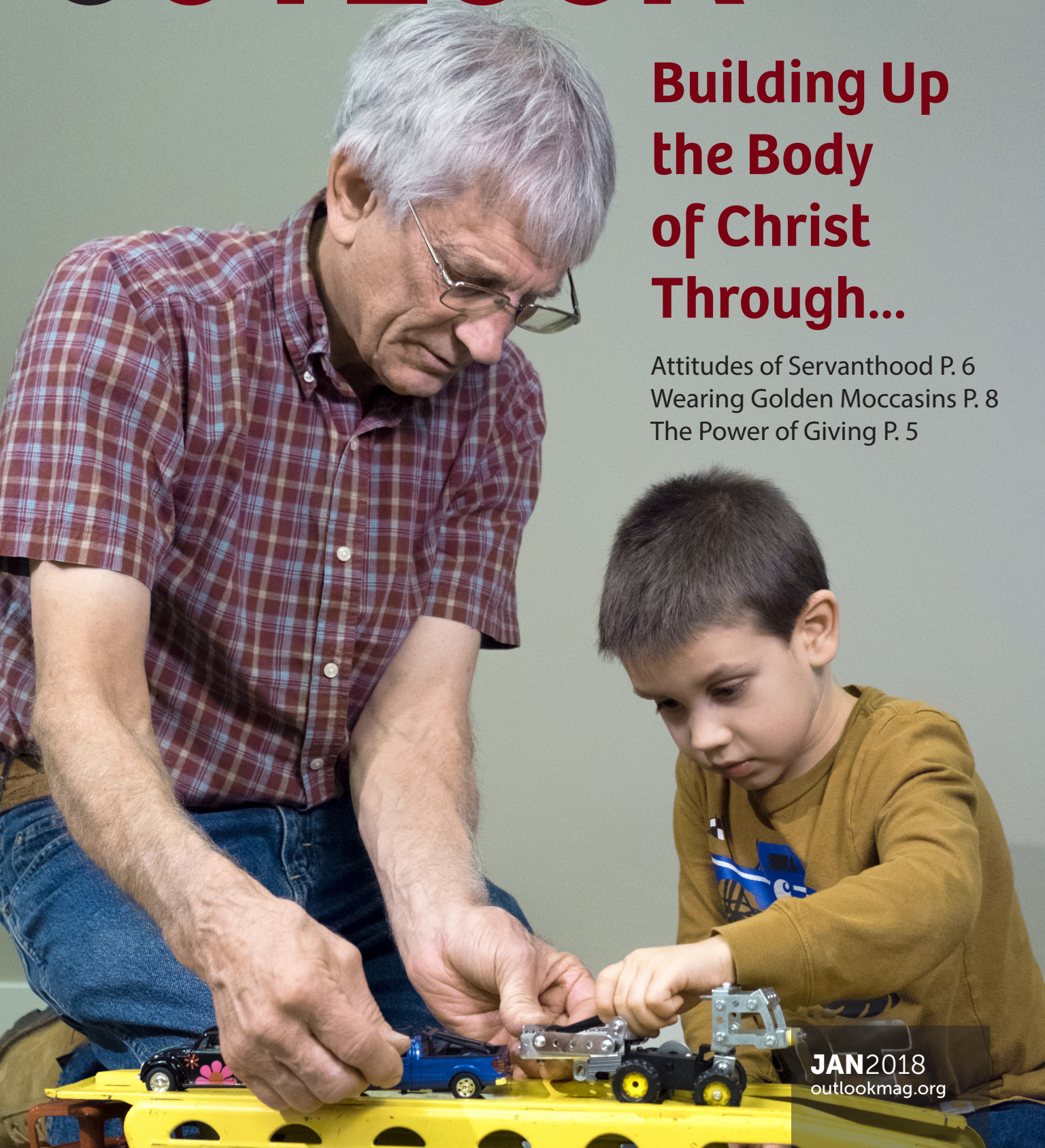
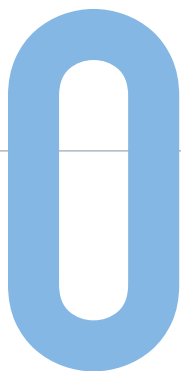


OUTLOOK

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WHY AND HOW TO BUILD UP GOD'S CHURCH IN THE NEW YEAR



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor

Before He returned to heaven after His life here on earth, Jesus left His disciples with the mission of going to all the world and making disciples of every nation. This commission gives Christians their marching orders, and the church provides a structure to assist in fulfilling that goal. The church is the brainchild of Jesus (see p. 4). Therefore, building up the church, which is the body of Christ on earth, should be of paramount importance to followers of Jesus.

During 2018, each issue of OUTLOOK magazine will focus on a particular part of the body of Christ and how each group—including students, chaplains, singles, refugees, teachers, healthcare professionals—is strengthening the entire body. We hope you will be encouraged and inspired as you join this journey of exploration.

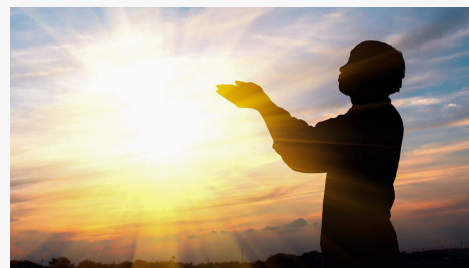
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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



MAUC Executive Committee Wraps Up 2017

bit.ly/execcommittee2017



What Does God's Voice Sound Like to You?

bit.ly/godsvoicetoyou



ON THE COVER

One of the ways Roy Schaecher, Mid-America Union's maintenance engineer, invests in the next generation of Adventist Christians is by spending quality time with his grandsons, Blain (pictured here) and Miles.

More on p. 6

Photo by Brennan Hallock



OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) January 2018, Volume 39, Number 1. OUTLOOK is published monthly (10 months per year) by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. Printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE and additional offices. USPS number 006-245. Free for Mid-America church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. CONTACT us by email: info@maucsda.org or phone: 402.484.3000.



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"It is more important at times to keep a relationship than to be right." —p. 6



Jesus' Brainchild

The Christian Church



Do any of the following statements about church sound familiar?

- The same people always run this church.
- If they don't like it, it isn't going to happen.
- We don't allow drums in our church.
- You could never get away with that in my church.
- You could never wear that in my church and be an officer.

- Their church is liberal and our church is on the conservative side.

How do these comments relate to the actual purpose of the church? Jesus' words in Matt. 16:18 "I will build My church" were not in reference to buildings, but rather to building a body of believers that would attract all manner of people. Arbitrarily setting up boundaries on dress, style of worship and worship music based on unbiblical personal preferences can be tantamount to saying to the worshipper, "God doesn't accept what you bring to the worship setting."

Church is people

If we agree that when Jesus stated He was going to build His church He was speaking of people, surely our major emphasis should be building up people. The church, in the

truest sense, is comprised of impure, impulsive, flawed individuals drawn from the world into a meaningful relationship with Jesus. They believe *in* Jesus, *on* Jesus and things *about* Jesus. Their lives reflect their relationship with Him and they are compelled, even while being transformed, to inform others of His unfailing love.

I don't believe that dress, diet, drums, designer worship service nor being conservative or liberal are the most critical items of concern for Christ's church. His return trip will be for a church that reflects His characteristics. Paul said it well in Phil. 2:5: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (KJV).

Church growth centers on love

Eph. 5:23 states, "Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior" (TNIV). We are the body and as members of the body we must engage in building up and not belittling; engage in acts of kindness and not add kindling; engage on a course of compassion and not in a spirit of combativeness.

Building the church was the brainchild of Jesus and He has gifted the church for both service and survival. In John 13:34-35 the idea of church growth centers on love being the visible magnet. Love expressed in Christlikeness will draw and build.

We help build when we encourage each other to use our God-given gifts as He gives evidence of them. Eph. 4:11-12 tells us, "So Christ gave...that the body of Christ may be built up" (TNIV).

Church: a theatre of grace

In *Acts of the Apostles* Ellen G. White states that "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world" (p. 19).

She also wrote: "The church is the theater of his grace, in which he delights in making experiments of mercy on human hearts. The Holy Spirit is his representative, and it works to effect transformations so wonderful that angels look upon them with astonishment and joy. Heaven is full of rejoicing when the members of the human family are seen to be full of compassion for one another, loving one another as Christ has loved them."*

The church is His. We didn't vote it into existence and we can't vote it out of existence. However, for myself, I'm voting to stay right here in the church and to keep building, especially since Jesus Christ paid the fee required for membership. **0**

**Special Testimony to Battle Creek Church* (PH154, 18-19)

GIL WEBB

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



The Power of Giving

Is Generosity a Wise Financial Decision?

This article is the first in a six-part series about the ministry of generosity. Read more online at outlookmag.org/author/brennanhallock

We have the power to build up the body of Christ through our actions, and one of the ways we can do this is by giving. The Bible is clear that generosity is important for Christians. There are dozens of pleas to share our wealth with those who are less fortunate. Luke 6:38 says “Give, and it will be given to you,” Prov. 22:9 says “He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor” and Deut. 16:17 says “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord” (NASB).

At the heart of generosity is the principle of selflessness. But in addition to this obvious Biblical and moral reason to give, there are others reasons being generous with money is actually a wise financial choice.

Generosity builds relationships

Relationships are the framework on which a financial future is built. The biggest creator of income—your career—was likely obtained and developed through a network of relationships. Our financial opinions and decisions are guided by those who surround

us. Our friends are where we turn when the money accumulates and when it diminishes.

Generosity has more to do with relationships than we may think. It creates and deepens relationships. We may help someone out of a precarious situation, donate to someone’s goal or simply buy them a birthday gift. All of these normally strengthen relationships.

An example of generosity creating relationships is when we give tithe through our local church. There is no mandate to give tithe in order to attend church, but tithe helps fund the pastor’s salary and support the church’s interests. For many members, the church is one of their primary networking resources.

Generosity improves financial judgment

Charity is both a gift (something given without any payment expected in return) and an investment (something—such as money—put to use to offer potential profitable returns). We should not expect any return when we are generous with money.

When we hand over our money to an organization, business or individual, though, we make an investment in their success. We give money to our local church, which is an investment in it running smoothly so we and our church family can continue to



worship there. When we give away money to a particular cause, which is an investment in that cause’s success, we are saying we believe the world is a better place if the cause succeeds. We give to help friends, which is an investment in the success of our friends.

We improve our investing acumen each time we give away money and watch the results. This knowledge is directly transferable to our portfolio investments, our business investments or how we invest our skills and time. We learn what succeeds, what does not and what we believe is worth putting our money toward.

Our primary reason for generosity should not be financial gain, although it may be a result. Generosity does much more for us than help our earning potential or investments. It improves

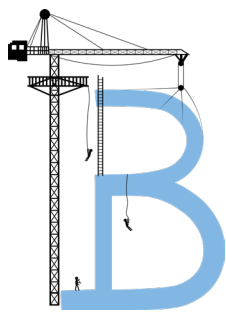
our satisfaction, widens our worldview, develops our awareness and increases our compassion for others.

Giving does something unnatural to a human. It causes us to surrender, trust and have faith. When we give money away, we no longer retain control of it. We surrender our money, trust the cause it has been given to, and have faith it will be put to good use. [0](#)

BRENNAN HALLOCK

is designer/ad manager for the Mid-America Union.





Building Up the Body of Christ through an attitude of servanthood

OUTLOOK editor Brenda Dickerson recently spoke with Mid-America Union president Gary Thurber about how we as church members can build up the body of Christ and what this looks like. Below is an excerpt from their interview.

As we focus in 2018 on building up the body of Christ, could you share with us your fundamental views on this important topic?

We know from Scripture that the body of Christ represents His church on earth. And we know, as Ellen G. White says in *Acts of the Apostles*, that the church is “the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard” (p. 12).

God loves His church and so should we. We should do our best to edify and encourage all who come through the church’s doors. When a church is filled with members possessing Christ’s attitude of servanthood, it cannot help but grow and thrive in its mission.

How can local congregations consistently do this in a meaningful way?

In Rom. 12:9-18 Paul gives many principles for how the body of Christ

should work together. He is essentially teaching the church how to do church:

⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Can you suggest some practical applications of these verses?

Here are a few—by no means an exhaustive list—of the principles I see Paul giving in this passage.

- **Be genuine.** (v. 9) I have a good friend whose

personal mission statement is “to do the right thing, for the right reason, at the right time, in the right way.” Anything less has hypocrisy written all over it.

- In a redemptive, thoughtful way, **keep before the church how painful and destructive sin truly is.** (v. 9)
- There is plenty of talk today about “authority,” but Paul seems much **more concerned with servanthood** in this passage. (v. 10)
- **It is more important at times to keep a relationship than to be right.** (v. 10) I heard a pastor once say, “We do some of our greatest sinning when we are right.” It is also imperative for us to remember we may not always be right! (v. 16)
- **Whatever we find to do for the church, we should put our whole heart into**—no attitudes of one-foot-in-and-one-foot-out. (v. 11)
- **Rehearse together the hope we have in Jesus** and His plans for our lives. (v. 12)
- **Be steadfast**, no matter what comes our way. (v. 12)
- **Be a praying church.** (v. 12)
- **Be welcoming and hospitable** in the same way

to all regardless of social status. (v. 13, 16)

- **Never withhold the love of God** from anyone, even our enemies. (v. 17)

I believe if we practice these principles from Paul, we will build up the body of Christ.

By way of contrast, what damages the body of Christ?

It always breaks my heart when I see church members hurting one another. Here are a few of the most destructive behaviors I have witnessed:

- *An absence of the fruit of the Spirit* in our interactions with one another. When love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are lacking, the church suffers greatly.
- *A spirit of criticism.* There are some members who dishearten others and make them want to back away from ministry for fear of the criticism they will receive for anything they do.
- *Gossip.* This might be one of our church’s greatest challenges. The character assassinations, “fake news,” and evil surmising spread so easily via email and social media can be extremely hurtful. I will

talk more about this in a future article.

- **Bullying.** When a “spiritual bully” comes on the scene, the church is often paralyzed in its ability to carry out its mission, making growth next to impossible.

From your experience as a pastor, can you share an example of the body of Christ being built up in an effective way?

In one of the districts here in Mid-America where my wife, Diane, and I served a number of years ago, the prior pastor had left high-functioning, healthy congregations. Here are a few characteristics I found in these healthy, growing churches I believe can be replicated in any location.

- **The churches were organized for service.** Elders took their responsibilities very seriously and each led out in various aspects of the church including worship, business and finance needs, youth and Christian education, evangelism and nurture.
- **There was a clear vision** of where they were going. Much time had been spent on strategizing and laying concrete plans for how to grow and move the vision forward. When I arrived, one of the churches had already purchased land to plant a new congregation. A branch Sabbath school was meeting and within 18 months the new church was born.
- **Church members genuinely loved one another**

and invested in ways to get to know other members.

- **There was a spirit of encouragement** and cooperation, rather than criticism.
- **They supported their leaders,** despite their being human.
- **They were devoted to the Word and to prayer.** I used to love going to prayer meeting every week. It was a rich time in studying God’s Word and praying together.
- **They cared for their houses of worship.** Great efforts were taken to make their church buildings beautiful lighthouses to the community as places of both worship and service.
- They not only wanted to introduce their friends and neighbors to Christ, **they sincerely desired to serve them.**
- **They loved their children and made them a priority** in church life.

I believe that when these simple and basic principles come together, the result will be a high-functioning community of believers, all headed in the same direction, mentoring new disciples of Christ. [0](#)

Read the entire interview online at www.outlookmag.org/garythurberinterview2018

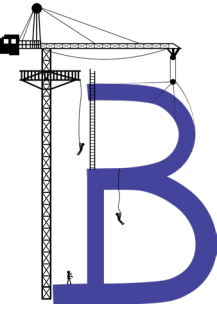
Who Is the Body of Christ?

Paul writes in Eph. 4:15-16, “Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love” (NLT).

Paul calls the church Christ’s body, and appeals to us to build each other up through love. This includes teaching the next generation of our church to care for one another so our church will be healthy, growing and full of love.

Brennan Hallock





Building Up the Body of Christ through wearing golden moccasins

By Lucy Cisneros

You know the Golden Rule where Jesus said, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”¹ Perhaps this can be taken to mean, “Treat others as you would want to be treated.” This is certainly a noble principle. However, growing from knowledge into wisdom sometimes bears a blending of sound principles. Here’s an example.

An old Native American proverb goes something like this: “Don’t judge any man until you have walked two moons in his

moccasins.”² That’s literally hard to do, but this paraphrase makes it easier: “One can better understand another when mindfully putting one’s self in the other’s place.”

At first glance, this principle seems to go counter to the Golden Rule’s admonition to treat others like you’d want to be treated. Why? Because treating others as *you* want to be treated assumes that others, in fact, *want* to be treated as you want to be treated. What if someone might *not* wish to be treated as

you want to be treated? Wouldn’t it be better if the other person’s needs or desires were understood before responding with your good intentions?

At times, the blending of the Golden Rule and the Moccasin Proverb may add an expanded wisdom and likely provide a better outcome. Hence, I introduce the Golden Moccasin principle.

If I were in your shoes

The apostle Paul was very busy trying to build

God’s Church. In 1 Cor. 3:10 he stated, “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.” Paul is telling those who intend to build upon that foundation to be careful not to hurt the integrity of the precious project. He even goes on to say in 2 Cor. 13:10: “For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need



not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.” Paul seems to be admitting that certain behaviors might be tearing down the precious project of building up the body of Christ, even if done with good intentions.

Therefore, to me a Golden Moccasins application looks like this: After mindfully placing myself in the position of someone else, I should treat that person in a manner I would wish to be treated if I were in their same situation.

Following are three practical illustrations of building the body of Christ by applying the Golden Moccasins principle.

Golden moccasins for young parents

As a pastor’s wife, I repeatedly witnessed disengaged Adventist young couples attempting a return to church by bringing their youngsters to children’s Sabbath school. Perhaps it was the nostalgia of their own childhood memories, or a sincere desire to bring up their offspring with God’s blessing. Alas, for the lack of appealing children’s programs or a mother’s room for fussy toddlers during the service, these young parents often did not return.

I would suggest—after considering the needs of young parents for support—a rigorous

re-prioritizing by corrective initiatives to promote a quality experience for young families at every church.

Golden moccasins for singles

Singles often enjoy the fellowship of other singles, and the church could be the perfect venue for gathering after a work week apart from other Adventists. Appreciating their feelings, we could “do unto others”

by being assertive in our recruitment of young adults to events where they can mingle with other young adults. Practical examples include Friday evening music or study groups or Sabbath afternoon bike rides or meet-and-eat activities at the park or someone’s home.

Outside-of-church gatherings could form the nucleus of a Sabbath school class and faithful worship support.

Golden moccasins for guests and intermittent attendees

A very underrated yet powerful way to build up the body of Christ is through the influence of intentional greeting. Matching the category of guest (gender, approximate age, family situation) to that of the greeter can help hit the target goal of each person entering the church to experience that comfortable feeling of belonging.

Without proper greeter/guest matching, the safest forms of greeting may need to be somewhat sterile and formal, in order to avoid any uncomfortable intimacy or awkward attempts to appear genuine.

However, since there’s absolutely no rule that greeting only takes place at the entrance of the church, intentional greeting can occur anytime and anywhere, beginning in the parking lot all the way through potluck!

The glue of belonging

Recruiting and retaining the body of Christ is a noble venture. Of course, it may not be convenient to respond to solutions like the one mentioned above that suggest we target church-goers with carefully planned actions to fit the Golden Moccasins principle. But if excuses like keeping the same agenda “because we’ve always done it that way” are entertained, then please consider the adage suggesting that doing the same thing over and over again, while expecting different results, is not a very wise idea—or something to that effect!

Studies show that church retention solutions center around “belonging.” In spite of well-meaning observers who tout that churches should be like heaven-on-earth where people of every age, gender, race, social and economic

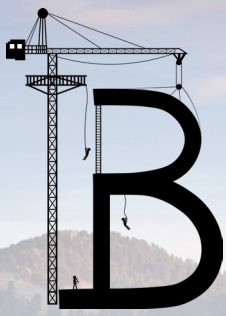
status should all be knit together in Christ, the fact remains that our human nature still tends to gravitate toward others who are more like us. Belongingness is predictable “glue” for membership retention. Building up the body of Christ is worthy of a strategic soul-keeping marketing concept³ that targets people for God’s kingdom.

Applying the Golden Moccasins principle can birth many more creative ideas when considering how we can “do unto others” in the body of Christ with our very best action plan as we “better understand another when mindfully putting one’s self in the other’s place.” As Paul so eloquently summarized in 1 Cor. 10:23, “All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up” (ESV). **0**

Throughout the fabric of Lucy Cisneros’ life—family, ministry, academics, music, employment, volunteerism, hobbies—run golden threads weaving a personal portrait of her passionate devotion to her God.

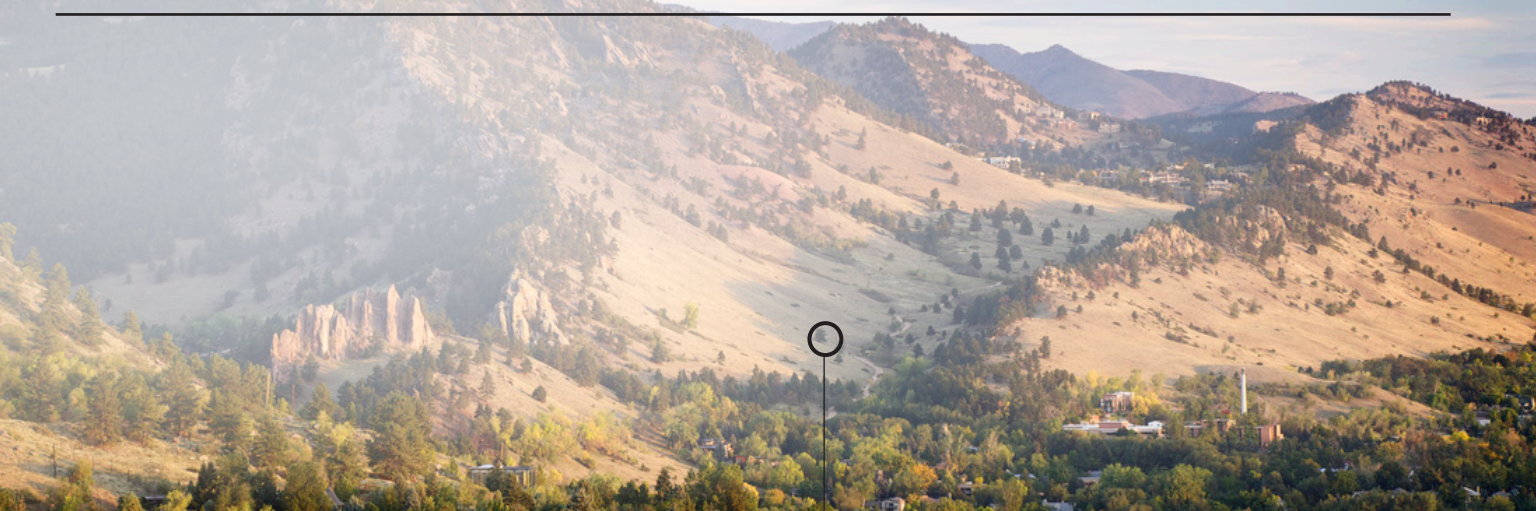
1. Luke 6:31 NIV
2. *The International Thesaurus of Quotations*, p. 331. (Reference from Mead Public Library.) RQ, Winter 1974, p. 150
3. The marketing concept is the philosophy that organizations should analyze the needs of their prospects and then make decisions to satisfy those needs better than the competition.

Read this entire article online at www.outlookmag.org/wearinggoldenmoccasins



Building Up the Body of Christ

through understanding the true character of God



By Becky De Oliveira

Boulder Adventist Church in Boulder, Colorado, occupies space in one of the most coveted communities in the city—the historic Mapleton Hill neighborhood. Leafy trees and grand Victorian houses line the streets leading up to the church. Mount Sanitas looms in the background—and received its name from the Seventh-day Adventist Boulder-Colorado Sanitarium and Hospital which was originally located at the base of the mountain. The summit, a popular destination for locals and tourists, provides a view of the entire city and beyond, and a plaque along the trail offers information about the sanitarium and its connection to Adventism.

But while the Seventh-day Adventist church has left an imprint on the city

of Boulder historically, much of its influence has died out slowly over time as its institutions (hospital, junior academy) have relocated outside the city.

When Pastor Japhet De Oliveira arrived in Boulder in early 2014 and began working to connect with people in the Mapleton Hill neighborhood, most were surprised to learn that the large building on the corner was even occupied or currently functioning. In fact, the church has a thriving membership, yet like many commuter churches, it focuses most of its efforts on Sabbath morning worship services and has done little to connect with the local community of which it is a part. Pastor De Oliveira and the members of Boulder Church's vision board are determined to change that.

Mount Sanitas overlooks the Mapleton Hill neighborhood and the Boulder Adventist Church, whose vision board is actively working to impact their community.

Sanitas Lectureship shares the best of Adventism

Among the outreach initiatives the church has started is the Sanitas Lectureship Series. Dr. Gordy Gates, a longtime church elder and well-known dentist in Boulder, had attended a lecture series in Denver presented by the first testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. Gates left that lecture inspired by the idea that Boulder Church could create something similar. He wanted to bring great scholars, theologians and practitioners of our faith to show our own members as well as friends

in the community the best of what Adventism can be. Church leaders describe the series as offering “a safe space for people to connect with God as presented through the lens of the Bible” and hope that it will “demonstrate how the God of the Bible continues to work on the shared story of humanity.”

The lecture series has lived up to its promise. The first lectureship took place in May 2016 and featured Dr. Laurence Turner, a noted Old Testament scholar, author and international speaker. The always-popular Dr. Karl Haffner, pastor of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church

in Kettering, Ohio, and award-winning author of many books including *The Cure for Soul Fatigue* and *No Greater Love*, presented “Jesus Encounters: Life-changing Conversations with Christ” to a packed church in May 2017. While the lectureship is only intended to take place once per year, the vision board decided to invite Dr. William Johnsson in September 2017 for a special session following the publication of his most recent book, *Where Are We Headed? Adventism After San Antonio*, an examination of the bitter conflicts that have arisen in the church in the wake of the vote against women’s ordination. Dr. Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, California, will present the lectureship in May 2019.

Pastor De Oliveira notes that “The Sanitas Lectureship is part of a much larger strategic plan of faith engagement for Boulder Church. If it was the only thing we were doing, it would have failed miserably, but as part of a complex matrix of inter-related spiritual disciplines, this particular piece serves well.” Pastor De Oliveira sees the lectureship as vital to developing a healthier community. “The open reception to a faith that shows the character of God in all things and includes an appreciation for the tensions in life are both signs of health. People like to belong to churches that are healthy. People want to

grow when they are healthy. Being healthy inspires you to want to become even healthier.”

Leaning toward authentic Adventism

In one of Johnsson’s lectures, “The Promise of Adventism,” he asked rhetorically, “What do we have to offer?” noting that by several measures our church is not doing particularly well. Big campaigns are no longer effective; young people are leaving. He also argued that in spite of this rather grim outlook, many good things are happening and there is reason for hope. Our message produces wonderful people with a specialness that gives them great power to do good in the world. Our medical institutions, world class efforts toward disaster relief, grace-oriented theology, and focus on the

beauty of the Sabbath are all things of which to be proud. We have something to offer to the world so long as we remain open to the leading of Jesus.

Johnsson revealed that he would like his next book to be about authentic Adventism and solicited ideas of what that might entail from the audience. All kinds of suggestions came in, including “Authentic Adventism is ethical, showing congruency between behavior and beliefs” and “Authentic Adventism is characterized by unconditional love for God, one another, and the lost,” and “Authentic Adventism is a spirit of humility and willingness to learn from others.”

The ability to change and adapt is critical to faith engagement. Pastor De Oliveira says, “There is joy in creating. There is joy in engaging fully in life.

The Sanitas Lectureship challenges our members and partners to see God in a new way. As they become healthier, they become the disciples Jesus called them to be and they move the gospel mission and the kingdom of God forward.”

Dr. Gates has been pleased to see his longtime dream of creating a challenging and mission-driven environment for the church community become a reality and looks forward to seeing how the Sanitas Lectureship develops in the future. He applauds the “fresh insight, perspective and a redemptive spirit” of the lectureship, which “encourages members to stay with the church rather than lose hope and abandon this community.” **Q**

Becky De Oliveira is communication director for the Boulder Church. She also teaches writing classes at Andrews University and Front Range Community College.

Dr. William G. Johnsson spoke at the Sanitas Lectureship series in 2017 (left). Church elder Dr. Gordy Gates inspired the series that brings in noted scholars, theologians and practitioners to strengthen the Boulder Church’s mission-driven environment.



Photos Courtesy Boulder Church

ReBoot 2018

Central States Conference is pleased to announce The Summit 2018, formerly known as Central States Youth Congress. The Summit will be a weekend-long experience filled with fun, fellowship, worship and training.

We are also excited to announce that The Summit 2018 will be held in the greater Kansas City area. The event will take place March 15-18, 2018 with the theme ReBoot.

Don't wait—start saving and fundraising today to make sure you do not miss this experience.



THE SUMMIT 2018

REBOOT

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 15-18, 2018
KANSAS CITY

Kory Paul Douglas Named Youth and Young Adult Director for CSC

Kory Paul Douglas is a native of Brooklyn, New York, the firstborn of **Brenetha Chung** and **Bryan**. While he was a child, his mother did her best to raise him with a fear and admiration of the Lord, and her influence shows.

After completing his studies at Northeastern Academy in New York, Douglas attended the former Oakwood College, where he enrolled as a math/engineering major. He switched his

major to theology, though, after a Damascus road experience. Douglas answered the call of Christ to ministry, and in 2008 became the first male grandchild in his family to graduate college. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology with an emphasis in pastoral/evangelistic ministry from Oakwood University.

Douglas also holds a master's degree in divinity from Andrews University with an emphasis in marriage and family counseling, a master's

degree in organizational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University, and is currently pursuing his doctorate in organizational leadership at Trevecca.

Douglas has been married for three years to the former **Kimberly R. Sampson**. They are the proud parents of a two-year-old daughter **Carsyn Rei Douglas**.

Pastor Douglas is fully committed to God, his family and his church. He wants nothing more than to

continue to grow in the grace and love of our Lord Jesus and for that relationship to be contagious, influencing others for the kingdom of God.

Douglas is living proof of his favorite text, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13, NKJV).

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Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
JAN-MAR 2018	
JAN 19-20	Men's Ministry Summit Central Federation
JAN 21-24	ORCM Regional Officers Meeting
FEB 3	Women's Ministry Wear Red Day American Heart Association
FEB 9-10	Marriage Mini Retreat Right to Romance
MAR 15-18	The Summit 2018 ReBoot (Youth & Young Adult Congress)
MAR 29-APR 1	Oakwood University Alumni Weekend

Courtesy Central States Conference



Lovingly Used: 24 Years of Service to the Community

Photos: Jacquie Biloff



Lovingly Used, a secondhand store run by the Adventist Church in Carrington, North Dakota, was recently sold after 24 years of serving the local community.

all the tin tiles down and sell them,” said Kunz. “This was a very big job. Men from the Bowdon Country Church volunteered their work to put in a new false ceiling, which was very nice but the building was old and I always worried it might happen again.”

Even after the Rebsomens left the district, auction sales continued. “I remember Lori and I going to an auction sale northeast of Carrington,” recalled Kunz. “It was summer and we had worked all day. We bought so much stuff we had to make two trips back to town and a dear man who helped us had his pickup full of our stuff. Our last load was done about 11:30 pm and I had to drive 30 miles home.”

Lovingly Used received donations from many different sources. Elderly people moving into nursing homes, in with their children or out of the area donated the contents of their homes to the store. Kunz recalled, “One day a man from an Amish

Lovingly Used, a secondhand store in Carrington, North Dakota, was sold Oct. 20, 2017 after 24 years of service. This store was owned by the Dakota Conference and originally operated by Seventh-day Adventist members in the community.

Ella Mae Neumiller first presented the idea in 1993 of owning a secondhand store and using the proceeds for community projects. She called representatives from three district churches to a meeting to present her vision.

Neumiller found a suitable two-story building in Carrington that was owned by **Fabian Noak**, a local attorney. Noak agreed to rent

the lower level of the building to the new store, named Lovingly Used. Volunteers from the Carrington, New Home and Bowdon Country Adventist churches also used the space to pack large boxes of clothing for shipment to a warehouse in California operated by an organization now known as ADRA.

New management, repairs and auction sales

When **Pastor and Mrs. Rebsomen** came to the district in 1996, Mrs. Rebsomen became manager of Lovingly Used. Rebsomen recruited **Sandy Kunz, Linda**

Widicker and later **Lori Aljets** to work part time at the store. “Pastor Rebsomen bought an old pickup and we started going to auction sales,” said Kunz, who currently lives in Bowdon. “We were able to buy furniture and larger items for resale so we would have more money for community projects.”

Kunz remembers unlocking the front door early one morning and finding water pouring from the ceiling. She quickly called a plumber and called Aljets to help her move items away from the water. “The plumber was able to fix the problem but the ceiling was ruined in a large area, so we decided to take

community came to donate over a dozen boom-boxes, radios, and cassette and eight-track players the elders had confiscated from their youth, and all the tapes.”

They didn’t only receive donations to sell in the store, though. Kunz’s husband remarked one day, “Why don’t you ask Fabian to donate the building to you because he can’t sell it and he’s not interested in repairing it.” Kunz approached Noak with the idea. “He must have been convinced, because Pastor Rebsomen came with the news that Fabian had given the building to the church.”

Lovingly Used served the community in many ways. Donations were given to the

ministerial association, to the youth after-school programs, and a new ambulance was donated to the community. “We gave away many stuffed animals to people who wanted them for hospital patients,” said Kunz. Clothing was also donated from the center to Native American families and to poor or needy families in the area and fire victims came and chose whatever they needed.

Leaving an impact through giving

“We wanted to do something for the children of the community,” Kunz continued. “We started a tutoring program, working with the

public elementary school principal.” Around eight men and women volunteered once a week at the school, served snacks and helped 20-30 children read, do math and complete their homework.

As the years went by the building continued to deteriorate and the local church closed as members moved away. Lovingly Used was recently sold to the Nazarene Church, which continues to

operate and serve the local community. After nearly a quarter century of benefiting the Carrington community, the legacy started by Neumiller in 1993 lives on through those who were helped.

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Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Lovingly Used secondhand store faithfully served the community of Carrington, North Dakota, pictured below.



Dakota Men’s Retreat

March 9 - 11, 2018
Rough Rider Hotel
Medora, ND
www.dakotaadventist.org

A Legacy of Faithfulness

Iowa-Missouri remembers Pastor Daniel Suarez

Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference



Daniel Suarez, who passed away Oct. 15, 2017 at the age of 49 after a year-long battle with cancer, pastored the Lee's Summit and Kingsville churches in Missouri. Friends and family remember him as a godly man whose trust in God was able to impact others even in the midst of his struggle with cancer. A memorial service was held Oct. 22 at the Lee's Summit Church.

Family, friends, colleagues and church members gathered in October to celebrate the life of Pastor Daniel Suarez, who passed away on Oct. 15 after a courageous, year-long battle with cancer.

Warm memories were shared by several of those close to Daniel, and a message was shared by **Elden Ramirez**, a former pastor and youth director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

"When Marilyn asked if I had some words of encouragement," said Ramirez, "my heart said yes, my mind said

yes, but my soul was broken. How can you give encouragement when you, yourself, are discouraged?"

Ramirez then shared the stories of the two disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) and Lazarus being raised from the dead (John 11), pointing out that both stories involve people who were discouraged—devastated, in fact, that God didn't bring about a desired outcome to their situation. But then, in both stories, Jesus showed up and brought comfort. "The God

that Daniel loved is real," said Ramirez. "He is a compassionate God, and He will fulfill His promises."

As a close friend of Suarez, Ramirez also shared his own fond memories. "He was like a brother to me," he said. "But I also saw him as my pastor. I can't think of a more godly man than Daniel Suarez."

Ramirez reflected on how, years ago when he had accepted an invitation to be youth director for the conference, he was relieved to learn that Suarez would be taking his place in St. Louis.

Later, when Ramirez took a call to the Central California Conference, he shared how he had persuaded his conference leadership to extend a call to Suarez so they could still work together.

Speaking of a time he came to visit Suarez this past year, Ramirez said, “He ministered to me. I was broken. I tried to smile, but he knew me well.” He said Suarez told him that he knew in whom he had believed and wasn’t afraid of death, but was only concerned about leaving his family behind. Even so, he said Suarez was confident God would fulfill His promises and he could rest in peace knowing God would honor his commitments, even after he was gone. “He gave me the strength I needed to move forward,” Ramirez said.

Robert Wagley, executive secretary for the Iowa-Missouri Conference, echoed Ramirez’ sentiments. “During the time Daniel battled this dreaded disease, we witnessed a powerful testimony for Christ and for the gospel,” he said. “Never once did I see him discouraged. He would pray for me as often as I prayed for him. I can tell you of times he expressed concerns—about his family, their needs, his love for them and his desire to see his children grow up in the Lord. But he was always cheerful, positive and courageous.”

During his visits with Suarez in the hospital, Wagley was especially touched by Suarez’ care and concern for the medical staff. “On one occasion, Daniel told me about a conversation he had with a nurse and how he’d shared with her about the Lord,” Wagley said. “That was Daniel. He always demonstrated to me and to others that his faith and courage were strong. He was resolute in the conviction that even if God would allow this trial to happen, he would praise Him still. I was able to witness that steady faith that was true to his calling as a pastor, a father, a husband and a friend. I believe everybody needs a friend like Daniel Suarez. Heaven will be a better place because of this man, and someday soon Jesus will call our friend—His friend—Daniel to wake up from his sleep, and we will see a glorious reunion.”

A life of service

Suarez was born on Nov. 15, 1967 in Havana, Cuba. He graduated from Forest Lake Academy in Orlando, Florida, in 1985 and went on to earn a respiratory therapist degree from Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio; followed by a bachelor’s in theology from UNADECIA in Alajuela, Costa Rica; and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University in

Berrien Springs, Michigan.

During and after high school, Suarez worked for Florida Hospital, serving in various capacities, including as a courier and in food and other support services. Upon graduating from Kettering, he continued to work at Florida Hospital as a respiratory therapist.

In 2002, Suarez joined the Iowa-Missouri Conference as a pastor, where he served the Mid-River and St. Louis Hispanic churches. In 2007, he accepted a call to the Central California Conference, where he was ordained. He served there as a pastor until 2012, before working in the stewardship and gift-planning departments at the conference office.

Longing to be in full-time pastoral ministry again, Suarez returned to the Iowa-Missouri Conference in 2016, where he served the Lee’s Summit and Kingsville churches in Missouri until his passing.

Suarez is survived by his wife of nearly 20 years, **Marilyn**; five children, **Daniel, Adrian, Yonathan, Daslyn** and **Kevin**; parents **Gervasio** and **Ada**; brother **Joel** and his wife, **Grace**; as well as many other relatives and friends.

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

Thrift Store Ministers to Community

Photos: Ryan Watson



Classy Rack thrift store, located in the downtown business district of Liberal, Kansas, was opened in 2014 by Russ and Peggy Lloyd. The store creates opportunities for church members to build relationships with local community members.

For the last four years, the Adventist church in Liberal, Kansas, has owned and operated a thrift store named Classy Rack, or simply “The Rack” as it is called by regular patrons. The store has been one of the church’s primary avenues for ministry and contact with community members. In addition to offering quality secondhand goods such as clothing, books, furniture, household decor and electronics, the store also has a classroom in which seminars such as CREATION Health, grief and depression recovery programs, and Mad about Marriage are offered to the community. Profits from

the store help make these seminars and their materials available free of charge.

Classy Rack, which operates Sunday through Thursday, provides the church a point of contact with members of the community. It allows church members who regularly work and volunteer at the store to build relationships with those who frequent the shop, which is located in Liberal’s downtown business district. As church members have gained the trust of the store customers and the community at large, the relationships they have made have led to opportunities for spiritual conversations, faith sharing and even requests for prayer

and Bible studies. In recent months, a women’s Bible study group has been meeting at the store every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

As an extension of the local church, Classy Rack is much more than a business—it is a place of fellowship and service. Classy Rack customers are kept informed and given invitations to upcoming programs and events sponsored by the church. The thrift store affords opportunities to advertise in a non-threatening environment and to extend personal invitations on a regular and ongoing basis. This includes invitations to prophecy seminars such as A Pale Horse Rides and Revelation Speaks Peace.

of considerable time and resources. However, the call could not be ignored, and the couple stepped out in faith. The local congregation offered their approval and support, and one by one the pieces fell into place. Classy Rack opened in a 6,000-square-foot rented building on Jan. 6, 2014.

Since it opened, the influence of Classy Rack and the church whose name is on the storefront have steadily grown. After four years of dedicated work and faithful service, the fruits of labor are evident. An increasing number of people in Liberal and surrounding communities are not only familiar with the people involved, but also have a positive attitude toward the work being done and the services offered.

A burden, a step and a blessing

The vision of opening a thrift store began as a burden God placed on the hearts of church members **Russ and Peggy Lloyd**—a burden initially met with reluctance. It seemed like too great a challenge, one that would require a commitment

Ryan Watson pastors the Liberal, Dodge City and Garden City churches.



Grant Ordained to Gospel Ministry in Acknowledgment of God’s Call

Fred Grant grew up in the Pacific Northwest. His father was employed as a church school teacher and part time pastor, but at the age of 18 Grant became disillusioned with the church and left to serve in the military. He spent eight and a half years as a military policeman for the U.S. Army.

After completing his military service Grant felt called to pastoral ministry, but like Jonah he decided to run from God’s call. He became a semi-truck driver and spent his time driving across the country. Deep vein thrombosis ended his driving career, though, and again God called. This time Grant chose to listen.

At the age of 55, Grant began theological studies at Walla Walla University, the same university where his father studied theology. Grant considers his father’s example the reason he loves exegetical Bible study.

Grant received his bachelor’s degree in December of 2012 and spent a year in Savoonga, Alaska, as a mission pastor before joining the Kansas-Nebraska Conference as lead pastor for the Valentine, Gordon, Springview and Hyannis churches in Nebraska. Grant’s ordination took place Sept. 20, 2017 at the Valentine Church.

Grant found his philosophy of ministry in 1 Cor. 11:1: “Imitate me, just as I also

imitate Christ” (NKJV).

He shares, “There is no greater example of ministry. I believe a pastor must be both a teacher and a missionary from the pulpit, that way the church becomes a hospital for anyone seeking God.” Grant tells anyone who asks, “The primary purpose of pastoral

ministry is to point the members of the congregation to the supremacy and centrality of Christ.”

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

Attendees at Fred Grant’s ordination service included (back row, l to r) Ken Maldonado, Max Ray, Jim Nichols, Paul Dybdahl, Darin Gottfried; (front row) Mic Thurber, Ron Carlson, Fred and Kellie Grant, Sue Carlson, John Sweigart, Virgil Covel.

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



UPCOMING EVENTS	
JAN 26-27 Kansas City, KS	Kansas City Convocation Jack Reardon Convention Center
FEB 10 Kansas City, KS	REACH KC Marriage Seminar Jack Reardon Convention Center
FEB 23-24 Wichita, KS	Wichita Convocation
MAR 30-APR 28 Kansas City, KS	REACH KC Evangelistic Series Speaker: John Bradshaw (It Is Written) Jack Reardon Convention Center
APR 6-7 Broken Arrow Ranch, KS	Men’s Retreat Speaker: Kevin Wilfley
APR 27-29 Manhattan, KS	Hispanic Women’s Retreat
MAY 4-6 Broken Arrow Ranch, KS	Conference Camporee
MAY 30-JUN 2 Lincoln, NE	Camp Meeting

Pastor Karen Lewis to Serve as Church Ministries Coordinator

Photos Courtesy/ Minnesota Conference



Karen Lewis, pastor of the Stillwater and Hinkley churches, has agreed to take on the additional responsibility of church ministries coordinator for the Minnesota Conference. In this role, Lewis will plan and coordinate various training events throughout the conference, as well as help with evangelistic efforts.

Lewis has been involved with ministry for almost two decades. She has been

a Bible worker and director of the Bible worker program for Rocky Mountain Conference. Additionally, she authored the Bible study lessons known as *Lifting Up Jesus*. Lewis was commissioned in Minnesota on April 16, 2017 and is the only female pastor in Minnesota to lead a two-church district. Her passion is to help people meet Jesus, and God has continued to bless her ministry—her churches have

continued to grow through both baptisms and professions of faith.

The Minnesota Conference administration are excited to welcome Karen Lewis to this role, and wish her well as she begins her work in earnest.

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Savannah Bowers is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

Rochester Youth Group Collects Food for Community Food Bank



The Rochester Youth Group collected over 150 food items for the Rochester Channel One Food Bank.

On Oct. 31, 2017 the Rochester Church youth group went on a community excursion to collect food for the Rochester Channel One Food Bank. This is an annual event to assist disadvantaged people in Rochester, Minnesota, who need extra help over the holiday season.

More than 150 food items were collected to spread holiday cheer. Several youth said it was fun to do something together, and to share their gifts of love and compassion as Jesus asked everyone to do.

Upcoming community events like this one include Operation Christmas Child and Christmas Behind Bars.

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Anna Elijah is a member of the Rochester Church, as well as a member of the Rochester youth group.

First Church Leadership Summit a Success

Jason Salyers



Justin Lyons, Minnesota Conference president, welcomes attendees to the Church Leadership Summit (above).

Sung Kwon, director of NAD Community Services, leads out in a breakout session (right).

Dwayne Mauk



Approximately 400 people attended the first ever Church Leadership Summit hosted by the Minnesota Conference Oct. 21-22, 2017. The event was held at the Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Themed “Taking Charge of Your Ministry: Encourage, Equip, Engage,” the event focused on helping local church leaders gain confidence and tools to be more effective in ministry.

Thirty-four speakers from various parts of North America presented on 35 topics, and leaders from all over the conference came to learn. Some of the breakout sessions included conflict management, elders’ ministry, how to chair a committee, men’s ministries, communication, Pathfinders, Adventurers, family life ministries, clerk training, treasurer training, small group ministries, and music ministries. Many speakers came from the North

American Division, but other experts came from the Mid-America Union, various conference offices and churches.

Elden Ramirez, Montana Conference president, spoke on Sabbath during the plenary session about encouraging and equipping local church leaders, and **Marquis Johns**, pastor of the North Philadelphia Church, shared with leaders during Sunday’s plenary session about engaging in ministry.

Staff members from the Adventist Learning Community, an online learning center offered free to Adventists in North America, came to the event and recorded several sessions to help expand their library of classes for local church members. The classes will be available at www.adventistlearningcommunity.com.

Planning for the summit began in January 2017, with a committee comprised of conference leaders. Various

challenges arose throughout the months of planning, including changes in leadership and membership, budgeting issues and scheduling conflicts. At one point during the planning, the committee considered postponing the event to an undetermined future date. Before giving up, though, the committee had a season of prayer. They decided to defer for a month, trusting the Lord to make the event a success if it was His will.

During the month of prayer, it became apparent God wanted the event to continue as planned. The financial issues were mostly resolved and registration began to increase. The committee believed God had provided the original idea and were excited to see Him moving to make the summit a success.

According to attendees, the summit was a resounding success. They especially mentioned how beneficial the breakout sessions were.

Several people shared with conference leadership how much they appreciated it, and hoped it would happen again. Others asked when the classes would be available online so they could share the information with other leaders at their local churches. The Minnesota Conference hopes to host the event every other year, based on the success of the 2017 event.

When the summit ended and the planning committee had finished loading all the equipment, they formed a prayer circle and praised the Lord for His leading in making the summit a success.

Savannah Bowers is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

Learn more about the Church Leadership Summit at www.clsmn.net.

Boulder Church Men Meet for a Retreat

Boulder Church held its inaugural men's retreat on Oct. 14, 2017 at a private cabin near the Fourth of July trailhead outside Nederland, Colorado. The retreat was attended by 41 men, including longstanding members of the church, men new to the church, men from surrounding churches and men from the local community.

Elia King and **Nick Zork** led out in the worship. Zork flew in for the event from New York City, where he serves at the Church of the Advent Hope. They led the group in singing both spiritual and folk songs.

Pastor Japhet De Oliveira, along with **Don Brown** and **Russell Lambert**, shared

reflections challenging the men to enter into a deeper and more authentic walk of life by building community with each other. Brown and Lambert both served in the Vietnam War and used their experiences to provide a framework for powerful life lessons. Lambert pointed out that simply understanding someone else's pain provides the strength for them to live.

Brown called the men to face their problems, promising they will be stronger as a result. Pastor De Oliveira shared stories of men who have shaped his life by investing in him and urged the men to hold each other accountable.

This men's ministry was

created and led by **Dr. Bryan Wernick**, **Dr. Tom Eickmann** and Pastor De Oliveira.

Wernick was proud that the retreat "provided initial steps to improving a close support group of brothers in Christ, dedicated to living life better," noting he was encouraged to see a large number of men from inside and outside the local church passionate about forming a better community.

Eickmann agreed, saying, "The retreat was a great opportunity to connect with men in our church and community."

Becky De Oliveira is communication director for the Boulder Church.



Nicholas Jensen

For information about upcoming men's events at Boulder Church, contact Pastor De Oliveira (japhet@boulder.church).



Hispanic Youth Federation Holds Youth Congress

The Rocky Mountain Conference Hispanic Youth Federation held its annual youth congress at the Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton in Loveland, Colorado, last October. More than 200 youth traveled from across the state to attend, 70 more than the previous year.

Pastor Ray Frometa, youth director for the Eastern Cuban Conference, flew in from Cuba to give inspirational messages with the theme "Jesus—More than a Friend." The youth congress was happy to have RMC youth director

Steve Hamilton and his team attend as well. Other events on Saturday included a concert by Pastor Frometa and a '50s themed dinner at Adventist Christian School in Greeley, Colorado.

"I hope the youth left with a commitment to make an effort in their spiritual life,"

said Frometa. "No matter how weak they feel or what circumstances come their way, my hope is they will tightly grasp onto Jesus."

Edith Garcia, who attends Rifle Hispanic Church, added, "I was personally encouraged to reinforce and refine my faith and spiritual walk." She

said she believes many walked away encouraged to become leaders in their churches because of the meetings.

Vanessa Rivera is a graduate of Andrews University with a master's degree in social work.



Nancy Quiroz

RMC President Visits Conference Schools

RMC president Ed Barnett visited schools in the western slope, southern Colorado and northern New Mexico during his 1,100 mile tour where he interacted with students like the one below from Farmington, New Mexico.

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



During the first week of October, 2017, RMC president **Ed Barnett** took a three-day tour of Rocky Mountain Conference schools. His desire to personally visit every school and talk with the students and teachers was partially fulfilled as he and vice president for education **Lonnie Hetterle** spent three days and covered more than 1,100 miles while visiting schools on the western slope, in southern Colorado and in northern New Mexico. They were also able to visit La Vida Mission south of Farmington, New Mexico.

Leaving early on a Tuesday morning, Barnett and Hetterle visited schools at Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction and Delta before spending the night in Cortez. The second day they visited schools in Cortez, La Vida Mission, Farmington and Durango. Their last day began in Alamosa, and they continued across the mountains in Pueblo, Cañon City and Colorado Springs before finally heading home to Denver.

Barnett was able to share a wonderful story at each school about a “flying kitty,” and Hetterle did some “new math” that made the students (and even a few teachers) really think.

“It was so encouraging to see the dedication of the teachers and experience the

happy and safe environment for the students,” said Barnett. “Their friendliness and ready smiles gave evidence of the wonderful schools and teachers we are so very blessed to have in our conference.”

Hetterle added, “We are still working on syncing our calendars so we can visit our schools in northern Colorado and Wyoming in the near future.” He went on to say what a pleasure it was to see the conference president bonding with the children and staff of the schools.

The visits were not only enjoyed by the president. Students and staff had fun as well as they visited on a more personal basis.

Principal **May Oles** reported, “It was so nice to have the president of the conference on our campus and for him to be able to interact with our students and staff. It meant a lot that he would take the time to show he really cares about Adventist education in our conference.”

Carol Bolden is communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Drone Piloting Class Broadens Career Options



Photos Courtesy Union College

College graduates are always looking for résumé builders—experiences that help employers notice them. For **Colton Baker**, a junior international rescue and relief major, a class in drone piloting has already helped position him for his dream career in international development.

The teacher of the drone piloting class, engineering and computer professor **Dr. Seth McNeill**, was approached over the summer by an alumnus who needed drone pilots to create 3D models of agricultural fields. McNeill jumped at the chance to retool one of his robotics classes to train pilots. Before coming to Union, McNeill worked as a drone researcher

at the University of Nebraska. With help from his former colleagues at the drone journalism lab, he developed the curriculum for the new class.

The first half focused on passing the FAA drone pilot exam—a comprehensive written test required for all commercial drone pilots—and the second half was spent on data collection and examination. McNeill believed the students should understand how to read the data collected by their drones, not just pilot them.

“As an engineering professor, it was fun for me to watch students learn that math is important,” said McNeill. They were hired to analyze 160 acre fields, and their drones were only capable of

Francisco Campos, sophomore computing major, is one of several Union students who earned a commercial drone pilot’s license as part of a spring 2017 class focused on using unmanned aerial vehicles for data gathering.

covering 40 acres per flight. “To get the right coverage when taking pictures of fields requires a lot of math. Ideally, you’ll have an app to do the calculations, but you need to understand what it is doing.”

Union worked with SaraniaSat, a small aircraft/satellite agricultural remote-sensing company developing novel solutions for problems of global import. SaraniaSat donated the drones used for the project and sponsored the class. “Large agricultural companies such as DowDuPont and Monsanto in the U.S. and Bayer, Syngenta and BASF in the EU are also working on these problems and are eager to cooperate on solving them,” said McNeill. “We also worked in collaboration with Aaron Schepers of Cornerstone Mapping, Inc. here in Roca, Nebraska.”

The growing demand for drone pilots

According to McNeill, this is only one area where drone pilot expertise is valuable.

“The drone market is blossoming now that it is legal to fly commercially and there are a lot more markets opening up,” he said. Some of the students in his class were hired immediately as aerial photographers for Union

College or at summer camps. “Drones are also being used in many other fields such as search and rescue and real estate advertising.”

Baker had another unique opportunity when he travelled to Port Arthur, Texas, with a team of his fellow international rescue and relief majors to aid in the cleanup after Hurricane Harvey pummeled the area.

“I collected data on damage by recording before and after footage of deconstruction waste piles in front of the houses,” he explained.

In the future, McNeill plans to find a variety of ways to make the class viable. “Our sponsor most likely won’t need this data collection again next year,” he said. He hopes to partner with the video and photographic arts program to offer a course to help students become skilled in drone photography as well as data collection.

For now, students who took the course are putting their skills to use. “This experience is really going to help me in the future,” said Baker. “I know it’s going to stand out on job applications and set me apart from other applicants.”

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Francisco Miller is a freshman communication major from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Union's Art Program Turns Toward the Future

When Union College graduate **Zack Posthumus** was hired by LiveBy, a neighborhood discovery company for real estate professionals and homebuyers, he entered the job with confidence in his skill as a graphic designer. He had, after all, worked as a graphic designer for nearly three years.

What LiveBy wanted from him, however, was more than the logo designs he had been posting on Instagram.

"Coming out of Union, I had no idea I would be creating web applications and product designs," Posthumus said. "I didn't expect this, but here I am, and I love it."

Union College has reimaged the graphic arts program for students like Zack. In May 2017, college administrators decided to drop the four-year studio art degree in exchange for a greater focus on graphic design and technology demanded by employers. For the last decade, the studio art major averaged only one student per year, while graphic design enrolled an average of 12.1 majors each year.

"It can be difficult to support yourself as a studio artist," said **Alan Orrison**, Union's newest graphic design professor. "Graphic design is a more practical art. We still

study drawing, color theory and basic design principles, but we focus more on digital and graphic design. There are a lot of career opportunities."

Orrison, who is developing a course in motion graphics for 2018, thinks there is success in diversity.

"More and more, I'm recognizing that graphic designers are being asked to do quite a lot of other stuff," he said. "Photography, videography, animation, motions graphics, as well as PowerPoint and Microsoft Word."

He added that employers expect a lot from creative services graduates. "You should be able to lay out a newsletter, but you may also be asked to edit high-quality photos for that newsletter."

New career options, new classes

With increasing demands in mind, Union College has also developed a minor and associate degree in video and photographic arts to complement the new and improved graphic design major.

"There's a lot of synergy between photography and graphic design," said **Bruce Forbes**, chair of the Division of Fine Arts. "In the same way graphic designers are

being expected to know web design, photographers are frequently expected to do video." Curriculum for the associate degree in video and photographic arts includes computer design, commercial photography and small business management, in addition to numerous other broad-spectrum courses.

Continued education

The challenge—and opportunity—of a career in graphic design is the need to stay at the forefront of the field, including burgeoning technologies and ideas.

"Technology changes; software gets updated," Forbes said. "There is a lot of continual learning. At Union, we can't teach students everything they need to know in four years, but we can teach them how to keep learning."

When Posthumus came to Union College, he assumed he would be in and out in four years with everything he needed to know. What he found was he had a strong foundation, but the rest was up to him, the challenge and

Adventist Engaged Encounter Weekend

Date:

Feb. 23-25, 2018

Location:

Mid-America Union Office (Lincoln, NE)

Registration deadline:

Feb. 16

More info:

402.423.2896

anhardt@ucollege.edu

freedom of which he has come to appreciate.

"Graphic design is all about experience and time put in," he said. "Be passionate about it, push yourself and get yourself out there. There are a ton of jobs available."

Forbes agrees. "Everything we use has been designed by somebody," he said. "There's continuing demand, and there will be in the foreseeable future."

Michael Rohm graduated from Union College in 2014 and is a freelance writer based in Oregon.

New design professor Alan Orrison is reshaping Union's visual arts programs to focus on using technology to create art.



Exercising Your Power of Choice in the New Year



The new year is an opportunity to focus on Choice, one of the principles of CREATION Health. As we enter 2018, you may consider making changes in your life to spark a new you. Whether your hope is to improve exercise, adopt healthy eating or enhance your spiritual well-being, setting realistic and attainable goals is a vital part of your journey.

The first step in goal setting is to ask yourself why the goals are important to you. Do you want to live life to your fullest potential and aim to be disease free? Do you want to see your grandchildren grow up and actively participate in their lives? In other words, what deeper goals do you hope to achieve?

Once these goals are established, you can identify the daily lifestyle choices required to obtain the life you want.

Start with a small number of choices, or simply choose one thing. For example, you may want to start eating three servings of fruits and vegetables a day or walk to the mailbox instead of driving to it. Once you accomplish these small steps for at least 30 days, add another positive choice. Small steps add up to bigger achievements.

Set attainable goals

Setting lofty goals is one of the top reasons people fail to keep them. For example, if you decide to join a gym, do not try to work out every day. Begin by choosing an exercise you enjoy such as a yoga class, pickle ball or walking with a friend, and accomplish that task one day per week. After four weeks, add another day or activity until you are active for 30 minutes for at least five

days per week. Remember, 30 minutes of activity can also be broken into 10-minute increments throughout the day.

Stay on track with these helpful tips

1. **Get an accountability partner.** One way to stick with long-term goals is to have an accountability partner. This could be a friend, family member or coworker. At Shawnee Mission Health, we offer this service to associates through the Wellness Program by communicating with them weekly and keeping tabs on their progress.
2. **Re-evaluation is key.** It is important to re-evaluate your goals several times throughout the year. Life frequently hits us with stress, temptation or an event that detours us from our journey. These are the

times goal re-evaluation is most important.

3. **Find your “why.”** The best way to stay focused and strong is to continually remind yourself why you set your goals in the first place. Identify your “why” statement and repeat it daily. Send yourself reminders or post it to your bathroom mirror.
4. **Trust in God.** Stay spiritually strong and ask God for help and guidance when you need direction.
5. **Forgive yourself.** You will encounter tough times when it is not easy to stay focused, and you may abandon your goals. Don't be too hard on yourself. Just regroup and keep going. After all, no one is perfect.
6. **Be natural with your choices.** If you feel miserable, re-adjust your goals. Eat healthy foods you love and do the activities you enjoy, and your body will take on its God-given shape.

Lisa Cummings is a Wellness Program specialist for Shawnee Mission Health.

Learn more about CREATION Health by visiting CreationHealth.com

Avista Adventist Hospital Welcomes Jillyan McKinney, New CEO

Avista Adventist Hospital, part of the Centura Health network, warmly welcomed **Jillyan McKinney** as its new Chief Executive Officer on Nov. 20, 2017. McKinney was chosen to lead the Louisville, Colorado's, nonprofit community hospital after a nationwide search. In her former roles within the Adventist Health System, she gained a reputation for increasing physician alignment and leading teams that focus especially on community health.

"McKinney has an infectious amount of energy," says **Edward Sim**, president of Centura Health's Mountains and North Denver Operating Group. "I'm confident that with her experience in both development and operations, coupled with her impressive leadership skills, Jillyan will successfully lead Avista Adventist Hospital in fulfilling Centura Health's mission and vision, and inspiring our caregivers to meet the needs of those in our community." He credits her specifically for initiating several major expansion projects and increasing hospital volume and profitability in her former role as vice president of Strategic Business Development at Florida Hospital.

McKinney regards the opportunity to expand on

Avista's rich Adventist legacy as an appealing personal challenge. "I believe in the Adventist principles of physical, mental and spiritual healing," she said. "Helping an already impressive group of caregivers carry on their mission to build flourishing communities and deliver whole-human care is going to be incredibly rewarding."

After earning her Bachelor of Science in business administration from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, McKinney pursued an MBA from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida. She completed her management residency with Adventist Health System in Winter Park, Florida.

The move from Florida to Colorado is an exciting change for McKinney's entire family. "The beauty of the Avista Campus is legendary throughout healthcare, and now I can see why," she said. "My family and I can't wait to call this incredible community home."

Former Avista CEO **Dennis Barts** retired at the end of August and moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to be closer to his children and grandchildren. He will return to assist McKinney as she transitions into her new leadership role.

"Jillyan's enthusiasm



Courtesy Centura Health

can fuel those around her to move Avista Adventist Hospital to the next level," says Barts. "She's the perfect addition to the team."

Everyone in the Mid-America Union is invited to join Avista Hospital and Centura Health leaders and employees in welcoming

McKinney and her family to the friendly Colorado community.

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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.

Barrera, Alicia, b. Aug. 12, 1936. d. Sept. 21, 2017. Member of Hutchinson (MN) Hispanic Company.

Bliss, Irene Sievers, b. Oct. 2, 1925 in Taylor, ND. d. Aug. 27, 2017 in Pella, IA. Member of Ottumwa (IA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Harold; 2 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Janet, Donita, Carol and Carinne; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Bolejack, Delbert D., b. Jan. 22, 1956 in Kansas City, MO. d. Aug. 28, 2017 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Branch Memorial Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Laurie Ann; daughters Angela Wilkins and Jennifer Spandle; parents; 4 grandchildren.

Caviness, Stanley, b. June 22, 1954 in Versailles, MO. d. Aug. 18, 2017 in Sedalia, MO. Member of Sedalia Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Lacetia; son Jeremiah; mother (since deceased). Served in U.S. Army.

Chastain, William Jr., F., b. Aug. 14, 1943 in Russ, MO. d. Sept. 21, 2017 in Lebanon, MO. Member of Lebanon Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Nellie; daughters Shellie Sipler, Susan Wright and Carol Wilson; sons Ricky and Eric; 5 grandchildren.

Daniels, Carolyn L. (Pritchett), b. July 4, 1951 in Kansas City, MO. d. Sept. 29, 2017 in Lee's Summit, MO. Member of Lee's Summit Church. Survivors include daughter Kira; son Colin; mother; 1 sister; 1 grandchild.

Darrough, Carol J., b. June 14, 1936 in St. Louis, MO. d. March 19, 2017 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View

Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 grandchild. Survivors include husband Lloyd; sons Greg and Lance; daughter Sherril; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Gusso, Lillian Joy, b. March 22, 1924 in Cumberland, WI. d. Sept. 1, 2017. Member of Southview (MN) Church. Preceded in death by husband Wayne. Survivors include children Linda Harl, Philip and Mark; 8 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Hagelgantz Johnson, Elaine Ann, b. Nov. 20, 1946 in Great Bend, KS. d. Sept. 25, 2017 in La Crosse, KS. Member of Bazine (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Daniel Johnson; 1 brother. Survivors include 1 brother.

Harvard, Archie Lewis, b. Dec. 31, 1919 in Ten Sleep, WY. d. Nov. 5, 2017 in Casper, WY. Member of Worland (WY) Church. Preceded in death by wife Frances Pauline; 1 brother; 1 sister. Survived by son Henry; daughter Peggy Morrison; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren. U.S. Army and WWII veteran.

Johnson, Daniel Nicholas, b. Dec. 19, 1945 in Hutchinson, MN. d. Nov. 16, 2016 in Hays, KS. Member of Bazine (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Elaine (since deceased); mother; 2 sisters.

Johnson, Elaine Ann, b. Nov. 20, 1946 in Great Bend, KS. d. Sept. 25, 2017 in La Crosse, KS. Member of Bazine (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Daniel; 1 brother. Survivors include 1 brother.

Law, Lydia, b. Sept. 17, 1967. d. Sept. 22, 2017. Member of Dubuque (IA) Church. Survivors include husband Shawn; daughter Shannon; sons Matthew and Benjamin;

parents; 4 siblings. Served in U.S. Air Force.

Lehmann, Elsie, b. July 14, 1919 in McClusky, ND. d. Dec. 17, 2016 in Sedalia, MO. Member of McClusky Church.

Lehmann, Merle A., b. Feb. 23, 1930 in McClusky, ND. d. Oct. 3, 2017 in Collegedale, TN. Member of McClusky Church. Preceded in death by 8 siblings. Survivors include wife Ida; children Karen Rohrich, Keith, Karla Martwick and Ken; 3 sisters; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Lewis, Glenda P., b. Feb. 10, 1949 in Holcomb, MO. d. Sept. 26, 2017 in Piggott, AR. Member of Campbell (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 3 brothers. Survivors include husband Marvin "Bud"; daughter Cheryl Parker; sons Benjamin Akridge and John Walter; 3 siblings; 3 grandchildren.

Luckiesh, Joseph M., b. July 31, 1923 in Weston, IA. d. Sept. 17, 2017 in Story City, IA. Member of Ottumwa (IA) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Bonnie Luckiesh; 1 sister. Survivors include wife Louella; daughter Joella Smith; sons Mark, Clifford and Bennett; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Army.

Pinkston, Betty, b. Nov. 21, 1930. d. Sept. 24, 2017. Member of Wichita South Church. Preceded in death by husband William. Survivors include children Rebecca Hargrove, Ruth Rippel, James, Jean Cox and John; 14 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Pinkston, William, b. Oct. 27, 1925. d. June 27, 2016. Member of Wichita South Church. Survivors include wife Betty (since deceased);

children Rebecca Hargrove, Ruth Rippel, James, Jean Cox and John; 14 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Roth, Irene Virginia, b. Nov. 12, 1921 in La Crosse, KS. d. June 30, 2016 in Tulsa, OK. Member of Bazine (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Eugene; son Ronald; daughter Cheryl Smith. Survivors include daughter Janice Davis; son Ken; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Suarez, Daniel E., b. Nov. 15, 1967 in Havana, Cuba. d. Oct. 15, 2017 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Lee's Summit Church. Pastor of Lee's Summit and Kingsville churches. Survivors include wife Marilyn; children Daniel, Adrian, Yonathan, Daslyn and Kevin; parents; 1 brother.

Waddell, Bob, b. July 27, 1934 in Pascola, MO. d. Sept. 29, 2017 in Kennett, MO. Member of Campbell (MO) Church. Preceded in death by wife Jacqueline; sons Mark and Bob Jr.; 3 siblings. Survivors include daughters Cheryl Waddell-Horn, Linda Speer, Teresa Bates, Maxine Crouse and Celette Soliz; 1 sister; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren. U.S. Army and Korean War veteran.

Werth, Edna Joy (Ley), b. Feb. 4, 1926 in Coldwater, ND. d. March 4, 2017 in Fargo, ND. Member of Jamestown (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Leonard; daughter Jannett; son Larney; 8 siblings. Survivors include daughters Linda Landsrud, Pennie Werth-Bobian; son Russ; 1 sister; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email [Brennan Hallock at brennan@outlookmag.org](mailto:brennan@outlookmag.org). Questions? 402.484.3028.

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The Education and Psychology Department at Southwestern Adventist University invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner (dberkner@swau.edu).

OB-GYN and Pediatrician needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at: 615.604.0142.

PUC is seeking a candidate for Facilities Associate Director in our Facilities Management Department. Preference is experience in planning, budgeting, maintenance of college facilities, in addition to strong leadership/interpersonal skills/team leader. Responsibilities in roads, building safety, HVAC, water distribution/treatment, general building maintenance, compliance for hazardous materials, etc. For more information or to apply, please call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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Southwestern Adventist University is looking for a full-time English professor with a PhD. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty will be considered. Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest Street, Keene, TX 76059 or lauej@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University is seeking an online adjunct professor/s to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience.

Southwestern Adventist University seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. PhD preferred; master's

degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal (arosenthal@swau.edu).

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

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EVENTS

65th Wedding Anniversary: Pastor Don and Teresa Sales, Pueblo, CO, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Aug. 24, 2017. They were married in Sheridan, WY, in 1952 between Don's theology courses at Walla Walla and ministerial studies at Union College. Don received his Master's of Theology from Potomac University. They served congregations in Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. This tireless, committed ministerial team has touched many lives for the Lord.

Auburn Academy's class of 1969 is planning our 50 year reunion with a seven day Alaska cruise. The invitation is for all members and friends from 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. We are missing many classmates from 1969. Please send contact information/questions to jan69reinking@comcast.net.

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.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend April 27-28, 2018. Honor Classes 3s and 8s. Welcome Reception Friday 7 pm LSA Library. Sabbath services: registration 9 am

and Homecoming Service 10 am LSA Gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions, varsity basketball. Please update contact information: JNelson@lsak12.com; www.lsak12.com; alumni office 951.351.1445 x244.

Union College Homecoming April 5-8, 2018. Honor classes are 1948, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2008. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401.486.2503, 3800 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

TRAVEL/RENTALS

ADVENTIST TOURS: Israel June 3-12, 2018; German Reformation/WWII July 1-11, 2018; British Reformation July 11-21, 2018; Bethlehem to Rome

(including Revelation's seven churches) June 2-19, 2019; Ellen G. White in Europe June 20-30, 2019; Africa Safari & Service July 18-26, 2019. \$1,990+/person. Contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [Facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours) for full info.

NOTICES

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JANUARY 2018

	Dec 29	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
COLORADO					
Denver	4:44	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13
Grand Junction	5:00	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28
Pueblo	4:47	4:53	4:59	5:07	5:14
IOWA					
Davenport	4:41	4:47	4:54	5:02	5:11
Des Moines	4:53	4:59	5:06	5:14	5:23
Sioux City	5:01	5:07	5:15	5:23	5:32
KANSAS					
Dodge City	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:50	5:57
Goodland	4:32	4:38	4:45	4:52	5:00
Topeka	5:09	5:15	5:21	5:29	5:37
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	4:28	4:35	4:43	4:53	5:03
International Falls	4:26	4:33	4:42	4:52	5:03
Minneapolis	4:40	4:46	4:54	5:03	5:13
MISSOURI					
Columbia	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:22
Kansas City	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:24	5:32
St. Louis	4:48	4:54	5:01	5:08	5:16
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	5:07	5:13	5:21	5:28	5:37
North Platte	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:53
Scottsbluff	4:32	4:38	4:46	4:54	5:02
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:27	5:38
Fargo	4:47	4:54	5:02	5:11	5:21
Williston	5:09	5:16	5:24	5:34	5:45
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	5:10	5:17	5:24	5:33	5:43
Rapid City	4:23	4:29	4:37	4:46	4:55
Sioux Falls	4:59	5:05	5:13	5:21	5:30
WYOMING					
Casper	4:40	4:46	4:53	5:02	5:11
Cheyenne	4:39	4:45	4:52	5:00	5:09
Sheridan	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:58	5:08

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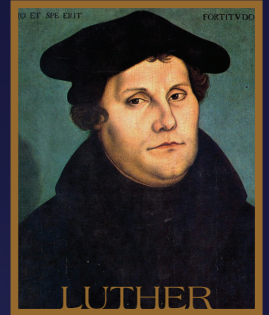
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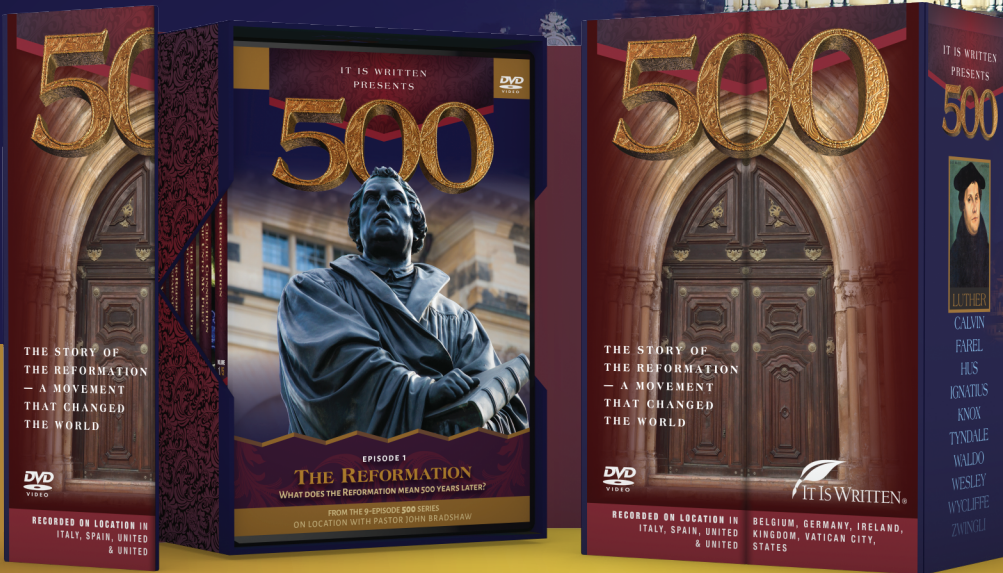
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