

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

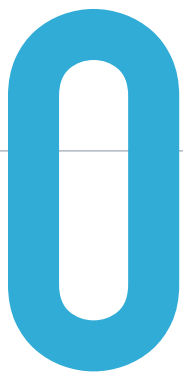
Making Peace
with Your World

OUTLOOK



Empowering Refugee
Communities p. 6

JUNE2017
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BUILDING PEACE IN A WORLD OF CHAOS



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor

Last year the United Nation’s refugee agency reported that the number of displaced people is at its highest ever—65.3 million at the end of 2015.* The agency cites three reasons for this global crisis: Civil wars are occurring more frequently, lasting longer and are increasingly resistant to resolution.

Regardless of the rhetoric currently being used by politicians, the resulting refugee crisis is not a political issue. It is a human issue of saving lives and respecting people’s basic needs, including the right to live in safety.

In this issue we feature individuals who are seizing unprecedented opportunities for offering practical support and sharing the hope that comes from the good news we have in Jesus—promising eternal safety in the kingdom of God, a place to call home, a place to belong forever.

* <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/20/world/unhcr-displaced-peoples-report/>

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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



Reach the World Next Door Refugee Ministry Resources

reachtheworldnextdoorministries.com



New Blog Series: Bridging the Gap Between Us and Them

outlookmag.org/the-bridge-between-us-and-them



ON THE COVER

Anna Coridan has made it her mission to build supportive relationships with refugees in Kansas City.

Story on p. 6

Photo by Randy Harmdierks



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How to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself



Mark 12:29-31 is a passage most of you know by heart. When Jesus was asked which commandment was the most important, these verses give His answer. “The most important one,” Jesus said, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord

your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

This issue of OUTLOOK focuses on building peace with our world community, so I want to spotlight the second law of which Christ spoke.

At our farewell gathering from a church I pastored near Kansas City almost 30 years ago, a church member gave me a book with short sayings and caricatures illustrating them. The member told me to look at a certain page in the book because it conveyed the message the member wanted to send to me.

I was curious about the message, so the first thing I did when I got home was open the book to the

specified page. The caricature was of a man sitting on a bench with his head in his hands and it said, “Be gentle on yourself.” I appreciated greatly the gift and the sentiment. Obviously, the member wanted me not to be too hard on myself and to be thankful in season and out.

Christ’s model for how to treat ourselves and others

Do any of you have a tendency to be hard on yourselves? Perhaps you, too, need to learn self-compassion.

I think it is important to understand how we can love ourselves because according to Christ, that is to be the model for how we treat our neighbors. This is an awkward topic, because we all tend to want to stay away from people who are “in love with themselves.” However, there is a distinct difference between being in love with yourself and being kind, gentle and loving to yourself.

This is by no means a complete list, but here are a few ways we can—and should—love ourselves:

- Bask in the knowledge we are sons and daughters of God
- Know that when we confess our sins God forgives us
- Forgive ourselves
- Believe God has a plan for our lives no matter what the world throws our way
- Take care of our physical self using the eight

natural laws of health

- Spend time in God’s creation
- Take time to cultivate a walk with God through prayer, Bible study and worship
- Serve others

In turn, if we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, this gives us a short-list of ways we can do that.

- See all people as sons and daughters of God
- Introduce them to our loving, forgiving God
- Assure them God is in charge and has a plan for their lives
- Help them to be gentle and forgiving of themselves no matter their journey
- Encourage and teach them the eight natural laws of health
- Inspire them to embrace their Creator and spend time in His creation
- Invite and mentor them to cultivate their walk with God through prayer, Bible study and worship
- Encourage them to love their neighbors as themselves and serve them

If we do these things, I believe we will be well on our way to building peace with our world community. **0**

Gary Thurber is president of the Mid-America Union.

GARY THURBER is president of the Mid-America Union.



People of Peace | Ron Price

Each month in 2017 *OUTLOOK* is featuring individuals who are actively involved in peacemaking with their families, friends and communities. The following interview focuses on Ron Price.

Courtesy Ron Price



Ron Price has been a professional mediator for nearly 30 years. His newest book, *PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox at Home*, is due to be released this month.

What does it mean to be a person of peace?

It means I realize that to be a true follower of Jesus Christ I must strive to emulate Him in all ways to the best of my very limited ability. He was indeed a Peacemaker; therefore I should be also within my sphere of influence.

What does peacemaking look like to you?

Peacemaking occurs when people choose to put their own issues and agendas aside just long enough to truly

listen to and consider another person's point of view. Disagreements and disputes with others will invariably happen in this sin-plagued life, but they do not have to be ugly and destructive.

How do you try to make and keep peace at home, work, school and church?

I try to do this by helping people to:

1. listen to each other
2. focus on the real issues; not get caught up in other factors, and
3. focus on the future—on how their relationship might improve.

Can you share a specific example?

I was personally involved in a conflict situation several years ago over a simple misunderstanding. I was a petroleum landman, and I spoke by telephone with a woman about her oil and gas lease, which I knew had been released (let go). Without either of us realizing it, she heard me say that her lease had been re-leased, as in leased again, which she knew was not true and quickly told me so.

It did not take long for both of us to start getting upset that the other was impugning our intelligence and truthfulness. Fortunately, when I caught on to what was happening and explained my use of the term, she readily agreed and calmed down.

We had a good laugh over it, but we could seriously still be arguing today since by our definitions we were both right.

What is a saying or quote about peace that you like?

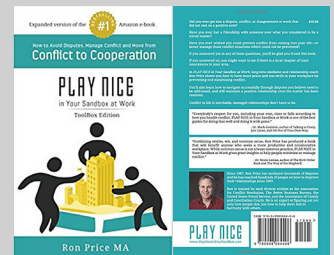
Holding on to grudges often gets in the way of peacemaking; therefore I appreciate a quote attributed to Ken Sande: “Unforgiveness

is the poison we drink, expecting the other person to die.”

What is a Bible verse about peace that is meaningful to you?

“Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone” (Rom. 12:17-18 NLT). **O**

Ron's book *PLAY NICE in Your Sandbox at Work* gives the reader a model to either prevent (PLAY) or resolve (NICE) conflict. While conflict in and of itself is not necessarily a bad thing, it is far too easy to become embroiled in conflicts that are not worth our time, effort or attention. Those situations which are too important to ignore must be handled well if the relationship has any chance of thriving.



The book contains other chapters that help people to:

1. voice concerns in a constructive manner
2. avoid emotional outbursts in which we may say or do something we later regret
3. prevent people from pushing our buttons—or at least learn how to deactivate the “on” button
4. learn what to say when we don't know what to say
5. understand how past hurts negatively impact present-day relationships and contribute to conflict.

Visit Ron's website: productiveoutcomes.com

Empowering the World God Has

The Kansas City metro is home to an estimated 4,000 Bhutani/Nepali refugees. Randy Harmdierks, communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference, recently interviewed Anna Coridan, who has made it her mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus to this people group.

What led you to start this ministry?

I spent my sophomore year of college teaching English and science in Benapa, Nepal, and serving in the surrounding villages. God placed a burden on my heart that year for

overseas missions, and I determined to go back to Nepal after completing my studies.

After graduating from Union College in 2014, I accepted a job as a nurse at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. My plan was to work a couple years to get out of debt, then go overseas.

As time passed I became consumed by my plans and goals. I lived life looking toward where God would lead me in my future, rather than following where He was leading me day by day. I spent all my time and energy telling God I wanted to work with

people overseas, yet I did not see the people right in front of me.

Last August a friend told me about some Nepali kids who play soccer at a nearby park. He said he would often play with them and, knowing I spoke a little Nepali, invited me to meet them. The kids weren't there, so he showed me where many lived.

We drove by one of the apartment complexes and he recognized some kids, so he pulled in. I spoke to them in Nepali for a while and was eventually introduced to their mom. We made plans to eat a meal together the next day. After the meal they asked if we would visit a family member who was sick. We ended up visiting several other relatives as well.

By the end of the day I realized I did not need to wait until I was out of debt and financially set to help those around me. God has work for me right here in Kansas City.

I prayed about how best to serve my new friends, and decided to move into their community so I could share life with them daily. I signed the apartment lease last November.

What does a typical day with the refugees look like?

We share meals together, shop for groceries together, walk through the neighborhood together and visit

with people we encounter.

In a very real sense, it's becoming like a family. We visit the Nepali churches on Sundays and spend time worshipping God together. We celebrate holidays together. On Wednesdays, the public schools get out early, so my nephews come over and we play soccer with the kids. We've started a Nepali youth group, which the kids named NC4Y (New Change for Youth). They were invited to join a local Adventist soccer tournament, and they won!

What are you most hoping to achieve?

God created a special place in my heart for the Bhutani/Nepali people. They have gone from war-torn countries to refugee camps to a country where they do not know or understand the culture or language. No matter the language you speak or the culture you are from, the challenges of health, finances and family are present. The refugee population is hurting even more because they do not know where to go when presented with these challenges.

I want to be their friend. I want to share daily life with them. And most of all, I want to share God's love with them. He has been so kind, patient and loving with me, I want them to experience

Randy Harmdierks



Placed on Our Doorstep

His peace that passes all understanding.

Do you believe you are making progress toward those goals?

After five months of living in this community I praise God for the doors of friendship that have opened. We're building trust. I've taken some to doctor's appointments. We've started citizenship classes three nights a week. My Nepali is limited, but kindness is a common language.

What challenges have you encountered?

Time is a challenge. Not only does it take a lot of time to develop the friendships needed to build trust, but many of the parents work 12 hours a day, six days a week. Coordinating transportation is difficult, and

the young people need mentors.

The language barrier creates all kinds of confusion in areas such as communication between the kids' teachers and parents, health care issues, filling prescriptions and paying bills.

What have you learned in this process?

The biggest lesson I have learned while working with Nepali refugees is I need to treat them like my own family.

The night I moved into my apartment I was greeted by a Nepali woman my age. She introduced herself as my neighbor and welcomed me to the building. Two weeks later I was returning from work around 10 pm. I was hungry and decided to eat some oranges before going to bed. I could hear

my neighbors talking, so I knew they were awake. I felt nervous but decided to knock on their door anyway to see if they wanted to eat oranges with me.

My new neighbor opened the door, smiled and said, "Hello, Sister! Come in." I offered my oranges, they offered their apples and we had a meal.

What is the most rewarding aspect of working with refugees?

The greatest reward is seeing the results when trust has been built. You become family, and my life has been enriched by the new friends and family I've made. **0**



Thousands of refugees resettle in Iowa and Missouri each year, and most spent years living in refugee camps before that.

Learn more on p. 14 about how the Iowa-Missouri Conference is attempting to be an agent of peace in the lives of refugees, both locally and abroad.

The Nepali youth group NC4Y (New Change for Youth) enthusiastically displays their trophy from their first soccer tournament victory.

Photos Courtesy Anna Coridan



Join The *Love* Movement!

When I was 2 years old my parents recorded me telling the story of a recurring dream I had about a rock that later in life I recognized to be the same as Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2. Before I was 5 years old I had developed a comprehensive plan for changing the world according to all the things God was showing me.

To make a long story short, on Jan. 1, 2012 I made a video and uploaded it to YouTube, crystallizing what I had been thinking for so long about making a difference in people's lives. Because my ideas were now public, something changed. I remember feeling God enter me, and I started to recall the incredible experiences I had with God as a child and all the principles God had shown me. I knew it was time for action.

In October 2015 I went to Thailand to meet Pakistani Christian asylum seekers who had fled to Bangkok. They have it very hard, so I began supporting as many as I could. My remote work with an Adventist web services company funds everything while I'm here in Bangkok helping them with survival needs such as rent, food and medical expenses.

But we're also doing something completely

different. We're forming a family of people committed to helping each other for the rest of our lives. Because we love each other and treat each other as equals, we're willing to do things for each other that would otherwise never be done. Individuals like Adil, Qamar, Amanat and many others are committed to helping others and living by the Ten Commandments. Because of the ties these people have with the Christian community in Pakistan, we have many invitations to go there and will potentially reach thousands because of the tremendous interest.

Model for survival and growth

We call this The Love Movement, where we all keep the Ten Commandments and help each other survive. The Love Movement has developed into an unbeatable formula for inspiring people to keep the Commandments, which means treating people as Jesus did. I've had many people tell me I changed their life and convinced them to join the Movement after just one Bible study. Half of the impact is being an example and truly helping people. When they see you doing that, your words have weight.



The second part is explaining how love works. I guide them through a set of simple, logical thoughts and describe love as seeking the well-being of every person.

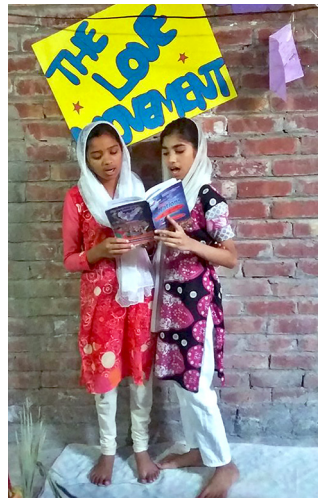
Then I explain that love is a science with steps. The first obvious step is to stop hurting one another. If I say I love someone and embrace them with my right arm while punching them in the face with my left, that is not love. I must first stop harming for love to even have a chance. There is only one way I can be absolutely guaranteed not to hurt someone—and that is by living in harmony with the Ten Commandments.

Ten keys to peace

The implications of this movement are huge. It means that for every person on earth there

is an opportunity for everything one does to be good—to sow good seeds and reap the benefits multiplied. It means the Ten Commandments are the key to solving every problem we have, and when we adopt them this problem-solving quality goes to work in our lives at once, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. People who do this will form a wave of good that spreads across the world and wakes it up.

This is what I explain to everyone and what we all need to focus on—one powerful message that unites us and makes us effective and efficient with our resources so we can have success. There is nothing else we can adopt that will work, and if we wait we are wasting valuable time and resources that could be used to save people.



Craig Pettersen works with asylum seekers in Thailand and groups in Pakistan and the Philippines to teach about the benefits of keeping the Ten Commandments.

If we want a peaceful world, it starts with us. Deep down in our hearts, we all want the world that observing the Ten Commandments would produce, because all of our problems would be gone. No one would kill, commit adultery or steal. We wouldn't need locks on our doors or bars on our windows. Our fear would dissipate and our level of trust would increase exponentially because we would all be working on behalf of everyone else.

A social movement

If this is the world I want, it must begin with me. I cannot expect anyone to do something I'm not willing to do myself. If enough of us do the same, we will have a huge impact.

In North America the lifestyle is often inefficient

and, frankly, selfish. If we expect to progress, that must change. I fear for the people who go on as though nothing will change, because a movement of change is coming.


We also want to begin creating student groups in the U.S. The Love Movement has a lot of intellectual appeal because we compare the Ten Commandments to the other systems mankind has created such as communism, capitalism and democracy. It's enlightening to see that the Commandments have none of the defects of those systems.


We have started a nonprofit to assist suffering Christian asylum seekers and promote The Love Movement. Helping those persecuted for Jesus' sake is also a unique opportunity to spread the


Ten Commandments. They love the Commandments and take them to the countries where they resettle. One family is resettling in Spain and has committed to spreading The Love Movement there. We want to start groups


everywhere in the world, beginning with persecuted Christian asylum seekers. **0**

Craig Pettersen is a Seventh-day Adventist self-supporting missionary and founder of The Love Movement. His wife, Joan, was born in Missouri and has many family members there.

 **Watch the launching YouTube video:**
bit.ly/startthelovemovement

 **Learn more about The Love Movement:**
lovemovementglobal.org

 **Join The Love Movement:**
www.aplos.com/aws/give/TheLoveMovement/general

 **Learn more about Pakistani Christian asylum seekers in this BBC Our World video:**
bit.ly/ourworld2016



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Central States Conference Calendar July-September

More info at central-states.org

July 9-15	Camp High Point
July 16-23	Entrepreneurship Camp
July 26-30	MAUC Pathfinder Camporee
July 30-Aug 2	Ministers Family Retreat
Aug 17-20	Men's Retreat
Aug 19	Seasoned Citizens (Senior) Day
Aug 26	Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day
Sept 2-4	CSC Young Adult Summit
Sept 15-17	RMAY Fall Federation
Sept 15-17	Singles Adult Retreat
Sept 22-24	GPAY Fall Federation
Sept 29-Oct 1	CAY Fall Federation

Northside Hosts Reclamation Revival

Ushering in a spirit of reawakening and reconnection with God, The Northside Church recently hosted a Reclamation Revival. For Sabbath service, **Pastor T. Ron Weegar** of the Ephesus Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, spoke on how to use our past failures to create our future. Failure should not equal defeat. Failure does not mean life is over.

Pastor Weegar provided the following examples of successful individuals who did not allow failure to be a roadblock to their journey, but rather a hurdle to thrust them into their destiny.

“The great Albert Einstein could not speak until he was 4. He could not read until he was 7. He was labeled intellectually challenged. Thomas Edison was labeled too stupid to learn, but successfully invented the lightbulb. Henry Ford failed at his first business and had to file for bankruptcy,” said Weegar. These were just a few individuals Pastor Weegar used as examples to illustrate that failure does not have to define us.

Pastor Weegar went on to speak about how success is seasonal. Success is based on the law of reciprocity. We must give back what God has given us. We must build on what we were taught. However, just like the seasons of the weather, no season will last forever. In this current season we must learn, prepare and plan for the next season. Additionally, Weegar advised us to listen to God, accept the revelation and take the risk.



Courtesy Central States Conference

Pastor Weegar also reminded us of the story of Joshua and how God interceded for him. God told Joshua to step in the water. God set out to prove to Joshua and all of Israel that He was with Joshua just as He was with Moses. God told Joshua, “Tell the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘when you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river’” (Josh. 3:8 NIV).

Joshua listened, accepted the revelation and took the risk. As soon as the priests who carried the Ark set foot into the Jordan, the water stopped flowing. “The priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground” (Josh. 3:17 NIV). “God’s mercy will not take you where God’s grace will not keep you. God will not only give us provision, but protection as well,” proclaimed Weegar.

The message reminded us of God’s promise that God

will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). God just wants us to trust Him. Pastor Weegar’s sermon encouraged the congregation to not be dismayed by failure, but rather be encouraged, “for all

things are possible through Christ who strengthens us” (Philipp. 4:13).

Deidra Howard is a communication assistant for the Central States Conference.

Central States Conference

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AGES 8-16

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SPACE IS LIMITED, SO ACT FAST

God Intervenes in Court-martials

Alfred Schrenk was 18 when he received his first induction into the U.S. Army. Within a few days, though, he received a three-month deferment because he was growing grain. Figuring going to war was inevitable, he sold his 10 milk cows and readied for duty. But

Schrenk's father was in poor health and likely wouldn't get along well without Schrenk. Soon another continuous deferment was received that lasted until the end of the war. The year was 1944 and he thought he had escaped war.

Shortly after Schrenk was

married, Uncle Sam called on him again. "There was no deferment this time," says Schrenk, "This was the Korean War." He reported to Fort Riley, Kansas, for basic training, enlisting as a medic. "I was prepared. I was ahead of the rest of my [medic] buddies. However, I

found myself being trained as a cook.

"After six weeks of training as a cook, more were shipped out [to Korea]. Some of us were kept back for advanced training. That's where we learned to cook pastries, and that's when my belt got tight. We didn't wear our army uniform. When we had to [wear it], I couldn't get my belt together."

Schrenk's next appointment was to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. He was assigned as a cook at the mess hall. His training had been completed so he went right to work. Soon he was put in charge of KP (kitchen patrol) and other details around the premises.

"I had a bunch of men to oversee and not much cooking to do anymore," says Schrenk. They were feeding 4,000 men with "a bunch of cooks, more than we needed."

Then there was a change of personnel. "The new general who took charge of the camp was determined to make things more efficient. He shipped out all but four of the

Jacquie Biloff



Alfred Schrenk (pictured with his wife Evangeline) stood up for his beliefs as a conscientious objector and Seventh-day Adventist while he served in the Korean War.

cooks along with 3,000 men.”

A new shipment of 3,000 inductees soon arrived, but no cooks. “I don’t know how we did it. We ran short on food. We had to rustle up extra supplies. We worked day and night. If we got three or four hours of sleep, that’s all we got. I was told, ‘Alfred, we know you keep Sabbath but we can’t get along without you.’ I responded, ‘I know, I have been praying about it. I’ll work as long as I dare.’ I went back to the barracks to catch up on a little sleep. I lay down with a prayer and was out. At midnight, I was all of a sudden wide awake. The thought came, *Alfred, you grew up on a farm. You had livestock. Cows had to be milked and they didn’t suffer on the Sabbath, and these are hungry men.* I was dressed like that and I dug right in. We were slowly given more cooks until I was put in command.”

I’ll do anything to save a life, but I cannot take a life

“After we learned to do our marching exercises at Fort Riley, we were brought out early one morning to stand at attention. It was where they kept the equipment. There were tables with notches and rifles all the way around. As each name was called, we were to receive a rifle. The rifle’s serial number was then associated with that person.” But when Schrenk was 17 he had attended a month-long

training program at an Adventist church to prepare him as a conscientious objector.

The officer ordered Schrenk to stand at attention while he took a gun from the rack. He was going to throw it to him. If Schrenk let it drop it was the same as disgracing the American flag or the nation. Schrenk decided he needed to say something quickly. “Sir, I respect your rank and office and I respect you. I’ll do anything to save a life. Put me anywhere I can save a life, but I cannot take a life.” The general responded, “You are in the Army now. You do as you are told.” Reported as refusing to comply with an official’s orders, Schrenk was court-martialed.

You have privileges few ever get

The officer ordered Schrenk to march to the barracks. “Stay at your bunk until you are called.” That was on a Monday. Schrenk did a lot of praying while there. He expected to be ridiculed by fellow recruits in the barracks, but instead they told him they wished they had the guts to do what he did.

On Friday, he was called to follow an officer to headquarters. While still outside, he was told to stand at attention until called in. The officer went inside. “I waited and waited. Finally, he came out. He didn’t look at me. ‘Go in,’ he said. He went around a building and disappeared.”

Schrenk went in to a clerk seated behind glass. “I told the clerk I was to report but I didn’t know to whom.” She took him to the commanding officer who asked him, “What is the problem?” Schrenk told him. The commanding officer asked about Schrenk’s beliefs. “Finally he said, ‘I understand. I have the highest respect for Seventh-day Adventists. My wife is an Adventist. In fact, I should be a Seventh-day Adventist myself. Here is a note to take to the clerk to issue you full weekend passes. You have privileges few ever get.’”

Later Schrenk was threatened with court-martial because he wouldn’t attend classes on Sabbath, but

God continued protecting him. “After a stiff and stern grilling, the incident was wiped from my record,” says Schrenk.

Schrenk worked as a cook or cook supervisor at Fort Sam Houston until he was honorably discharged. Now in his 90s, he and his wife **Evangeline** have many stories of God leading and blessing in their lives. In addition to serving their nation, they have farmed, raised four children, worked for Christian Record Services and been active in their local church.

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Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.



Courtesy Dakota Conference

Dakota Adventist Academy students participate in the community Bismarck-Mandan Band Night Parade, which consists of high school marching bands from multiple communities. There were over 90 entries in 2016. DAA featured the only riding band, which was accompanied by three horses carrying the United States, North Dakota and Christian flags.

Reuniting Families, Rebuilding Lives

Two years ago, in response to the growing need to serve and minister to the thousands of refugees resettling in their territory, the Iowa-Missouri Conference formally launched a new department to coordinate efforts across both states.

“There are currently more people around the world being displaced than at any time since World War II,” said **Bryan Gallant**, Refugee Ministries coordinator for the conference. “In fact,” he added, “we are now witnessing what some have called the largest generation of refugees ever.”

The adjustment to a new life, particularly in the United States, can be quite difficult. “Imagine having your whole world destroyed by war and political unrest,” Gallant said. “And, after living in a refugee camp several years, you finally get to come to the United States. When you land, you don’t know the language, you don’t know the culture, you don’t know where or how to go shopping—you don’t even know how to run the appliances in the home you’ll be living in.”

To meet immediate resettlement needs, the conference has started language

and citizenship classes in some of its larger cities. Some churches have started clothing and food drives to help meet material needs as well.

One of the biggest needs, however, is education for refugee children. In many areas, the public school system is not equipped for the large numbers of refugees settling in their areas. And refugee children, many of whom have never known anything outside of refugee camps with little or no educational opportunities, face additional hurdles assimilating into American culture and catching up to the grade levels of their American peers.

To provide refugee students with a learning environment that is both welcoming and nurturing, the conference has established a Refugee Tuition Assistance Fund to help refugee students who want to attend one of the conference’s elementary schools or Sunnydale Academy. The conference is currently looking for 1,000 people to partner with them in this endeavor by pledging a monthly gift of \$10 or a yearly gift of \$120

to ensure as many refugee students as possible have this opportunity. So far 350 people have made pledges and, with other donations received, approximately \$110,000 of the \$120,000 goal for the 2016-17 school year was met. Because of this, 67 refugee students who would not have otherwise been able to attend were enrolled in Iowa-Missouri schools this past year.

Going beyond resettlement

In addition to the challenges of resettlement, refugee families face uncertainty about what has happened to friends and family members left behind in the camps.

Families on the waiting list for resettlement are often given little notice to pack their belongings and begin the journey to a new land. After rushed goodbyes, they part ways with loved ones not knowing if they’ll ever see or hear from them again.

And because communication back to the camps is rarely possible, those left

behind have no way of knowing if their loved ones actually made it somewhere safe or if they were captured and killed.

Conference leaders met with Congolese refugees in St. Louis last fall with a plan to change that. They collected photos and updates from families here, along with information about relatives back in the camps. Conference president **Dean Coridan**, along with former executive secretary **Bob Peck** and executive committee member **Dick Bascom**, then took a trip to Africa to hand-deliver the photos to their loved ones still in the camps. Photos and updates from the camps were also brought back to families here.

“The families experienced such joy in reconnecting with loved ones,” said Coridan. “We were able to reestablish contact between twin brothers. When the gentleman here saw the photo of his brother come up on the screen, he stood up and stayed standing the entire time his brother’s photo was on the screen. It was an emotional experience

Ed Beijen from Kansas City Central Church (second from right) helps teach a citizenship class for Nepali refugees in Kansas City.



Courtesy/Anna Coridan

for everyone.”

Special funding made the Africa trip possible, as well as the subsequent Nepal trip, where more families were reconnected. The conference plans to do more for refugees living in the camps and is hoping to collect enough money this summer to build churches for the estimated 20,000-40,000 Adventists currently living in one of the three Rwandan camps visited last fall. The camp has agreed to donate space for the churches, and the funds gathered by the conference will go toward building costs.

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is currently building schools to improve the availability of education within the camps, and the Iowa-Missouri Conference looks forward to discovering other ways it can participate in improving the lives of refugees both locally and internationally.

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

Dick Bascom



Dick Bascom



With help from an interpreter, Iowa-Missouri Conference president Dean Coridan shares encouragement from the Bible with Adventists living in a Rwandan refugee camp. The conference hopes to raise funds this summer to replace this makeshift temporary shelter with a more durable church structure.

Family members living in a Rwandan refugee camp joyfully receive photos and updates from loved ones who have resettled in the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Bryan Gallant



The Moberly, Missouri, Pathfinder Club collects clothing donations for refugees in Columbia, Missouri.

Read on p. 6 about how a church member in Kansas City is reaching out to refugees in her area.

For more information about Refugee Ministries or how you can help, visit www.imsda.org/refugee.

Chapel Oaks Ministers to Moms

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is an international organization that began in 1973 in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. It started humbly—just eight moms meeting together for two hours to enjoy food and fellowship. These women recognized that the common challenges of motherhood often leave moms feeling lonely for authentic friendships with those who understand the ups and downs of raising little humans. They saw the church as a natural facilitator of the mission of building up and encouraging women in their varied roles, but especially that of motherhood. MOPS exists to “encourage and

equip moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with the local church” (mops.org).

Each month, over 71,000 moms utilize the group search tool provided on mops.org to find a local MOPS group. These moms look for connection and encouragement. Because of this evident need, the Chapel Oaks Church became involved. Excited by the mission of MOPS and the opportunity to connect with and encourage moms in the community as well as the church, they formed a group.

The group began in the

fall of 2014 with two leaders and 15 moms, seven of those being community moms, and has grown to approximately 40, with one third from the community. It is a diverse group with a variety of religious backgrounds represented, but twice each month the group bonds over everyone’s “sameness”—the need for community and encouragement and a fierce love for their children.

Each evening begins with dinner followed by a seminar on a topic relevant to motherhood and/or womanhood. Over the past three years, the group has used DVD presentations provided in the MOPS curriculum and has enjoyed guest speakers who taught about parenting, finances, meal planning, organization, health and fitness. There have been classes on self-defense, painting, cookie decorating and card making. There was a weekend marriage seminar and a parenting seminar with **John Rosemond**. Park play dates, zoo trips, camping trips and even a few Mom’s Night Out evenings have

been planned. There have also been spa nights and special nights where the gospel is shared and moms are invited into a new or deeper relationship with Jesus.

There are women in every community across this nation and around the world looking for encouragement and wanting to connect with someone who “gets it,” someone who understands their heart’s joys and sorrows. MOPS is a great place to begin or deepen this connection and provides a non-threatening environment in which to introduce Jesus, the special friend, to mothers and their children.

Mary Kendall is a member of the Chapel Oaks Church in Shawnee, Kansas.

To learn more about this ministry and how your church can be involved, check out www.mops.org/about/church/.

Photos Courtesy Chapel Oaks Church



MOPS participants meet for community, education and activities. The Chapel Oaks Church group in Shawnee, Kansas, began in 2014 and now has approximately 40 members who meet twice per month to share the one thing they all have in common—being mothers of preschoolers.

Reviving the Importance of Prayer

Mic Thurber



“All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God” (*The Ministry of Healing* p. 58).

This was the inspiration for the Revive Us Again Prayer Conference held in April. Participants from across the union came to focus on

their relationship with Jesus and seek Him with all their hearts. The weekend’s speakers reminded everyone that Jesus longs to have a deep and intimate relationship with each one of them.

Each participant was given extended personal time for prayer and meditation on Scripture in a beautiful

Participants spent time outdoors in personal prayer and meditation on Scripture.

outdoor environment. After prayer time, they shared and reflected in small groups. One participant commented, “I know that logically prayer is important, but now I am convinced I need to spend more time in prayer by communing and sharing with Christ.”

Adventists do a good job of communicating Bible truth. However, we need a living relationship with Jesus or the truth will have no lasting effect. The Revive Us Again Prayer Conference brings a living experience with Jesus to our people.

Prayer changes us, leading us into an experiential knowledge of Jesus. A life of prayer imparts health and vigor to the spiritual life and instills peace and joy into the life of the believer. “It was an amazing experience! I have a deeper desire for prayer and to seek Jesus with all my heart,” said another participant.

The leaders of the Revive Us Again Prayer Conference are looking for opportunities to bring this experience to other conferences in the Mid-America Union in the coming years.

Virgil Covel serves as Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. To schedule a prayer conference in your area, email virgil.covel@icloud.com.

Burt Ordained to Ministry

Jonathan Burt was born into a pastor’s family in Zanesville, Ohio, and remembers feeling called to ministry at 3 years old. He was baptized at 9, but wandered away from God. After a nearly fatal accident at 12, he decided to be good enough to earn God’s mercy, but discovered the futility of depending on himself and instead surrendered to Christ.

Burt was ordained April 1 at the Enterprise Church in Enterprise, Kansas. He began his ministry as an intern pastor at the Chapel Oaks and Lawrence churches in Kansas. He then went to seminary and, after completing his Master of Divinity, returned to serve the

Enterprise, Junction City and Salina churches.

Burt’s father, **Merlin Burt**, gave the message during the ordination service. He challenged Burt to keep his emphasis on making disciples for Jesus. The Kansas-Nebraska Conference president **Ron Carlson** delivered the ordination prayer, and said, “Scripture tells us we are to lay hands on you. It is a sign, a symbol in Scripture of blessing. There is something special about community—a whole group of your colleagues saying, ‘Lord, please bless the ministry of this couple.’”

Burt responded to the ordination charge by requesting

his members’ support through prayer: “Pray for me and for our churches that we can be what God intended us to be.”

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

(l-r) front row: Sue Carlson, Kaleb, Marlene and Jonathan Burt, Ron Carlson, Darin Gottfried; middle row: Mic Thurber, Mike Fenton, Merlin Burt, Virgil Covel; back row: Tim Johnston, Jeff Lewis, John Sweigart.



Courtesy: Kansas-Nebraska Conference

Mission to Minnesota: An Acts Experience

Photos Courtesy Maplewood Academy



Maplewood students traveled to the mission field of their own home state where they worked to help another school, local churches and community centers.



Ten people embarked March 1 from Maplewood Academy with two vans, food, sleeping bags, painting supplies and, most importantly, positive attitudes on a mission trip to Minnesota. Acts 2 and 4 describe the early Christian church as living in harmony and unity while working for and with each other. For 12 days, our group shared an Acts experience as we worked with Capital City Adventist Christian School, the Stillwater Church, ACTS Thrift Store, Cass Lake Fellowship and the Bemidji Church.



Work started with painting the gymnasium floor and walls at Capital City Adventist Christian School under the direction of **Jon and Mandi Kutschara**. **Doug Eno**, a Maplewood alumnus, repainted the lines of the gymnasium floor while students, staff and friends (**Mike and Dave Haefner**) prepared and painted the walls. With a spirit of oneness like that described in Acts and a desire to help, four coats of paint were applied in two days, and



the gym was cleaned and put back in order before Sabbath.

The students said one of the true highlights of the mission trip was meeting people from around the conference. The Stillwater Church greeted us with open arms as we worshipped with them and assisted with their ministry to the homeless in the Twin Cities. We drove the streets looking for homeless people to whom we could give food, blankets, tarps, hats and gloves. What an experience to give to the homeless and receive hugs and positive stories back from them! We returned to the Stillwater Church Monday to paint their fellowship hall, but the work was secondary to getting to know the church members who fed and loved us.

Tuesday, March 7, found our group traveling to Monticello to work at the ACTS Thrift Store operated by the local church. We spent two days sorting and organizing donations and cleaning the store. The students enjoyed shopping for good deals as well. **Kellie Peterson** was a joy to work with, and **Amy Sutherland** opened her home and heart to our group. It felt good to work with people who actively minister to their community.

The last part of our mission trip involved working at the Cass Lake Fellowship house,

an outreach of the Bemidji Church to Native Americans. The church members lovingly took us into their homes, and we were grateful to meet new friends.

We focused our attention on projects at the Cass Lake house, which is directed by **Bob and Holly Ewert**. They patiently taught us how to hang doors, trim windows, lay floor tiles and hang mirrors. We were even able to continue perfecting our wall painting skills. Our students spoke for the Bemidji Church service on Sabbath and for children's church at the Cass Lake house. Seeing the students interact with the children was a heartwarming experience. Bible stories were told, prayers were said and hugs were given.

Over the 12 days, a bond was created between students and staff. We laughed, cooked, ate, worked and rested together. The memorable worships, prayer times and new friends truly united us. We had an Acts experience and we praise God for it. "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32 NIV).

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Linda Vigil is the religion teacher and chaplain for Maplewood Academy.

New Home for Rock of Ages Church

It is amazing what a congregation can do when members are dedicated, willing to sacrifice, willing to work as a team and have faith in the Lord of the universe. Such is the incredible story of the Rock of Ages Church in Savage, Minnesota.

In early September 2012, **Pastor Absalom Birai**, his wife **Rachel Birai** and 10 others began meeting and planning to plant a new church south of the Minnesota River. With the blessing of conference administration, the Rock of Ages Church was launched Nov. 24, 2012 with an encouraging attendance of 150. By God's grace the Rock of Ages Church grew so fast that only six months after launching, it became a full-fledged multicultural congregation.

Stepping out in faith

After two years, an ambitious campaign was started to raise a down payment of \$175,000 that would enable us to buy our own church building. We embarked on this project by faith, knowing that the Lord who brought us this far would see us through.

We emphasized four key elements in our planning meetings: prayer for God to open and close doors according to His will; the exercise of enduring faith; each to do their part; and each to share their burden with those in their circle of friends.

To reach our goal we tried different methods of fundraising. We divided ourselves

into various groups and asked each group to raise a certain amount of money. We had quarterly fundraisers where we came together, shared a meal and each gave at least \$100. We used online forms of giving such as PayPal. We encouraged each other to solicit funds from those in their circle of loved ones. We even wrote to some churches asking for donations. While the majority of churches said no, citing their own financial needs, some did send us donations. Four churches sent us \$500 each, for which we are grateful.

Our greatest challenge was actually finding a building to buy. This is because many conflicting interests came into play—distance, affordability, location, member preferences and conference requirements. We searched,

toured different buildings and prayed for each one. In the end, the will of God was done. With the help of the conference, on Dec. 18, 2016 our church went from renting to owning. Hallelujah!

The property was used as business offices, so there are renovations needed to turn it into a church building. The renovation estimate is \$70,000. We had hardly purchased the building when we started raising funds for renovation. As of March 30, we had raised \$25,000. Going by the same faith, renovation started April 15 and will continue for two months.

The greatest gift of all

We ask for two things of those who read this article. First, please pray our renovation project will succeed.

Second, share our joy and burden to those in your circle of friends and loved ones.

As a church, we are thankful for what the Lord has done for us. We do not want to forget to thank the conference for helping us when we needed them most, the church members for their faith, sacrifice and commitment and all those who helped us in one way or another. This building will enable us to do more ministry and bring more people to Christ, and that is the greatest gift of all.

Absalom Birai is a church planter in the Minnesota Conference. Andrew Thompson is first elder and Brian Omirera is head deacon for the Rock of Ages Church.

Rock of Ages Church members worked hard to raise funds to purchase their own building in which to worship.



Absalom Birai

SHIFT Justice Conference Inspires Action

She abhors human trafficking and her faith fortifies her resolve to fight it. That's the story of 19-year-old **Katie McTavish** from the Newday Church in Parker, Colorado. Accordingly, on March 11, McTavish joined 300 other activists at SHIFT Justice Conference 2017 in Denver.

The lineup of speakers for SHIFT Justice Conference reads like a list of Who's Who in the fight against human trafficking: Dalit Freedom Network, Hope Academy, A-21, Free Indeed, Girl Above, Tall Truth and Joy International were all present.

Nearly 60 young volunteers from high schools in the Denver area organized the conference to educate, empower and motivate people to get involved in the fight for justice.

Laura Lederer, a leading State Department official, explains that "Human trafficking is the third-largest global criminal enterprise, exceeded only by drug and arms trafficking."¹ Because of this dire need, well-known organizations are willing to send speakers even to events organized by high school students.

The professionally executed conference was held at Valor Christian High School. Featured speakers and breakout sessions provided information about the problem of sex trafficking in the area. A head deputy from the police system in Denver—part of the FBI—spoke about what they are doing to stop human trafficking in Denver. One

example given was Operation Cross Country IX, conducted in 2012 in Colorado and Wyoming, where 20 underage victims were recovered in Denver.

We typically think of human trafficking happening in foreign countries, but it has sadly become a problem in the United States as well. Denver, along with several other cities in the Mid-America Union, is a human trafficking hub. "We're in the middle of the country, and that makes us a destination state, but also a transit state," says **Amanda Finger**, co-founder of The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking. "With I-25 and I-70 connecting us to the coast or to the borders, we sit right in the middle of a lot of action."²

Krisa Van Allen, founder of Girl Above and a presenter for the conference, spoke with sisters Katie and **Laura McTavish** after the event. Van Allen was impressed by the sisters' enthusiasm and took them out for coffee to talk more.

"The conversation we had over coffee was an answer to prayer," shares Katie McTavish, who is a communication student at Colorado Christian University. "I've been wondering what to do with this passion and this call." She fired questions at Van Allen and received answers for things that had been burning in her heart: *What should I take in college? What challenges have you had working in this field? What*

rewards have you had?

Van Allen's answers were encouraging, McTavish says. She explained that some days she sits in her office working on spreadsheets, and other days she finds herself in Greece working with victims. "She encouraged me to finish my education and step into volunteer opportunities."

"Today's Christians have to realize the need for justice in the world," says McTavish, "that it is something God calls us to do. Our congregations really need to talk about these things. A lot of poverty as well as human trafficking is based on messed up justice systems and corrupt governments. People can't get out of poverty nor out of human trafficking without help."

Dave Kennedy, pastor of the Newday Church, says several of his members are involved in fighting for justice. Among them is **Kirk Samuel**, founder of Free Indeed and a contributor to

SHIFT Justice Conference. "Katie and Kirk are examples of passionate Christ followers who love God and serve people in tangible ways," says Kennedy. "They use their gifts to fight oppression and set the captives free."

McTavish encourages more people to get involved. "Give a week, a month, a year," she urges. "It's not easy and it won't be comfortable, but it is something that has to be done."

1. Tully, Andrew. "Experts Say Human Trafficking A Major Problem In U.S." www.rferl.org. July 11, 2008.

2. Simmons, Brandy. "Inside Colorado's underground sex trafficking empire." www.therooster.com. Sept. 8, 2016.

Find more information about SHIFT Justice Conference at facebook.com/shiftjusticeconference.

Student volunteers prepare gift bags for attendees at SHIFT Justice Conference 2017 in Denver. Approximately 300 activists attended the conference to learn how to fight sex trafficking locally.



Facebook

Family Celebrates Miracles and Baptism

Lexi was special from the beginning. The first child of single mother **Melissa**, she was a sweet baby, but she began to exhibit puzzling symptoms. She had trouble swallowing and she experienced double vision. She was eventually diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a long-term neuromuscular disease. Melissa also noticed Lexi's sensitivity to spiritual things, probably the result of time spent with great-grandparents **Cliff** and **Norma Lewis**, members of the Fort Lupton Church.

As Lexi grew, her symptoms worsened, and doctors

said there was nothing more they could do. Great-grandmother Norma approached **Pastor Ted Williams** at church and asked, "When can we anoint Lexi?"

"How about right now?" he responded. Lexi went into remission immediately following her anointing.

A few years later, Lexi's mother met and married **Chad Aragon**. Pastor Ted studied with them, but Chad was certain the Sabbath was an unnecessary complication.

Lexi persistently shared her faith with her family, including Chad. The Holy Spirit

gradually worked on their hearts, and they all came to a place where they desired baptism. On April 1, Chad, Melissa and Lexi all waded together into the baptismal tank with Pastor Ted.

"God is all about family," Pastor Ted explained. As head of the family, Chad was baptized first. Together, Pastor Ted and Chad baptized Melissa. Lexi, now 12, was baptized by all three. Assured of God's forgiveness and love, their faces glowed with a heavenly light. Lexi's years-long prayer was answered.



Armanda Thomas

Campion Students Gain Friendships Through Giving

The road to Azul Wasi's campus passes through cornfields and a chest-high cactus fence. A blue gate backed by mountains greets visitors with a depiction of Jesus and a sign that proclaims this is, indeed, Azul Wasi.

It is here **Nate Marin**, **Jim Hughes** and 36 Campion Academy students spent their recent spring break with a plan to "do something of significance and be immersed in the culture," explains Hughes.

Azul Wasi is an orphanage founded in 2002 by a retired police officer who saw the troubled lives of kids living on the streets. Located 45 minutes outside of Cusco, Peru, in the tiny town of Oropesa, the orphanage is now home to around 15 kids.

Campion students rotated through three groups, one of which went to the Adventist

church in Oropesa with **Dr. Stacey**, a dentist from Loveland who ran an all-day dental clinic. The second group provided a Vacation Bible School program for the children in the town and again at night for the children at the orphanage. The third group worked with construction.

The construction crew tore down three unused buildings, did groundwork for installing a septic tank and poured the second floor for the main building. "[The concrete pour] was a major undertaking," says Hughes, "which we hammered out in a day." The students hauled buckets, pushed wheelbarrows and worked very hard over the 12 days spent there.

The kids from Azul Wasi showed gratitude by working alongside the students,

matching their work bucket for bucket, wheelbarrow for wheelbarrow.

The scarcity of hot water in the showers helped the students see the privilege we live in. Campion senior **Jay Mamanua** says he wants to make sure the lessons he learned stick with him as long as possible. "I try to be appreciative of everything I have," he says.

It was difficult to say goodbye after making connections, but Azul Wasi residents and Campion Academy students stay in touch through social media and video chat. "They discovered," says Hughes, "that giving is better than getting."

Articles on these pages were written by Carol Bolden, communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Jim Hughes

New Bouldering Wall Helps Students Get a Grip on College Life

Union College was founded on the principle that education must embrace both the mind and body. This year, a new addition to campus continues that tradition: a bouldering wall funded by contributions from students and alumni.

“I’m often studying for hours at a time in the library,” said **Tylar Bissell**, a second year PA student and one of the student supervisors for the new wall. “When I hit a mental block, I can take a break, do a few routes to clear my mind and be ready to go back and study. Recreation is important for a balanced college life.”

Bissell’s experience echoes the words of one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church. More than 100 years ago, Ellen G. White wrote in her book *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*: “The time spent in physical exercise is not lost.

The student who is constantly poring over his books, while he takes but little exercise in the open air, does himself an injury” (p. 295). White’s guidance led to the creation of Union College, and her vision of education continues to be the cornerstone of Adventist institutions around the world.

A full-body workout for all skill levels

Dubbed “The Cave” because of its location under the west balcony in the Don Love Building, the 10-foot-tall room allows climbers to test their strength and problem-solving skills using hand and foot holds along the walls and ceiling.

While vertical climbing walls often require special equipment, shorter bouldering walls are safer and more accessible for beginners. Instead of focusing on an upward movement, climbers

must learn to find hand and foot holds along horizontal routes that can include the room’s ceiling. Often using the same holds, routes can be designed to challenge a range of skill levels from novice to even the most experienced climbers. The holds are modular and can be secured in different locations, creating a new experience with the same infrastructure.

“We change the routes often,” said **Emilian Grigore**, a second year PA student and one of The Cave supervisors. “We create specific routes to promote training and strengthening techniques.”

A bouldering wall offers a full-body workout. Climbers can prepare and strengthen their upper body and grip for outdoor climbing in ways a vertical wall cannot. “Many people don’t understand how much can be done in a small area. A climber may only do 5-10 moves as compared to 20

with vertical climbing, but the steeper incline and placement of routes make it harder,” said Grigore.

Built by student initiative

International Rescue and Relief students, who use rock climbing in their wilderness rescue training, previously practiced on a similar wall located in their old offices on the first floor of Rees Hall. When IRR moved to a new facility in the Don Love Building three years ago, creating a new climbing wall was put on hold while director **Rick Young** worked on a plan that would serve the whole campus.

“Climbing should be available to all students,” he said. “We don’t want this wall to be only for IRR students. Climbing provides more benefits than mere exercise. Students can develop skills they can’t learn inside a classroom.”

Meanwhile, students and staff explored ways to provide more recreational opportunities that weren’t dependent on Nebraska’s unpredictable weather. The idea of adding a bouldering wall soon gained traction because of the academic tie with the IRR program and accessibility of the activity for all students. “Having a climbing wall is invaluable,” said Bissell, who has made new friends through climbing and credits the old bouldering wall with helping him better prepare for the Colorado wilderness training

Photos: Melissa Inkelaar/Union College



International Rescue and Relief major Taylor Deddens uses the climbing wall to practice a variety of climbing skills. The climbing wall is open to all students 7 am to midnight Sunday-Thursday, 7 am to sundown Friday, and open to the community 6 to 10 pm Sunday-Thursday.

during his undergraduate education.

Union's student leaders loved the idea. Several passionate climbers presented ideas to school administration while student government contributed \$30,000 from the Associated Student Body budget to jumpstart the project.

The project did not use any funds from tuition. Rather, ASB challenged alumni to match their contribution in order to raise the \$125,000 needed to complete the project. And donors responded. "I want students to know that if they believe in something, they will have support," said a lead contributor who was impressed by the students' initiative.

A climbing community

The new, glass-enclosed bouldering cave opened in January—complete with a furnished social and studying space made possible by an additional \$10,000 gift.

"Bouldering is a beneficial experience," said **Madison Kamarad**, an IRR major from Wyoming who loves the new bouldering cave. "I can now encourage my friends to start climbing."

The Cave is open from 7 am to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 7 am to sun-down on Friday. Instructors are available in the evenings, and first-time visitors must go through a safety check and sign a waiver before being allowed to climb during the

day. The wall is also open to the Lincoln community between 6 and 10 pm.

For anyone new to bouldering, instructors will provide guidance and even loan out climbing shoes and chalk.

For many students, climbing provides a great break from studying—the physical activity the body needs to help keep a grip on studies. "I always ask friends to come climb with me when I'm working. There's a certain community to being involved with climbing," said Grigore. "And, you don't have to climb for a long time to receive the benefits."

Emily Wood graduated from Union College in May 2017 with a degree in communication.

Union College's new bouldering cave opened in January 2017. Located under the balcony in the Don Love Building Atrium, the room allows students to exercise all year long.



UNION COLLEGE NEWS

Union offers first online class

This summer Union offered an online class for the first time—West and the World (HIST 157). Taught by Dr. Benjamin Tyner, the class is for current students and is FREE to incoming freshmen who have paid their confirmation deposit.

Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/first-online-class

Choral students see miracles in van crash

When a Union College choral group's van was run off the road and flipped on its side while returning from a spring break tour, no one sustained serious injuries. Members of a nearby Evanston, Wyoming, Latter-day Saints congregation took care of the students until they could be picked up.

Read the story at www.ucollege.edu/wyoming-crash

Visit Union free

Interested in attending Union College this fall? Don't wait to apply. Complete your confirmation so you can reserve a room in the residence hall and lock in your class schedule. Or you can come visit us for FREE this summer. We'll even help pay for the trip.

Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/visit

Peru Mission Trips Yield High Impact

As a global expression of Adventist Health System's mission of *Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ*, Shawnee Mission Health is proud to be sponsoring its second mission trip to Peru in September 2017. During this trip, health professionals from SMH will offer surgeries in Iquitos through a partnership with a small Seventh-day Adventist hospital Clínica Adventista Ana Stahl and primary care clinics in Pucallpa in collaboration with the Eastern Peruvian Mission.

With a population of around 500,000, Iquitos is the largest city in the world that is inaccessible by road and can only be reached by boat or plane. Located in the Amazon basin, Iquitos has great health care needs, and services are limited and expensive for local residents. Most cannot afford to see a doctor or utilize the few clinical services available. In Iquitos, the SMH team will provide a variety of free surgeries, including those for

cleft lips and palates.

Pucallpa is a city of approximately 310,000 and lies on the banks of the Ucayali River. Like Iquitos, Pucallpa has limited medical services and draws people in from the Amazon basin searching for medical assistance. The team's mission in Pucallpa will be to set up temporary clinics to address the basic health needs of people living in the city and the villages along the Amazon River and its tributaries. Services will include vision screenings, primary care and health education.

The upcoming trip will mark the second time SMH, a health care network in the Kansas City area, has organized a mission trip to Peru. Last year's Iquitos team performed 34 procedures for cleft lips/palates, burn scar remediation and other minor procedures. The Pucallpa team served 1,672 patients through a variety of interventions, including vision testing, providing reading glasses, distributing vitamins

and parasite medications and treating upper respiratory conditions, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Each trip lasts 10 days and costs about \$3,000 per associate to attend. SMH provides financial assistance for associates through the Dr. J. Douglas Cusick Medical Missions Endowment fund. Administrative director of Spiritual Wellness **Mark Stoddart** leads the mission trips for SMH and is instrumental in developing the mission teams.

"In 2016, we took 32 people including a surgery team, nurses, primary care doctors, pediatricians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, phlebotomists, interpreters and other non-clinical people," said Stoddart. "The Pucallpa team was supported by local volunteers from AMOR Projects, a local physician from the Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Lima, Clínica Good Hope, as well as the regional Seventh-day Adventist

Church organization Eastern Peruvian Mission."

The logistics of taking a large group to another country and ensuring their experience is safe, meaningful and enjoyable can sometimes be challenging. However, participants agree that their experience in Peru caring for those who are ill and nurturing the health of others is fulfilling and unforgettable.

"The people we serve are so grateful," said Stoddart. "One of the blessings for me was working with a team of individuals who had a single focus—to do whatever was needed. The team effort was just incredible."

Ultimately, SMH's efforts not only provide free health care to those who would otherwise go without, but also offer a community outreach opportunity for the local hospital and Mission.

"In Pucallpa, the Eastern Peruvian Mission has a dream to build a hospital in the region," said Stoddart. "We are committed to supporting them in this endeavor, and part of that support is for Shawnee Mission Health to provide an annual presence that extends care to the people they will one day serve in their hospital."

To learn more about Shawnee Mission Health, visit ShawneeMission.org.

Courtesy Shawnee Mission Health



Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

Forty Years of Caring

For **Rita Kurtz**, working at Porter Adventist Hospital has been a faith-building experience. She retired this year as director of Perioperative Services after 40 years of service on that campus.

Rita interviewed for a nursing position at Porter Adventist Hospital in October of 1975 and was offered a job the same day. Right away, she discovered there was something different—something special—about the atmosphere at Porter. She is thankful to have worked in an environment where meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of patients is a priority.

Porter is one of five Adventist hospital campuses in the Denver area and one of 45 sister campuses that make up Adventist Health System. It has more than 80,000 employees system-wide, only a fraction of which are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, yet the Adventist mission remains strongly motivating across all of its campuses.

“We often speak of the way we ‘extend the healing ministry of Christ’ to the patients and family members who walk the hallways of our hospitals,” says **Jim Feldbush**, director of Mission and Ministry at Porter Adventist Hospital. “There’s an even greater opportunity for ministry that happens in the lives of those who work in our hallways each and every day.”

For Rita, religion is a private, personal matter. She

fulfilled her part of the mission by calling each patient by name and looking each one in the eye.

“It’s about making them feel like they are special—that they really matter,” she says. She demonstrated this by listening, by validating their concerns, and by immediately addressing their complaints.

Rita worked as a nursing director in the operating recovery area for much of her time at Porter. This gave her endless opportunities for meaningful interaction with patients experiencing fear, pain and vulnerability.

“You are interacting with people at a critical stage in their lives,” says Rita. “They are in a state of crisis, and that’s when a warm squeeze of the hand or an assuring pat on the shoulder can make a huge difference. It’s not just providing care *for* your patients; it’s actually caring *about* your patients.”

Rita experienced that on a personal level while one of her colleagues was having surgery. In the middle of the procedure, complications arose and the associate’s heart stopped beating. Rita recalls with strong emotion the skill and dedication of the team as they feverishly worked to save their coworker’s life. With tears in their eyes, one of the team members said, “We saved one of our own.” Rita thoughtfully replied, “That is what it’s about.”

Morre Dean, CEO of Porter Adventist Hospital, believes that Porter has a history of longevity with its



Courtesy Porter Adventist Hospital

Rita Kurtz recalls a touching moment while being interviewed for a recent documentary focusing on employees of Porter Adventist Hospital.

employees because they discover a culture of caring that connects with their sense of mission. Their commitment to service becomes more than just a job.

“This type of caring is just one more way we extend the healing ministry of Christ—both internally and externally,” says Dean. “Whenever they come into work they know that they’re making a difference in people’s lives. That really resonates with them and they wind up staying for a long time.”

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This article was written by Mark Bond on behalf of the five Colorado Adventist hospital campuses that make up Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/Centura Health.



If you have a calling to work for an institution where genuinely caring for patients *and* employees is a part of your daily job description, visit careers.centura.org.



You can view a short video featuring the experience of employees, including Rita, at Porter Adventist Hospital at bit.ly/whatsmywhy.

Allen, Bonner Hamilton, b. July 25, 1922. d. Jan. 14, 2017. Member of Denver West Church.

Bleak, Ellen Louise, b. Jan. 31, 1932 in Rifle, CO. d. July 20, 2015 in Kenai, AK. Member of Rifle Church. Preceded in death by husband Fletcher; daughters Nancy Nelson and Lou Ann Bassham; 1 sister. Survived by son Lawrence Brackett; 1 brother; 18 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Bugh, Cecil A., b. Feb. 21, 1921. d. Feb. 7, 2017. Member of Pueblo First Church.

Carroll, Lawrence L. K., Sr., b. Nov. 15, 1929. d. Feb. 12, 2017. Member of Fort Lupton Church.

Christy, Rich, d. March 8, 2017. Member of Dodge Center Church.

Colomina, Alain, b. June 2, 1972 in La Habana, Cuba. d. Feb. 22, 2017 in Madrid, Spain. Member of Independence (MO) Ebenezer Spanish Church. Survivors include wife Ivonne Labori; daughters Camila Colomina-Labori and Carlota Labori.

Cooksey, Thela M., b. Aug. 8, 1930 in Madison, IL. d. Feb. 26, 2017 in Salem, MO. Member of Salem Church. Preceded in death by 5 siblings. Survivors include husband Irvin, Sr.; daughters Thela Kropp and Alma Mehling; son Irvin, Jr.; 10 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Countryman, Patti, b. April 11, 1936. d. Feb. 7, 2017. Member of Loveland Church.

Covington, Suzanne, b. June 16, 1947. d. April 4, 2017. Member of Rock of Ages Church.

Correction: Dinesen, Ruth R., b. July 23, 1923 near Fiscus, IA. d. Dec. 19, 2016 in Council Bluffs, IA. Member of Harlan Church. Preceded in death by husbands Martin Dinesen, Charles Swanson and Ares Dinesen; 3 siblings; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughters Ramona Parker, Annette Beierle, Cheryl Martinez and Melissa; stepdaughter Debra Moore; 2 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Epperson, Katherine, b. April 14, 1924. d. Feb. 3, 2017. Member of Pueblo First Church.

Flemmer, Raymond, b. Nov. 25, 1925 in Napoleon, ND. d. Dec. 2, 2016 in Loma Linda, CA. Member of Azure Hills Church. Preceded in death by wife Viola; 1 son; 2 siblings. Survived by daughter Lynette Rivinius; son Doug; 5 siblings; 2 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Gabriella, Anthony, b. Aug. 6, 1922. d. March 11, 2017. Member of Boulder Church.

Gane, Winsome Lillian, b. Nov. 25, 1927 in Wahroonga, Australia. d. April 23, 2017 in Loveland, CO. Member of Adventure Church. Preceded in death by brother Frank Baron. Survivors include husband Erwin; sons Roy and Calvin; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Gordy, Joseph S., Jr., b. Sept. 30, 1929. d. Feb. 9, 2017. Member of Elm Haven Fellowship.

Greet, George E., b. March 7, 1914. d. Feb. 5, 2017 in Buffalo, WY. Member of Ten Sleep Church.

Hall, Ann Gilmore, b. March 19, 1932. d. March 12, 2017. Member of Cheyenne Church.

Hall, Robert L., b. Feb. 25, 1950 in Springfield, MO. d.

Feb. 18, 2017 in Rogersville, MO. Member of Oak Grove Heights Church. Survivors include wife Carol; stepdaughter Robyn Kauffman; stepsons Thomas and Adam Fisher; 6 siblings; 3 grandchildren.

Hehn, Violet P., b. Oct. 1, 1927 in Cleveland, ND. d. March 27, 2017 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park Church. Preceded in death by husband Albert. Survived by children Lisa Truax, Randy, Bruce and Daryl; 1 brother; 1 sister; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Jackson, Jon J., b. Oct. 12, 1957 in Leon, IA. d. April 8, 2017 in Osceola, IA. Member of Osceola Church. Preceded in death by parents; infant daughter Jessica. Survivors include wife Mona; daughter Jen Feezell; son Jon, Jr.; stepdaughter Staci Wuthrich; stepson Chris Wuthrich; 5 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren.

Jansen, George J., b. Nov. 26, 1941 in Steele, ND. d. Feb. 25, 2017 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by former wife Judy Mayer; 1 brother; infant sister. Survived by former wife Mary Ann Sayler; daughters Nicole Chance, Heather Brown and Rochelle "Shelley" Watson; stepdaughters Valarie Buchholz, Deanna Muth and Christy Mehlhoff; 1 brother; 10 grandchildren.

Jewell, Dorothy, b. Nov. 21, 1925. d. April 10, 2017. Member of Bemidji Church.

Johnson, Betty, b. Feb. 15, 1922 in Lincoln, NE. d. April 10, 2017 in Rapid City, SD. Preceded in death by daughter Nancy Ann Marcoe. Survived by children Robin Marcoe, Benjamin Marcoe and Trace

Let; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Knapp, Lillian P., b. June 7, 1928 in Dickinson, ND. d. Nov. 26, 2016 in Ellendale, ND. Member of Kulm Church. Preceded in death by husband Clifford; 5 brothers. Survived by daughters Bonnie Rabine and Brenda; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

La Belle, Christopher Steven, b. July 1, 1987. d. April 8, 2017. Member of Minnetonka Church. Survived by parents Larry and Connie Brandenburger-La Belle; 1 brother; 1 sister.

Markley, Dorothy I., b. May 20, 1928 in South Dakota. d. March 1, 2017 in Spencer, IA. Member of Spencer Church. Preceded in death by husband Guy; 2 siblings; 2 adopted siblings. Survivors include daughter Patricia Streufert; son Guy; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

McPherson, Bob, b. Dec. 26, 1931. d. Oct. 23, 2016. Member of Elm Haven Fellowship Church.

Melendez, James, b. July 16, 1965. d. Feb. 24, 2017. Member of St. Paul First Church.

Nash, Catherine, b. Oct. 24, 1923 in Camden, NJ. d. July 31, 2016 in Brighton, CO. Member of Cedaredge Church. Preceded in death by husband Melvin; son Melvin, Jr.; 2 sisters; 1 brother. Survived by daughters Barbara Jean Parrott, Mary Jane Henry and Kathryn Diane Ward; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Nielsen, Lillian V., b. Aug. 20, 1922 in Zwiebach County, SD. d. Sept. 23, 2016 in Lincoln, NE. Long-time member of Southview Church and later of College View Church. Preceded

in death by husband Earl. Survivors include children Kathleen Carlson, Gary, Karen Tobey and Rebecca Haugen; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Nyabuto, Cherie Teresa Naomi, b. Oct. 20, 1991. d. March 12, 2017. Member of Faith Church International.

Ordelheide, Marjorie L., b. June 10, 1925. d. Feb. 21, 2017. Member of True Life Community Church.

Parks, Evelyn C., b. March 29, 1922. d. Feb. 13, 2017 in Denver, CO. Member of Denver South Church. Preceded in death by husband William.

Pester, Lillian J., b. Oct. 11, 1916. d. Oct. 13, 2014 in Sturgeon, MO. Member of Sunnydale Church. Preceded in death by husband David, Sr.; 9 siblings. Survivors include sons David, Jr., and Darrell.

Peterson, Beverly, b. Aug. 7, 1932. d. April 9, 2017. Member of Minnetonka Church.

Phillips, Lily "Marie," b. Oct. 22, 1920 in Sugar City, CO. d. April 13, 2017 in El Dorado Springs, MO. Member of Nevada (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Charles; daughter Marie Reed; 6 siblings; 1 great-granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Louise Parizek, Charlene Jenkins and Martha Osterhout; sons Charles and Harold; 1 brother; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Rivinius, Edwin, b. July 30, 1920 in North Dakota. d. Feb. 28, 2017 in Aurora, CO. Member of Moberge Church. Preceded in death by 3 siblings. Survived by wife Ruth; son Jerry; daughter Sheryl Page; 4

siblings; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Roderick, Robert, b. June 30, 1925. d. March 28, 2017. Member of Pipestone Church.

Rodman, Virginia P., b. Nov. 7, 1928. d. April 1, 2017 in Strafford, MO. Member of Springfield Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include husband Howard; daughters Debby Bishop and Lorna Garrett; son Darrell; 9 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren.

Rosia, Ana, b. May 16, 1933 in Romania. d. Sept. 27, 2015 in Mission, TX. Member of Bolivar (MO) Church.

Seha, Betty, b. June 3, 1931. d. March 11, 2017. Member of Albert Lea Church.

Thompson, Ruby Darleen Leoffler, b. Nov. 30, 1932 in Burlington, CO. d. Jan. 22, 2017 in Burlington, CO. Member of Burlington Church. Preceded in death by husband Jacob Leoffler; daughter Susan Wyrick. Survived by husband Francis; daughter Linda Weaver; son Joe Leoffler; 3 brothers; 5 grandchildren.

Thompson, Sheryl Emma, b. Oct. 25, 1962. d. Feb. 21, 2016. Member of Golden Church.

Torres, Michael Felix, b. May 21, 2017. d. Jan. 9, 2017. Member of True Life Community Church.

Woods, Laverna, b. April 2, 1932. d. April 10, 2017. Member of Fergus Falls Church.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.
1 Thessalonians 4:16

JUNE 2017

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
	Denver	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:32
	Grand Junction	8:31	8:36	8:40	8:42	8:44
	Pueblo	8:13	8:18	8:21	8:24	8:25
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:26	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:40
	Des Moines	8:39	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52
	Sioux City	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:05	9:07
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05
Goodland	8:04	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:17	
Topeka	8:39	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	8:51	8:57	9:02	9:05	9:06	
International Falls	9:03	9:10	9:15	9:19	9:20	
Minneapolis	8:49	8:55	8:59	9:02	9:03	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:25	8:31	8:34	8:37	8:38	
Kansas City	8:35	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:48	
St. Louis	8:16	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:29	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	8:49	8:54	8:58	9:01	9:02	
North Platte	9:06	9:11	9:15	9:18	9:19	
Scottsbluff	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:25	9:32	9:37	9:40	9:41	
Fargo	9:10	9:16	9:21	9:24	9:25	
Williston	9:42	9:49	9:54	9:57	9:58	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:15	9:21	9:25	9:28	9:29	
Rapid City	8:25	8:31	8:36	8:39	8:40	
Sioux Falls	8:57	9:03	9:08	9:11	9:12	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:34	8:39	8:43	8:46	8:48	
Cheyenne	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:36	
Sheridan	8:43	8:49	8:53	8:56	8:57	

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email Brennan Hallock at brennan@outlookmag.org. Questions? 402.484.3028.

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Walla Walla University is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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EVENTS

AUC AEOLIANS! An Aeolian reunion is being planned for Atlantic Union College Alumni Weekend, April 20-22, 2018. Please contact Terry Koch: terrko2@charter.net.

ROLLA (MO) CHURCH SCHOOL REUNION SABBATH, SEPT. 2.

Did you attend Rolla Seventh-day Adventist Church School? Teach? Pastor? Parent? Reunion Sabbath is Labor Day Weekend. Church program, fellowship dinner, photo share, musical vespers and pizza party in the gym Saturday night. Come and reconnect with friends. Contact Nona Lehman: 573.201.9159.

TRAVEL/RENTALS

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JUNE 6-10

Dakota Camp Meeting
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 Bismarck, ND

IOWA-MISSOURI CONFERENCE

JUNE 6-10

Iowa-Missouri Camp Meeting
 Camp Heritage
 Climax Springs, MO

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONFERENCE

MAY 31-JUNE 3

Kansas-Nebraska Camp Meeting
 Union College
 Lincoln, NE

JULY 14-15

Central Nebraska Camp Meeting
 Camp Arrowhead
 Lexington, NE

SEPT 1-4

Kansas Hispanic Camp Meeting
 Broken Arrow Ranch
 Olsburg, KS

OCT 6-7

**Kansas-Nebraska Panhandle
 Camp Meeting**
 Scottsbluff, NE

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

JUNE 6-10

Minnesota Camp Meeting
 Maplewood Academy
 Hutchinson, MN

JULY 2-8

Twin Cities African Camp Meeting

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

JUNE 9-10

Northeast Slope Camp Meeting
 Champion Academy
 Loveland, CO

JULY 5-9

Cowboy Camp Meeting
 Silver Jack Reservoir
 Cimeron, CO

JULY 11-15

Wyoming Camp Meeting
 Mills Spring Ranch
 Casper, WY

SEPT 1-3

Hispanic Camp Meeting
 Glacier View Ranch
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