perfect attendance record.

Her parents left the decision to Shelby, encouraging

her to do what she believed Jesus would have her do. Shelby decided to attend the camporee, and while there she responded to a call given to the campers to give their hearts completely to God.

Twenty-seven campers were baptized on Sabbath during camporee, but Shelby wanted to wait until her parents could be present. In consultation with her parents, her Pathfinder director, **Jeffrey Fender**, arranged for a special baptism on Sunday morning so her parents could be there. Family and

friends gathered to witness Shelby's baptism, and when one young man, **Caleb Loa**, was walking to the lake with his pastor, **Mark Tagaloa** of the Independence Samoan Company, he confided in the pastor that he had been struggling with his decision to be baptized and asked if he could be baptized along with Shelby. Heaven rejoiced as Caleb joined Shelby in baptism, and Shelby's difficult decision turned into another soul won for God's kingdom.

Shelby was received into fellowship of the Lebanon

Church in Missouri, along with six other people who were baptized following an Amazing Facts evangelistic series and Bible school this spring. Forty-seven guests attended the series, and 11 completed the Bible school lessons. Several other attendees from the series are now regularly attending church and studying for baptism.

.....  
Marcia Clark is communication secretary for the Lebanon Church.

## New Principal at Midland Academy



Dan Kittle is the new principal at Midland Adventist Academy.

Courtesy of Midland Adventist Academy

We are delighted to welcome **Daniel (Dan) Kittle** to the Kansas-Nebraska Conference as principal of Midland Adventist Academy. Dan comes to us with a wealth of experience and has served the Adventist community as a teacher, chaplain, youth director, youth pastor and principal.

**Ron Halvorsen, Jr.**, president of the Ohio Conference, says that Dan, “is absolutely committed to ministering to young people and has dedicated his life to it. His heart and passion are in Adventist Christian Education. He is absolutely sold out to serving God and the youth of our church.”

Most recently Dan served as principal of Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio. Prior to that, he served as principal

of Fresno Academy for eight years and as the youth director of the Central California Conference for eight years.

When asked about his aspirations for Midland Adventist Academy, Dan responded, “I am committed to building an abundant learning community. In leading toward this goal I seek to apply this simple truth to all relationships: ‘God sees us as washed by the blood of Christ, pure before His throne, and worthy of eternity.’ It is my desire to give the blessing of eternity, if only for an instant, to each person I meet. I desire for each to know that God sees them as whole, redeemed, unblemished and competent.”

.....  
Gary Kruger is educational superintendent for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

## Christ Behind Bars Impacts Inmates



Jonathan Burt

Pastor Jonathan Burt and local congregants prepare to minister to prison inmates.

Christ Behind Bars is a Seventh-day Adventist prison ministry that impacts the lives of thousands of prisoners all over Kansas.

Founder **Dale Vondell** shares his testimony of why the ministry was started: “I was in a prison cell wanting something different in my life, and I knew that everything I tried on my own failed! My wife was a Seventh-day Adventist who had backslidden and was reconverted while I was in prison. She kept sending me Bible studies in the form of letters and I would answer them and send them back.

“I finally asked Christ into my heart and my life has never been the same! I was baptized on July 18, 2009 and **Dottie** and I started doing programs with Christmas Behind Bars out of Indiana and have continued to grow in Christ. We moved to Kansas and started Christ Behind Bars which has been embraced and supported by our church family at Enterprise Church and is expanding to other churches as well!”

For each prison that is visited, a program is led by the Vondells where members share

their testimonies of how Christ has changed their lives. Every inmate receives a bag containing snacks, free Bible studies and Adventist books that are purchased through donations from faithful supporters.

With God’s guidance and goodness, the ministry continues to grow. Since December of 2014, members have visited many jails and prisons throughout Kansas and to date between 13,000-14,000 inmates have been impacted by this ministry. At a program on July 23 in Larned, Kansas, every man in the room, including the guards, stood and raised their hands when asked who would stand for Jesus and accept Him into their life.

The following week at Norton, a prison of 850 men, participants saw most of the inmates stand for Jesus as well. The Holy Spirit is working! With the prayerful support of those who love Jesus, Enterprise, Salina and other churches will continue to spread the good news of Christ’s saving grace to every hurting heart in every prison.

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

# Zelaya and McKenzie Ordained to Gospel Ministry



Calista Covet

Jorge Zelaya with his wife, Mariana, and their children, Gabriel, Kathleen, Emily and Mark are serving the Grand Island bilingual district.

**P**astor Jorge Zelaya was born in El Salvador. He was raised Seventh-day Adventist and his fondest memories from childhood are of the whole family gathered around the kitchen table for worship and prayer each morning and evening. In the late 1970s a civil war broke out in El Salvador and his family emigrated to the United States.

Pastor Zelaya decided to pursue a career in the medical field, but during the summer of 1989 the Lord called him to ministry. He was baptized, joined the church and decided to attend the seminary in Argentina, South America. He received his bachelor's degree in theology and shortly after graduating, married **Mariana Olivera**. God blessed their family with four children: **Gabriel**, 19, **Kathleen**, 16, **Emily**, 14, and **Mark**, 13.

Zelaya served the church in Argentina and El Salvador until 1998 when God called them back to the U.S., where

they served multiple churches in the Los Angeles, California area. For 20 years, Pastor Zelaya has focused his ministry on training and equipping church members to prepare people for Jesus' second coming.

In 2010, he and his family moved to the Kansas-Nebraska Conference where they served the Wichita, Kansas district for four years. Pastor Zelaya is currently serving the Grand Island, Nebraska bilingual district (Grand Island, Lexington and Fairfield). He was ordained to the ministry on July 16 in the Grand Island Church.

**Pastor Otavio McKenzie** felt a call to ministry at the age of 12. For a nearly a decade he ignored the call before finally yielding to the Lord's will. Otavio describes his journey as being blessed with a praying mother and a relentless God. McKenzie was born in Kingston, Jamaica and raised in Florida.



Stephanie Gottfried

Pastor Otavio McKenzie and his wife, Bellamy, minister at the Wichita Cornerstone Church.

In the spring of 2007, McKenzie received a well-needed and timely blessing. After facing several challenges that had left him broken and searching, God lifted him up and offered him a second chance. While training and serving as a Bible worker in California, McKenzie learned what it meant to be an Adventist Christian, a gospel worker and a man of God. It was during this time that McKenzie and his wife, **Bellamy**, gained an unquenchable passion for others.

McKenzie shares, "Ministry is the most important thing to me and I can honestly say that it is what I live for. Recounting my own story, and yet looking forward each day, I cannot help but have a passion for Who and what saved me personally. When I think about ministry as a whole, I think about drawing close to others,

and meeting their needs individually and corporately.

"Everyone has a story, and it is my pleasure to be there to listen, comfort and point them to Jesus. Just the thought of being used as a vessel to impart hope and a clearer glimpse of Jesus' love is a blessing. There is no greater privilege and truly no greater joy."

Feeling God's call again, in December of 2011, McKenzie decided to pursue an education at Andrews University Seminary. While traveling from California to Michigan, he received a call to join the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

McKenzie has served in Kansas-Nebraska for nearly five years. He currently serves the Wichita Cornerstone congregation and was ordained to the gospel ministry on August 20.

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

# Conference Plans to Plant 15 Churches



Pastor Albert Isaboke is conducting Bible studies, teaching and building a new community of believers in the Bloomington area.

by strategically planting new community churches in these counties and neighborhoods.

The conference is putting together a strategy, using the Simple Church ministry model, to minister to those in our community who are referred to as unchurched or church-dones. This Simple Church ministry is an attempt to do church in communities that seem to be closed to “the church.” The model closely follows the biblical principle of the “priesthood of all believers,” thus allowing lay leadership to do ministry in homes.

The conference recently planted a mission group in Bloomington, Minnesota, a city of about 86,000 people. This is one of several geographic plants that we hope will set in motion a more dynamic church mission.

The conference asked **Pastor**

**Albert Isaboke** to work in the Bloomington area conducting Bible studies, teaching and building a new community of believers. Pastor Isaboke is an ordained minister, native of Kenya, Africa and a graduate of Andrews University. He comes to the Minnesota Conference with experience pastoring several districts in Kenya.

We expect that God will bless the churches being planted and transform lives in a tangible, meaningful way as we following the counsel of Ellen White: “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol 9, p. 189).

We believe that church planting is one important step in the process of sharing the

good news of Jesus Christ in the community. The Minnesota Conference is taking seriously the challenge given by **Elder Dan Jackson** to plant churches in communities where there are no Seventh-day Adventist churches today.

Please take time to pray for the church planting initiative and the church revitalization challenge in the conference and in the Mid-America Union. As the Minnesota Conference accepts the challenge to plant 15 new church communities preparing men and women, boys and girls for the kingdom by 2020, let’s all focus on eternity.

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

In response to the North American Division’s challenge to plant 1,000 community churches by 2020, the Minnesota Conference has undertaken to plant three community churches each year leading up to 2020.

As we look at the state of Minnesota, we have noticed there are many counties, neighborhoods and even people groups that still don’t have the presence of a Seventh-day Adventist church. As a conference, we want to challenge our members to action, and also support a church planting and revitalization program

Simple Church  
**TRAINING WORKSHOP**  
plant *Minnesota*

- :: September 23-25, 2016
- :: Ideal for families
- :: Free registration includes lodging and training materials
- :: Hosted at the North Star Camp, two hours North of Minneapolis
- :: Sponsored by the Minnesota Conference

A house church planting workshop for modern-day missionaries.  
[www.SimpleChurchTrainingWorkshops.com](http://www.SimpleChurchTrainingWorkshops.com)

# Pastors and Teachers Engage in Visioning Session

Photos: Courtesy Minnesota Conference



Carol Raney, from the Origins Curriculum Resources Project at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, spoke about clear and appealing ways to present creation in an environment saturated with the teachings of evolution.



During their annual workers meeting, Minnesota pastors were challenged to be creative in developing stewardship initiatives in their local churches and communities.



The Minnesota Conference held its annual workers meeting at North Star Camp July 31-Aug. 4, bringing together pastors and teachers under the theme “Created.” The pastors were challenged to design a vision for their ministry. The strategic planning question, “What would we do if money was not an issue?” helped challenge the pastors to re-examine stewardship in the church’s response to the difficulties regarding the proclamation of the gospel. The challenge of sharing the gospel is not a financial crisis, and must focus on how to streamline resources to stay in step

with local ministry.

The pastors were challenged to contemplate and be creative in developing stewardship initiatives in their local churches and communities. Time was spent looking at the conference’s strategic acronym EYES on Eternity, which represents Evangelism, Youth, Education, Stewardship, Spirituality and Service.

The pastors were charged to work with churches in their district to make realistic projections and set achievable goals within the framework of this acronym. The challenge was to envision their work over the

next four years.

In the joint sessions, the pastors and teachers come together to participate in several presentations on the issues of creation. **Carol Raney**, from the Origins Curriculum Resources Project at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, was the primary speaker. The goal was to help our pastors and teachers present Genesis chapters 1-11, in an environment saturated with the teachings of evolution, with such clarity as to appeal to and strengthen our young people and our church members in their faith. Raney

covered topics like evolution defined, misconceptions about evolution, and the question of natural selection.

The Minnesota Conference has a powerful team of workers: men and women who are dedicated to the work and their calling. We pray for total worker participation in the conference work. Our vision is to do exploits of greater things in these four areas over the next four years, if the Lord has not come by then. Let’s keep our EYES focused on eternity!

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

## 400 Attend Wyoming Campout at Mills Spring Ranch

Photos: Rajmund Dabrowski



Jason and Grace Logan are surrounded by family and friends during Jason's ordination.

Nestled in the shade of pines in the Casper Mountains of Wyoming, Mills Spring Ranch featured a genuine feel for the Arise Wyoming Campout, held July 12-17.

Arise Wyoming, a new installment of Awaken Wyoming, attracted a record

400 Seventh-day Adventists, young and old, from the cowboy state, said **Rajmund Dabrowski**, RMC communication director.

Arise Wyoming included the musical talents of **Matt** and **Josie Winikus**, the hometown Sage Creek Gospel Band, and the junior and state

fiddle champs who blessed the congregation with tunes inspired through love for Jesus Christ. Other festivities of the closing day included **Al Williams'** retirement, the ordination of **Jason Logan** of the Wyoming southwest, and an inspirational, enthusiastic series on the Book of Acts

by featured speaker **David Asscherick**.

Stefani Leeper was Rocky Mountain Conference's summer intern. She began her senior year at Union College in August.

Read the rest of this story at: [bit.ly/RMCCampout2016](http://bit.ly/RMCCampout2016)

## ACS Closes after 38 Years of Denver Operation

After 38 years of serving the Denver community, Adventist Community Services Community L.I.F.T. closed its operation on August 17 due to lack of funding. The closure was announced on August 2 by action of the Executive Committee of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

The Executive Committee voted "to reluctantly recognize the need to close ACS Community L.I.F.T. at this time due to lack of funding and support from constituent churches," the action stated.

ACS Community L.I.F.T. served thousands of children and adults with its food bank and medical clinic. Since 1979, Denver's Barnum neighborhood was a fixture on First Avenue east of Sheridan, and in April 2016 received a much-needed lift of its own, managers said, when volunteers with the nonprofit group Rebuilding Together Metro Denver were assisted by Lowes volunteers in giving the ACS Community L.I.F.T. building an update.

**Stephanie Denning**, chair of the ACS Community L.I.F.T.

Board of Trustees, presented ACS's current financial position and outlined two options: an increase of funding and support from the conference and constituent churches, or closing the facility.

Over the years, donations and financial support from RMC made the operation possible, but repeatedly was short with necessary funding to continue the service.

According to **George Crumley**, RMC vice president for finance, after selling the building and assets, and after

debts have been paid, any funds remaining will be held as potential seed money for future operations.

"It is the hope to see a new partnership develop between the conference, churches and Adventist hospitals to continue this much-needed ministry in the Denver metro community," Crumley says.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

# LifeSource's Children Ministries Seeks Radical Ways to Empower Youth



Stefani Leeper

A children's ministry display in the church lobby gives older members a taste of what the younger ones experience.



If he had been asked five years ago what he would be doing today, LifeSource Fellowship's children's ministries leader **Tim Cress** probably would not have answered, "Reconstructing the Redrock Amphitheater and Mile High Stadium in a church." But if you ask him now what he sees himself doing in the next five years, he can't envision anything different.

Over three years ago, Cress landed the job of children's ministries director at LifeSource and found himself faced with a few difficult facts: Only 20 kids attended Sabbath school classes on a weekly basis, and according to national statistics, 70-80 percent of them would leave the

church. Across denominations in the United States, 50 percent of youth leave, he shares, "and that's not acceptable. I have two kids, and I don't want to see one follow Jesus while the other doesn't."

Hence, Cress decided to take on a radically new approach to children's discipleship by building personal, lasting relationships among parents, children, and Sabbath school leaders.

Stefani Leeper, summer communication intern for Rocky Mountain Conference, is now attending Union College for her senior year.

Read the rest of this story at: [bit.ly/RMClifesource](http://bit.ly/RMClifesource)

# Meet Chanelle Watson

If you visit the Rocky Mountain Conference office and seek to meet with **President Barnett, Eric Nelson, George Crumley** or **Craig Carr**, you will first need to see their executive assistant, the keeper of appointments, **Chanelle Watson**.

Watson began her reign of grace at RMC in January 2016, after having first served corporate America for over 20 years. The Bahamian native brings with her a wealth of experience, knowledge, expertise and a young family.

"A few years ago, while working in Minnesota, I felt a pulling toward working for the church," she explains, peeking up from behind her monitors. "I didn't know what capacity I wanted to serve in, but I knew I was done with corporate America and wanted to work more for the denomination."

Her calling led her back to her alma mater, Union College, where she worked for nine months. Then Watson relocated to Colorado and found herself back in corporate America at Children's Hospital of Colorado as a legal and risk analyst.

Watson still felt a strong tugging in her heart to work for the church and be around people with the same Christian beliefs. She eventually applied to RMC, and as all positions were full, her



Rainmond Dabrowski

resume was filed for over two years before she was invited for an interview.

Watson graduated from Union College with a degree in business administration and a degree in office management. She later went to England where she obtained her law degree. She returned to the Bahamas with her law degree in hand, but ventured back to the United States to obtain her master's degree in business administration.

Watson and her husband, **Dale**, live in Aurora, Colorado with their three active teenagers, **Jefferson** (17), **Gabrielle** (16), and **Natasha** (14). "They are the joy of my life," she shares.

So, if your journey brings you to the RMC office or the Adventist Book Center, take a moment and meet the soft-spoken, ever-charming and smiling Chanelle Watson. It will be worth your time!

Stefani Leeper, summer intern for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

# A Taste of Raspberry Pi

Mid-America academy students experience a college-level computer course

College View Academy senior **Demy Sigowa** likes computers—so much that he plans to pursue a career in computer science. His desire only grew stronger last spring when he took Fundamentals of Computer Science, part of a Union College pilot program to offer new college-level courses to academy students in Mid-America.

“I loved the class,” Sigowa said. “It was challenging at times, but all worthwhile knowledge. My favorite part was the Raspberry Pi section.” The class teaches students a variety of computer skills, including how to disassemble a computer and hard drive; encrypt and decrypt messages using public and private key systems; and monitor, save and plot temperature data using a SenseHat attachment and a Raspberry Pi—a small, inexpensive computer.

**Dr. Seth McNeill**, who teaches engineering and computer science, described the Raspberry Pi as “the processor system used in cell phones, but set up with USB ports, HDMI outputs, and audio output more like a regular computer.” Thanks to funding from the Division of Business and Computer Science advisory board, students pay a reduced fee and can keep the small computers after the class is over.

Fundamentals of Computer



Mid-America academy students can take Union College’s Fundamentals of Computer Science class to gain an introduction to the world of computing—including learning to program a Raspberry Pi—all while earning college credit.

Science—team-taught by McNeill and fellow computer professor **Debbie Unterseher**—is a required introductory course for every computer major at Union. Students learn the basics of computer programming with HTML, CSS and JavaScript; and server management using Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP servers.

“We try to introduce students to everything we teach at Union in one semester,” McNeill said. “We touch on most aspects of computer science and information systems.”

The instructors use an asynchronous format to deliver course content to the academy students. Rather

than all students meeting in a virtual classroom at the same time, the instructors provide course materials online and then communicate with each student via phone conversations, email and texting.

“Church leadership in this area of the country have been asking Union College to offer distance learning courses to Adventist academies,” said **Dr. Frankie Rose**, vice president for academic administration. “We hope to increase the number of courses we can make available to academy students using distance learning technology. These courses help students by providing an affordable way to earn college credit, and give them a sense

of what it might be like to prepare for a specific career.”

Union has offered a computer applications course to academy students for several years. “There is a high demand for workers in computer related fields,” said Rose. “We hope these courses will encourage more students to consider a career in computers.”

Those jobs tend to pay well, too. According to a recent *Forbes* article ranking the 20 careers with the highest starting salaries for 2016, five of the top 10 were in the computer field—programming, information management and hardware.

For Sigowa, this introduction to computer science was the taste he needed to want more. “I’ve always liked computers,” he said. “But this class helped assure me that I want to study computers in college.”

Ryan Teller is director of public relations for Union College.

If you are an Adventist academy student interested in taking Fundamentals of Computer Science class, talk to the registrar at your school. To learn more about the computer science program at Union College, visit [www.ucollege.edu/computing](http://www.ucollege.edu/computing)



# Diving into Pastoral Ministry

Jessyka Albert, Union theology student gets job offer five months before graduation

At a time when some college graduates struggle to find work in their fields of study, **Jessyka Albert** earned a position as one of four pastors in a church that regularly serves up to 250 members each Sabbath—a position she was offered five months before she graduated.

**“I didn’t have to worry about job hunting. I knew where I was going to be.”**

—Jessyka Albert

The offer to be discipleship pastor is a testament to her passion for ministry, her natural leadership skills and her love for young adults, with whom she now works closely in Bible studies, small groups, and social events. Her story also highlights to the new program at Union College that allowed for those positive qualities to be recognized and refined.

## Practical experience

The first of its kind among Adventist colleges in North America, the semester-long pastoral practicum at Union College allows theology students to gain practical pastoral experience in a church while maintaining the structure and security of a classroom. Under close supervision from Union faculty and a mentoring pastor, third and

fourth year theology students experience the rigors of pastoral duty, including sermons, Bible studies, small groups, board meetings, hospital visits and social events.

**“It’s an opportunity for the student to pick up some real life ministry experience and to be mentored by a pastor. It allows students to really get their feet wet.”**

—Craig Carr, ministerial director for the Rocky Mountain Conference

For Albert, her practicum at Boulder, Colorado last summer was more than a chance to get her feet wet. As the young adult pastor for those five months, she had to dive in headfirst. Her responsibilities included rebuilding the flagging youth program, developing a leadership team of young adults, coordinating potlucks every week, and planning frequent hiking and camping trips. By her final week, regular attendance had grown from seven young adults to more than 20.

“It was so incredible to watch young adults get excited about church,” Albert said.

The church and conference leaders were just as excited. Before she left to finish her final semester at Union, they offered her the position of

discipleship pastor. Because they wanted her to return after she graduated from Union in the spring, Boulder Adventist Church, in accordance with conference policy, assumed responsibility of one-third of her salary and all of her benefits.

## Mentorship and growth

The remaining five months of classroom curriculum were demanding, but Albert had peace of mind in the knowledge that she would be employed immediately after graduation. Like many students before her, Albert worked one-on-one with several professors to ensure she was competent and confident, in ways often not possible at larger schools.

“Having mentors in my life is very important in keeping myself grounded,” she said. “I had never had an advisor like **Dr. Ben Holdsworth**. We met every week during my last semester.”

Albert continues to seek growth from her mentors—now colleagues—at her church in Boulder. “I am treated 100 percent as an equal here, but I have so many questions to ask,” she said. “It’s important to have people I can be honest with. Having mentors here like that has been an incredible gift in my life.”

But the growth of the church is most important



After completing her pastoral internship at the Boulder Adventist Church, Jessyka Albert was asked by the congregation to return as a full-time discipleship pastor after she graduated.

to Albert. “There is a lot of room for our church to grow,” she said. “I feel this is something I can do for a really long time.”

Michael Rohm graduated from Union College and works as a freelance writer from his home in Oregon.

# Home Health Care Proves Healthy Choice for Patients

Each year, the Shawnee Mission Home Health Care team provides individualized care for more than 1,200 patients in their homes. Each case is unique and requires care from the SMHHC team for different reasons. Some may need treatment and care of wounds, intravenous infusions or help recovering from joint replacements or surgeries, while others and their families may benefit from assistance with management of a specific disease. Regardless of the reason, these are all health-care services that often can be administered at home.

“Home healthcare allows an individual to return to their residence and receive a broad range of quality, professional health care services in the comfort and privacy of their familiar environment,” said SMHHC director **Jamie Holthaus**.

The home health team consists of a variety of healthcare professionals such as registered nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, home health aides, dietitians, chaplains and social workers. They work closely with a patient’s physician and their family when determining if home health-care is an appropriate choice.

In addition to allowing patients to experience individualized teaching and in-home care, receiving care at home also helps patients detect medical issues early

before they become critical, as well as avoiding a future hospitalization. Holthaus adds that patients also experience quicker recoveries, improved safety and more independence.

## Ensuring safe environments

Although home health-care provides many benefits, it does not come without challenges. Clinicians have less control over a home environment as compared to a hospital setting. At times, SMHHC finds a patient’s home to be unsafe, which actually increases the chances for hospitalization. SMHHC intervenes when the patient has neither family to help nor the resources to make changes necessary for a safer home.

“Our goal is to keep patients in their home where they recover best, but if we run into situations that are not safe and could lead to increased hospitalizations, we work to get more help in the home or move the patient to a safer environment,” said Holthaus.

According to Holthaus, the most rewarding part of her work is seeing patients improve after a health setback, and spirituality often plays an important role in their recovery. The SMHHC team encourages patients to remain strong in their faith and attend church even though they are primarily home-bound. Although not always possible, Holthaus believes that getting out once a week



to attend a religious service greatly enhances the health and healing process.

“Upon request, our staff will pray with patients in the comfort of their own home,” said Holthaus. “This especially helps our patients who normally attend church, but are currently unable due to their illness.”

## Using new mobile software

Advancements in technology have also enhanced how SMMHC staff cares for patients. SMHHC was recently chosen to pilot a new home health mobile software called Homecare Homebase, that allows fast, easy access to patient data, physician orders and other information from a handheld device.

“Homecare Homebase

improves the way caregivers document information in the home and allows them to focus on providing exceptional, quality care for the patient,” said Holthaus. “We are also hoping the software will provide an enhanced work-life balance for our staff since they will no longer be required to complete as much documentation outside of the home.”

Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

For more information about Shawnee Mission Health Care, please visit [ShawneeMission.org](http://ShawneeMission.org).

# Seeking to Lead as Christ Led

Mike Brendel, Littleton Adventist Hospital's CEO, says patients come second.



Mike and Debbie Brendel enjoy their granddaughter, Scarlet.

**M**et **Mike Brendel**, chief operating officer for Littleton Adventist Hospital. If you sit down and talk with him you'll quickly discover that his passion for healthcare leadership is rooted in a personal desire to lead the way Christ led.

"I'm blessed to be part of a team lead by my friend and colleague **Brett Spenst**," says Brendel. "Brett firmly supports the concept that in healthcare, the patient comes *second*.\* That may seem counter-intuitive, but it really follows Christ's model."

Brendel explains that when Christ was here on earth, his team was his 12 disciples—a ragamuffin band of well-meaning men who had many personal needs. Christ met their needs and then empowered them to go out and heal. To a large degree, that is the focus of the leadership team at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

"How can our associates, our employees, our physicians effectively care for others if they are not well cared for themselves?" he challenges. "We talk about extending the healing ministry of Christ, but that healing begins in the hearts and lives of our employees."

This top-down model of nurture and care is infectious in all the best ways.

"It doesn't matter whether you are a top-tier cardiologist in the catheterization lab or mopping the floors in the service hallway; each team member is a crucial piece of what makes our customers feel loved and cared for. It's how we become the hands and feet of Christ's healing ministry," he explains.

"We have a saying here at Littleton," Brendel continues. "We never discharge our patients from our care. Of course, by that we mean that we continue our care with follow-up calls and referrals;

but that also means that we try not to let our patients get out of our reach. Our commitment to them extends far beyond the hours or days they spend with us."

That commitment is evident in events like Littleton's Cancer Survivors Day celebration. The day-long event brings survivors from their oncology program together for food, fellowship and fun.

"The percentage of former patients who attend is staggering," Brendel shares, "and it's evidence that we are connecting and staying connected with those we serve."

Before coming to Littleton, Brendel served as vice president of clinical and outpatient services and cardiac and neuroscience service lines at Kettering Medical Center System, part of Kettering Health Network in Kettering, Ohio. Before that, he served as KMCS's director of cardiac services, a position he came to from Fremont-Rideout Health Group, where he worked as a consultant and clinical administrative director in emergency, critical care and cardiac services.

Altogether, Brendel has more than 30 years of experience in service line and hospital operations, with additional time spent at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, St. Francis Heart & Vascular Hospital in Indianapolis, and Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee, Washington. He has come full circle and beyond, having begun his

career as an RN at Kettering Medical Center. Mike is an RT and RN and holds a bachelor's in healthcare management, as well as a master's in healthcare leadership from Park University.

Mike and his wife, **Debbie**, an oncology nurse, have two adult daughters—**Lauren**, a marketing manager at Littleton Adventist Hospital; and **Cassi**, an emergency room nurse at Kettering Adventist Hospital. Cassi's husband, **Matt Rainier**, is finishing his nursing degree at Kettering College and was recently named firefighter of the year for the city of Kettering. Cassi and Matt gave Mike and Debbie their first granddaughter, **Scarlet**, this past March. The thankful grandparents are hopeful that someday soon Cassi and Matt will choose to join the Littleton family and raise their granddaughter in Colorado so they can continue to serve this wonderful community as a family with a united purpose—to lead and serve as Christ did.

*\*Brett Spenst, CEO of Littleton Adventist Hospital, is referencing the premise of the book, Patients Come Second, by Paul Spiegelman and Britt Berrett.*

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

**Asher, Wilmer L.**, b. Jan. 16, 1929 in Sweetwater, NE. d. Jun. 14, 2016 in Littleton, CO. Preceded in death by wife Verlene. Survivors include sons Michael, Joe, Randall and Jeffrey; 6 grandchildren.

**Baker, Howard V.**, b. Apr. 23, 1924 in Moon, WI. d. Aug. 20, 2016. Member of Piedmont Park Church. Survivors include numerous family and friends. WWII U.S. Navy veteran.

**Blecha, Byron A.**, b. Aug. 19, 1917 in Wellington, KS. d. Aug. 3, 2016 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Palisade Church. Survivors include wife Myrtle; daughters Arlene and Marilyn; son Edmund; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

**Calvin, Harvey W.**, b. May 30, 1936 in Iowa City, IA. d. July 11, 2016 in Iowa City, IA. Member of Knoxville Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 2 grandchildren. Survivors include wife Margy; daughters Cindy Cunard, Patty Kaskadden and Jacque Green; son Darrin; stepdaughters Doris Hada and Dorothy Crago; stepson Daniel Furnald; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Navy.

**Cansler, Dottie J.**, b. July 14, 1924 in Plad, MO. d. July 4, 2016 in Buffalo, MO. Member of Lebanon Church. Preceded in death by husband Leland. Survivors include daughter Sonja; son Wendell; 1 brother; 4 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

**Carroll, Esther D.**, b. July 5, 1929 in Culbertson, NE. d. Sept. 1, 2016. Member of Brighton Church. Preceded in death son Larry, Jr. Survivors include husband Larry, Sr.; children Cindy Schraeder, Judy Carroll and Audra Phillips; 2 grandchildren.

**Davis, Lillian R.**, b. June 11, 1922 in Methuen, MA. d. May 28, 2016 in Macon, MO. Member of Macon Church. Preceded in death by son James Jr.; 4 siblings. Survivors include husband James Sr.; daughter Pam Fischer; 2 grandchildren;

5 great-grandchildren.

**Davis, Patsy S.**, b. Mar. 9, 1948 in St. Joseph, MO. d. May 14, 2016 in St. Joseph, MO. Member of Three Angels Church. Preceded in death by parents; 5 siblings. Survivors include husband Dennis; daughters Cindy Davis, Sherry McNett; son Leslie "Bink"; 2 brothers; 7 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

**Deibel, Marjorie E.**, b. May 23, 1923 in Palco, KS. d. July 20, 2016 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include daughters Cheryl Andrieux and Linda Skinner; son Max; 6 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

**Downing, Aletrice**, b. Apr. 7, 1934 in Denver, CO; d. Apr. 7, 2016. She was a member of the Kansas City, (MO) Central Adventist Church. Preceded in death by son, Brad Schuman; daughter Diane Downing; brother Jerry Briggs. Survived by husband Donald Downing; daughters Jennifer Hammer, Pam Teter, Kim Davis and Donita Downing; sons Jim and Greg Schuman; sisters Betty Downing, Nancy Hall and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**Gilpin, Frances L.**, b. Dec. 16, 1920 in Mansfield, MO. d. June 16, 2016 in Climax Springs, MO. Member of Sedalia Church. Preceded in death by husbands Wayne Farmer Sr. and Ray Gilpin; sons Rodney Gilpin, Bill and Wesley Farmer; 1 brother; 3 grandsons. Survivors include daughters Raylene Vaughan and Pat Vaught; sons Wayne Farmer Jr., Warren Farmer and David Gilpin; 2 siblings; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren. Served as ranger for Camp Heritage.

**Hargis, Merna J.**, b. Aug. 10, 1922 in Kalamazoo, MI. d. May 6, 2016 in Aldrich, MO. Member of Bolivar Church. Preceded in death by husband Floyd Coppock; 3 siblings. Survivors include daughter

Awanda Lightwine; son Steven Coppock; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Hayes, Richard C.**, b. Aug. 31, 1934 in Randolph, New York. d. July 20, 2016 in Joplin, Missouri. Member of the Independence Church(KS). Preceded in death by first wife Claire Hayes, two step-children Michael Christian and Brenda Hanson. Survivors include wife Delores; children Richard, Robert, Raymond, Russell; 1 brother; four step-children Stanley Christian, Mark Christian, Linda Lee, Rhonda Chowning; 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 19 step-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Marine Corp and received the Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal, National Defense Medal.

**Henderson, Edna M.**, b. Dec. 7, 1924. d. July 17, 2016 in Springfield, MO. Member of Oak Grove Heights Church. Survivors include daughter Marty Towe.

**Long, Loraine V.**, b. Apr. 3, 1926 in Sioux City, IA. d. June 10, 2016 in Sioux City, IA. Member of Sioux City Church. Preceded in death by husband Kenneth; 4 siblings. Survivors include sons Kent and David; 3 grandchildren.

**Manestar, Esther E.**, b. Aug. 10, 1931. d. June 17, 2016. Member of St. Louis Central Church.

**Myers, Darlene F.**, b. Feb. 22, 1945 in New London, CT. d. Aug. 18, 2016. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Survivors include husband Allen; daughter Jody Stewart; sons Jeramy and Matthew; 2 sisters; 9 grandchildren. Preceded in death by 2 siblings.

**Nelson, Joyce**, b. Jan. 9, 1946 in St Paul, MN. d. June 8, 2016 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Survivors include daughters Tricia Sabin, Tracie Day and Terra Van Horn; son TJ; 2 sisters; 11 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

**Nelson, Karen L.**, b. Mar. 5, 1962. d. June 14, 2016 in Springfield, MO. Member of Springfield Church. Survivors include husband Jeremy; mother.

**Nelson, Richard K.**, b. Apr. 7, 1957 in St. Louis, MO. d. July 19, 2016 in St. Louis, MO. Member of Northside Church. Survivors include wife Cheryl; 1 daughter; 3 sons; 7 grandchildren.

**Oberkramer, Glenn L.**, d. May 9, 2016 in Littleton, CO. Preceded in death by baby son Rodney; parents; 1 sister Joy Cooley. Survivors include wife Karen; sons Randall and Ronald; daughter Renae Samuels; 2 siblings; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

**Peckham, Dan**, d. June 17, 2016 in Fort Worth, TX. Survivors include wife Billie; sons Kim and John. He worked at Enterprise as the business manager from 1956-1961 and as treasurer for the Kansas Conference from 1974-1986.

**Roberts, Roy D.**, b. July 5, 1941 in Chadron, NE. d. May 27, 2016 in Fort Collins, CO. Member of Fort Collins Church. Survivors include wife Marlys; daughters Lisa Terrell and Tonya Roberts; son Todd, 2 siblings, 5 grandchildren.

**Roth, Irene W.**, b. Nov. 12, 1921 in La Crosse, KS. d. June 30, 2016 in Broken Arrow, OK. Member of Bazine Church. Preceded in death by husband Eugene; children Ronald and Cheryl. Survivors include children Janice and Ken; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

**Tachenko, Lonny R.**, b. Nov. 1, 1915 in Billings County, ND. d. June 19, 2016 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Grassy Butte Church. Preceded in death by 4 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Estelle; daughters Lonna Milburn and Brenda Tachenko; 1 brother; 4 granddaughters; 2 great-granddaughters.

## SERVICES

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**Assistant Professor PhD, The Loma Linda University School of Religion** is seeking a scholar-practitioner at the level of assistant professor to teach undergraduate and graduate various program courses, as well as core classes in the M.S. in Chaplaincy program. This is a tenure-track position, target start date is winter 2016. There is leadership opportunity for service in the Relational Studies Area of the School of Religion. Anticipated faculty load is 30 credits per year. Candidates should possess a commitment to theological education and keen knowledge of Adventist theology.

Email cover letter, CV, copy of any license/credentials, if applicable, and three references to Erik Carter ([eccarter@llu.edu](mailto:eccarter@llu.edu)).

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**Marriage Encounter Kansas City, November 11-13.** Contact Mel and Karen Simmerman, [KarenSim44@gmail.com](mailto:KarenSim44@gmail.com) or call 913.681.3564. The registration form is available at [www.collegeviewchurch.org](http://www.collegeviewchurch.org)

(go to the Ministries link and then to Marriage Encounter).

## NOTICES

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Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Luke 18:16, NIV

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### Mid-America Union OUTLOOK Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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Description	Yr. Avg.	Sept.
Total number of copies	28,000	28,000
Total paid/requested outside-county mail subs	27,532	27,658
Total paid/requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	53	49
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid/requested circulation	27,586	27,707
Total complimentary distribution	65	65
Total distribution	27,651	27,772
Copies not distributed	349	228
Total	28,000	28,000
Percent paid and/or requested	99.76	99.77

### SUNSET CALENDAR

	Sept 30	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28
<b>COLORADO</b>					
Denver	6:42	6:31	6:20	6:10	6:01
Grand Junction	6:56	6:45	6:35	6:25	6:16
Pueblo	6:41	6:30	6:20	6:10	6:02
<b>IOWA</b>					
Davenport	6:44	6:32	6:21	6:10	6:01
Des Moines	6:56	6:44	6:33	6:22	6:13
Sioux City	7:07	0	0	0	0
<b>KANSAS</b>					
Dodge City	7:23	6:55	6:43	6:32	6:22
Goodland	6:29	6:18	6:07	5:58	5:49
Topeka	7:05	6:54	6:44	6:34	6:25
<b>MINNESOTA</b>					
Duluth	6:48	6:34	6:21	6:08	5:57
International Falls	6:52	6:38	6:24	6:11	5:58
Minneapolis	6:53	6:40	6:28	6:16	6:05
<b>MISSOURI</b>					
Columbia	6:52	6:41	6:30	6:21	6:12
Kansas City	7:00	6:50	6:39	6:29	6:20
St. Louis	6:43	6:32	6:22	6:12	6:04
<b>NEBRASKA</b>					
Lincoln	7:08	6:57	6:46	6:36	6:26
North Platte	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:51	6:42
Scottsbluff	6:36	6:24	6:13	6:02	5:52
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>					
Bismarck	7:22	7:09	6:56	6:43	6:31
Fargo	7:06	6:53	6:40	6:27	6:15
Williston	7:33	7:19	7:05	6:52	6:40
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>					
Pierre	7:22	7:09	6:57	6:45	6:35
Rapid City	6:33	6:21	6:08	5:57	5:47
Sioux Falls	7:07	6:55	6:43	6:32	6:22
<b>WYOMING</b>					
Casper	6:46	6:34	6:22	6:11	6:01
Cheyenne	6:41	6:29	6:18	6:08	5:58
Sheridan	6:48	6:35	6:23	6:11	6:00

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