

OUTLOOK

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STUDENT
PRODUCED

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST THROUGH

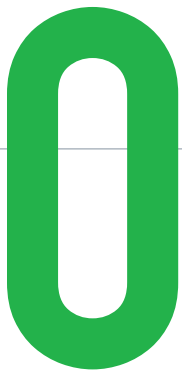
EMBRACING OUR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES



Divided We Stand p. 6 | Understanding Pastors p. 8

Deepening My Worship p. 10 | Christians Under Construction p. 12

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DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CHURCH

In this Union College student-written issue, authors talk about challenging conversations in the Adventist church, particularly the topics of member-pastor relationships and styles of worship. How can we have these tough yet relevant conversations in a way that is true to the mission of our church?

Ashley Bower (p. 6) offers these suggestions:

- **Be open-minded.** Everyone’s opinions will not be the same, and it’s good to be prepared for that.
- **Listen to others’ ideas.** Christians come from all walks of life, so it’s important to listen to their past and how that plays into their current beliefs.
- **Have a positive discussion.** It’s okay—even healthy—to talk about your beliefs with one another.
- **Go to the Bible.** The Bible was given to us by God for us to use, so let’s use it. Also, do some outside research, and then form your opinions together.
- **Don’t hold grudges.** People change, and so do their beliefs. Many people do not have the exact same beliefs as Adventists from 100 years ago. Be willing to talk with the person to understand the situation.

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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



From Sheep to Victorious Warrior

A new look at Psalm 23

bit.ly/fromsheep



Who Has Come to Sabbath School?

Meeting cultural and local needs

bit.ly/whohascome



ON THE COVER

Like a puzzle, our church is made up of many pieces that work in unison to display God’s image. In this issue, Union College students share their insights on how we can work together despite our differences.

More on p. 4



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25



21



17



23

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PERSPECTIVES

HAIRCUT FROM HELL
—Lori Peckham
p. 4

FEATURES

DIVIDED WE STAND
p. 6

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON BEHIND THE PULPIT p. 8

DEEPENING MY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
p. 10

CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION p. 12

NEWS

- 14 North American Division
- 16 Central States
- 17 Dakota
- 18 Iowa-Missouri
- 19 Kansas-Nebraska
- 20 Minnesota
- 21 Rocky Mountain
- 22 Union College
- 24 Adventist Health
- 26 Farewell
- 28 InfoMarket

"Tolerance of how others communicate with the Lord is so important in keeping the church unified and passionate." —p. 10



22



Haircut from Hell

When I was in high school, I'd have my hair cut by a family friend. Lorna worked at an upscale salon during the day, but she'd come to our home one evening every few months and cut my mom's hair and then mine—at a discounted price, of course.

Now, Lorna was a talented hairstylist, but she was also a friend who felt quite comfortable opening up to us. She'd be snipping away at my mom's hair and talking about the fun camping trip she and her husband had

enjoyed. *Snip, snip, snip.* My mom would ask interested questions, and Lorna would chatter away happily. *Snip, snip, snip.*

"Thank you," my mom would say, looking at the result in a hand mirror. "You know just how to work with my curly hair."

But sometimes Lorna wasn't having a great day. As she stood over one of us sitting in our kitchen chair, she'd rant about her frustrations. "So, my husband brings home this enormous set of stereo speakers," she'd

share. *Snip, snip, snip.* "And I said, 'Where are you going to put those monstrosities?'" *Snip, snip, snip.* "And how much did they cost? You might have discussed this with your wife!"

On those evenings, the haircuts didn't turn out so well. So my mom and I always tried to keep Lorna talking about happy subjects . . . at least until our hair was done.

Stop the blood!

Unfortunately, I was sitting in the chair the night she told

us she was going to divorce her husband. "He's just a lazy bum!" she reported. *Snip, snip, snip.* "And I'm tired of working long hours while he lounges around!" *Snip, snip, snip.* Her small, sharp scissors were flying through my hair, now grazing past my ear, now edging along my chin.

"Yeah, his free ride is over!" *Snip, snip.*

"Ouch!" I cried, my hand rushing to my neck. It felt wet. Blood was running down to my collar.

"Oh, I'm so sorry!" Lorna exclaimed, patting the blood



Meet the Writers

Each year the February issue of OUTLOOK magazine features articles written by the Union College editing class. Pictured (l-r) are professor Lori Peckham, Roxi Peterson, Yanni Outerbridge, Olivia McAuliffe and Ashley Bower. Each writer shares lessons from personal experiences about talking with people when we don't see eye to eye.

with a napkin my mom grabbed.

I ran to the bathroom. There, along my neck, was a gouge where her scissors had stabbed me. I cleaned up the wound and put a Band-Aid on it. When I returned to the kitchen—wondering whether I'd rather live with uneven hair or have her finish the haircut—I thought, *Boy, when she's good, she's very good. But when she's mad, she's bad.*

Hearing and healing

Wise King Solomon had a

lot to say about anger—about avoiding fuming people and about controlling our own tempers. He advised, “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered” (Prov. 22:24, NIV). He would probably add that it's also not a good idea to have your hair cut by an angry person!

But what if some of the people in your church fit this description? And what if you find yourself in the distressing position of being the listening ear—or worse yet, the target—of their anger?

In this issue the Union College students in editing class courageously take on these conversations. They talk about what happens when anger, discord and disagreement invade the body of Christ—and the damage is much more painful than a bad haircut.

Paul sent this strong warning to the Ephesian church: “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away

from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:30-32, NKJV).

The body of Christ needs every part. Rather than cut and cause bleeding to any member, let's hear and heal. **O**

Lori Peckham is an assistant professor of English and communication in the Division of Humanities at Union College. Previously she served as editor of *Insight* and *Women of Spirit* magazines.



Divided We Stand: Can't We All Just Get Along?

A PK's Look into Church Politics

By Ashley Bower

“I appeal to you . . . that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Cor. 1:10, NIV). Paul is writing to the Corinthians and explicitly tells them that divisions within the church body shouldn't be tolerated. Rather, he says to unite beliefs together to find harmony with one another. This is a concept many churches have trouble

with, including my own home church.

I am a pastor's kid and have been all my life. I've been in three churches, and each experience has been vastly different, yet also surprisingly similar. Being in a pastor's family allowed me to see and experience church politics, the ins and outs of the church, and all of the nitty gritty details average church members don't typically see. My journey has been both eye-opening and shocking.

Aversions to change

One church in particular showed how easy it is for churches to be divided rather than united. I spent many years in that same Adventist church where my dad was the pastor. When he first started, the church had only one, very traditional service. At the church we had been in before, there had been two services—one more contemporary and the other more traditional. My dad wanted to create a

service to reach a broader audience for those who left our church for a more contemporary service, so he started a first service. However, the second service remained the more traditional service. Over the years, first service started to grow and gain attendees, yet it was still nowhere near the size of the second service.

Because of this large differentiation in size, and the style of the first service, the more conservative members

of the church opposed it. But it wasn't just the average members—it was the leaders of the church. In fact, one of the church's key leaders was the main opponent of this service. Yet my dad stood firm and did what he believed was right for the church.

Unfortunately, the leaders of the church liked things the way they were and didn't want to change; they believed their way was the best way and people can't actually be reached by the methods my dad was trying to implement.

Yet the numbers showed differently. First service started off with a small attendance of fewer than 10 people per week. But as time went on, that number began to grow to its current attendance of 40-80 people. We even had some young adults return to our church because it was now meeting their needs in a way it hadn't before.

In time, my dad accepted a call to pastor in another church in a different conference. Soon after my dad left, leading figures began to pressure the new pastor into eliminating first service, and eventually they called a business meeting to get rid of it. Their intentions were to bring the church back to what they considered its glory days.

The business meeting was open to all church members, and those who had an opinion on the continuation of first service attended. They

spoke their minds, and by the end of the meeting they had reached their decision. First service was there to stay.

When I heard the news, I was overjoyed! I was so glad the program my dad had put into place to help other people connect to God was going to continue to fulfill its mission. But it also saddened me to see that even after 10 years, having two services was such a major issue that it divided my church.

Church: a gathering place for all

Being a part of that church and witnessing this story and many, many others play out has distanced me from the whole concept of church. I've seen this type of political frenzy with other churches I've attended, so I know it wasn't an isolated problem just within my church. These divisions are happening all across the nation.

Going into a church, I have trouble trusting the people I see; who knows if they are planning a meeting to undermine the work the pastor has done when he or she leaves?

What if someone is already vocalizing their displeasure with the pastor to a conference official? What if this community that God instructed us to have isn't a community at all, but rather a pot of opinions and self-imposed hierarchies?

Churches are meant to be a gathering place for those who want to worship our Creator together. It is a place for people of all different walks of life to join those with similar beliefs. It is not a place to argue about which way is the right way to worship, or a time to fight about other controversial topics.

A church is a sacred meeting place for those who love the Lord. Maybe instead of creating divisions within the church based on our opposing beliefs, we can talk with our fellow believers to discern what God's will is in our lives. We need to be willing to shift our perceptions to help others have an opportunity to connect to God in a way we might not think of.

Most importantly, church is a place to gather together with those who share a passion for Christ, not for those who have an abrasive opinion that shuts people out. The goal of the church is to have a group of people who are united in mind and thought, with no divisions among them, all building up one another. Let's work together to make that goal a reality. **0**

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Ashley Bower is a sophomore at Union College studying English and language arts education.

Three Most Controversial Topics in the Adventist Church

Four Union College senior theology majors currently serving as student pastors in the Mid-America Union identify current challenges facing the church:

J-Fiah Reeves

1. **Race** (separate conferences for different ethnicities)
2. **Church leadership** (a lack of understanding of the decisions the church makes, and a judgment on the administrative side of church by the youth based on their lack of knowledge)
3. **Homosexuality**

Elizabeth McDonald

1. **Women's ordination**
2. **LGBT+ community** and how to create a place where our church is welcoming
3. **Compliance** over the rules that the church has put into effect

Ryan Millsap

1. **Women's ordination**
2. **Homosexuality**
3. **Righteousness by faith**

Kolby Beem

1. **The Trinity**, in regard to the Holy Spirit being a part of the Godhead
2. **Women's ordination**
3. **Music in worship**

Twitter poll*

1. **LGBT+ involvement** (58%)
2. **Women's ordination** (32%)
3. **Music** (11%)

**38 young adults responded*

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON BEHIND THE PULPIT

Pastors Are Human Too

By Roxi Peterson

The pastor was up front talking about judging others in the church and the community. Sitting in the pews, the congregation listened to what the pastor was trying to convey to them. I sat next to my friend, who didn't usually come to church.

He listened as the pastor continued, emphasizing that the only one who can judge is God. I noticed that my friend's face looked puzzled.

When the sermon ended, I asked him, "Why did you look confused during the sermon?"

He replied, "I don't understand how that pastor can talk about God being the only one to judge, when just the other day I heard him judging someone."

Perceptions of pastors

Oftentimes we get caught up in judging the pastor's character instead of focusing on the message of

the sermon. Three pastors from the Mid-America Union opened up to me about some of their struggles with being judged. All of them talked about the strong reaction they get when they share their occupation.

Kyle Smith, youth pastor at New Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church in Overland Park, Kansas, recalled walking outside a restaurant and seeing an employee standing by the door smoking a cigarette. He greeted her, and they started talking. Then she asked what he did for a living. "As soon as the word 'pastor' fell off of my lips, the cigarette went flying behind her back," said Smith. "She tried to hide what she was doing and began to apologize profusely."

Pastor Smith asked her what she was apologizing for, and when she told him it was the cigarette, he assured her he didn't even notice.

"She smiled, and yet was shocked because I didn't try to shame her for her wrongdoing," Smith noted. "I want to help people, not guilt them into life change. Jesus never one time did that."

Harold Alomia, head pastor of the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, has had similar experiences with being misunderstood. Several years ago, when pastoring in Colorado, he played soccer with the town team in Buena Vista. He kept his occupation out of the situation until people could get to know him. He recalled that "people were themselves, and by the time we actually got to talking about what we do for a living, there had been enough rapport built with them that 'I am a pastor' had a positive shock of 'You're a normal person!'"

Alomia continued, "Being a pastor casts an unwanted but common

reality upon you. Every week you are judged by what you say, wear, do, or don't do." In fact, Alomia shared that often when he states his profession up front, "an instant wall" is erected, making it hard for people to be themselves.

Being vulnerable about struggles

I understood when he said "an instant wall" is erected when he tells people he is a pastor. I have built walls around myself with people I want to impress and not let them fully know me, especially pastors. I don't blame Pastor Alomia for not telling his soccer friends he was a pastor right away. I would have done the same thing. But it's sad to me that we feel we have to hide who we are at first in order to be accepted.

While pastors are leaders and examples to the congregation, if they slip up or



make a mistake should we judge them even more than we judge others?

I confess I have held pastors to a standard so high I would almost claim them as angels. But getting older has shown me that's not the case. Pastors are not the only Christ-like examples. The congregation is also a Christ-like example. Through our actions we either show or don't show what it means to be a Christian. And yes, we mess up, but God has promised to forgive us "seventy times seven"

(Matt. 18:22). This does not mean I will go out and steal a car, knowing God will forgive me. But if I fall, He will catch me and love me with all His heart, as we should do with each other and pastors.

Getting real

Jessyka Albert, associate pastor at Boulder Adventist Church in Colorado, is another person who has dealt with these issues. "Being a pastor, leading people to a deeper understanding and relationship

with Jesus, is a big responsibility," she shared. "Many times there will be people who understand that—just like them—I am continuing to grow, to learn, to make mistakes, to struggle like everyone else."

Being judged and accepted go hand in hand. Once we have been judged or observed, then it's decided if we are accepted or not. For pastors, it seems like that is routine. They are supposed to be a Christ-like example, but we live on this sinful earth, where everyone is a sinner

and has the ability to make mistakes or not be perfect.

Perfection, to me, is overrated anyway. Making mistakes is a great way to learn and do better next time. That goes for everyone—congregation, pastors, church leaders. We are all God's children whom He loves, even when we make mistakes. **U**

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Roxi Peterson is a communication/public relations major at Union College.

How to show appreciation for your pastor (even if you don't always agree with him or her)

"It is important to remember that pastors are people too. They have a rough job that is usually pretty thankless. So take opportunities to brighten their days, like with little cards or notes, letting them know you appreciate them." - Jon Daniel, Union College student, Lincoln, Nebraska

"One of the things we do is my family usually cooks a nice meal and invites the pastor's family over for a dinner during the week to just talk and for sure just let them know we appreciate them." - Ana Torres, Union College graduate, Lincoln, Nebraska

"My pastor always asks me how I am and if there's anything he can keep in prayer for me. I support my pastor by asking him the same thing. Pastors are people too—people who need support and uplifting." - Derek Baker, Union College graduate, Lincoln, Nebraska

Deepening My Worship Experience

Praising God Through the Arts

By Olivia McAuliffe

Worship is all about finding your connection with God. My greatest connection is through dance. Controversial? Maybe so; but hear me out while I tell you my story.

I started dancing when I was nine. At the time, it wasn't a spiritual connection for me, but I had been dancing around the house, and thus wreaking havoc, for so long that my mother eventually decided to just enroll me in ballet. I was so excited and couldn't wait to start. I still remember how nervous I was for my first lesson and how in love with ballet I felt afterward. As fast as that, dancing had

become my "thing."

I stayed at that studio until I was 14, but then felt I had reached the peak of my abilities there and switched to Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. It was a Christian studio, which was foreign to me. I loved ballet, but I didn't see how it could be a worshipful experience with all the focus on technical perfection.

Boy, was I wrong! I had no idea how important dance would become. My troupe had "worship week" once a month, where we would warm up briefly and then spend the rest of the classes listening to Hillsong, Bethel or other Christian worship music.

Some students sang, some quietly read their Bibles and some were, of course, dancing. Though I was initially cautious to participate—always worried about my next step or who was watching—I eventually warmed up to dancing freely for the Lord and even looked forward to worship classes as the highlight of the month.

Surprising impact

Before long, I was dancing with the junior company at churches, charity events and other Christ-centered organizations. After the first half of the season had ended, we were

looking for new places to share the gospel through dance. We'd been to the churches of most of the group members by now, but we hadn't been to mine.

When it was suggested, I felt hesitant. I didn't want to say no, but I knew dance was something of a sensitive topic in the Adventist Church.

My teacher prodded me enough that I told her I'd go ask my pastors about it. So the next Sabbath I went and talked to my youth pastor. He was all for it, and immediately went to work trying to get the church board to approve my project. I wasn't overly involved in the whole process, but

Photos: Timothy Floyd



I know there was a bit of controversy over allowing a dance concert at our church. Finally, the church ruled that we should be allowed to perform, and I am still so grateful for their open hearts in allowing us to share our worship.

We held the concert, “One Thirst,” on a Saturday night in the church gym. All the songs were Christian—some of them hymns, some of them more modern. There was one piece, “Lord Have Mercy,” that none of us dancers were too fond of. It required us to wear long, hot, black dresses and carry candles, and the song felt a little overdramatic. Looking into the crowd, however, I saw a captivated audience. Several people were crying, and I had some come up to me afterward and tell me how much that piece moved them.

Though some of the church members weren’t

initially thrilled about this concert, they attended it regardless and said they received a blessing. Their openness to the arts as a form of worshipful expression had a powerful impact, and they even invited us back to perform outside for our church’s alternative Halloween program, “Safe Haven.”

Worshipping in truth

Dancing is such a precious form of praise for me and many others. The idea that I am giving back to God entirely what He gave to me (my body and the ability to dance) makes the whole experience feel special. Through dance, I can communicate joy, praise, sorrow or pain in a way that cannot be expressed in words. Having the opportunity to share this gift with others was such an exciting thing.

However, we’re all

different, and my experience may not be the same as yours. Dance was where I found my connection with God, but there are many different worship styles. I am still grateful for my church’s support, and I would call all Christians to treat alternative worship styles in the same way. Even if it’s not how you connect, tolerance of how others communicate with the Lord is so important in keeping the church unified and passionate. Above all, our relationships with God are key—so let’s all worship in a way that is authentic and true! **O**

Olivia McAuliffe is a sophomore psychology major at Union College.

Music and Dancing in the Bible

Dancing for God isn’t a modern concept! Check out some of these biblical references to dancing as a form of worship:

“Let them praise His name with dancing; let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.” (Psalm 149:3)

“David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrams and cymbals. ... David was dancing before the Lord with all his might.” (2 Sam. 6:5, 14)

“You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.” (Psalm 30:11)

“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing.” (Ex. 15:20)

“Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!” (Psalm 150:4)

“Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.” (Jer. 31:13)

All Bible texts are from the English Standard Version.





CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Building Up the Temple Through Music

By Yanni Outerbridge

Music ... it is the soundtrack to the scrapbook that is life. Some may even argue that music *is* life. However, some people believe much of today's "music" is not appropriate for a worship setting. The Bible itself says "David danced," but what genre was he listening to? If he was alive today, some people might consider him to be a heathen. Although he wasn't perfect, David was highly favored by God. Did God really care how David praised Him? Are we as Christians supposed to be ridiculing other people's style of worship?

According to Psalm

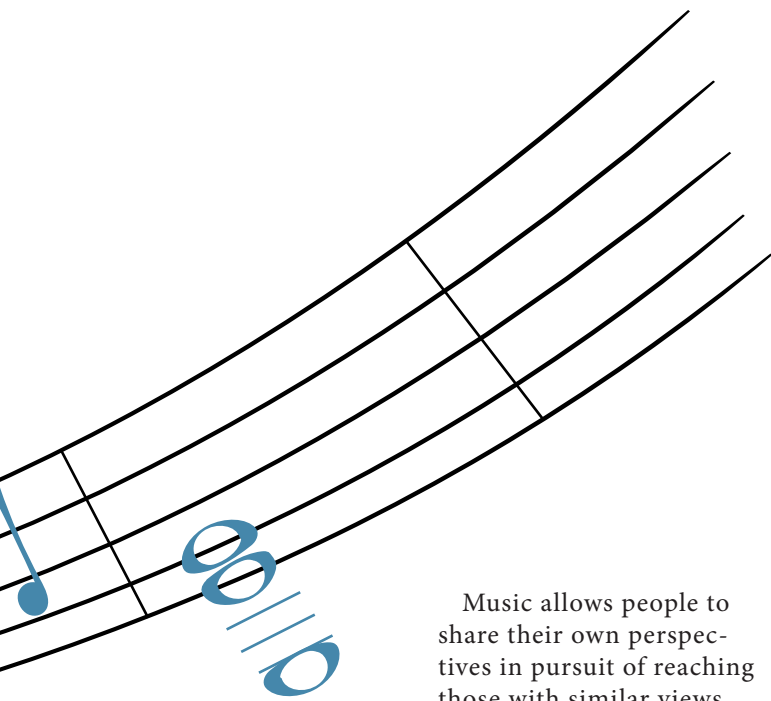
150:1-5 there are various ways we can praise the Lord through music. The Bible says: "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals."*

While many other verses can be interpreted multiple ways, this one seems pretty straightforward. Music is

a gift from God *to* God; in other words, God gives us music in order to worship Him. It is a device in which we "the created" can give praise to the Almighty and tell others about "the wonder of His works."

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

It is my personal belief that life and art are simultaneous; one cannot and does not exist without the other. This particular philosophy has led me to believe that life is a series of moments, "scenes," and each of us is performing to our own soundtrack.



Music is subjective. It is also very personal. So no form of music is really going to resonate with everyone.

As it pertains to the sermon itself, the pastor is no different from the praise team. They are all giving a performance, telling a story, and hoping it reaches their audience. For example, sometimes we leave church feeling like the sermon was “tailor-made” for us, and other times we feel like the message has no bearing on our life at all.

Musicians have a divine calling from God, no different from that of a pastor or a teacher. We all have an audience, a story, and a message, but the artform of music is unparalleled because its reach surpasses lifetimes.

Music allows people to share their own perspectives in pursuit of reaching those with similar views. Col. 3:16 states, “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

Ultimately, God does not put limitations on our praise and worship experience—we do. It is clear that Scripture tells us to make Him the focus of all things, and when we do that, someone will be touched. However, when we criticize people without knowing their intentions, we often fall victim to the Devil’s trap.

YOUR BROTHER’S KEEPER

In seventh grade I had an English teacher named Mrs. Warren. She is one

of the people who molded me into the man I am today. Aside from the fact that she was an outstanding teacher, she was an even greater human being because she taught us about love. Every morning as I sat with the other boys for homeroom worship, she’d utter five simple words: “Be your brother’s keeper today.”

Jesus Christ is the personification of love; He embodied what it means to be a brother. He showed us that the Christian walk is a marathon, but no one can tell us at what pace to run. Jesus did not force anyone to follow Him—He simply was, is, and forever will be. Just like music. **Q**

Yanni Outerbridge is a junior communication major at Union College. He is also a musician with a forthcoming album entitled *The Saddest Man on Earth*. His home is in Somerset, Bermuda.

**All Bible texts are from the New International Version.*

CONFLICT AMONG ALLIES

Friendly advice for seeing the light when you disagree about church

Jean Etienne Ramos is an elder at College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is also a leader in Campus Ministries at Union College. In these roles, he has encountered numerous difficult conversations among Christians. Recently, we sat down to talk about the challenges that face us.

How do you personally deal with conflict?

I try to avoid conflict. If I see people arguing, I try to mediate the situation.

What are some prevalent issues in the Adventist Church today?

I feel there is a huge divide between the youth and the elderly.

Can you elaborate?

The church is an institution; it is very structured. Most young people I know aren’t fond of the way the church is set up right now.

How can we resolve this issue?

We need to realize that this is our church; we need to take ownership of the things we don’t like. The Israelites worked in darkness, but God gave them a pillar of fire. While things might seem dark right now for youth in the church, God will help us see the light.

Unique Service of the NAD Provides Counsel on Fundraising



Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



Philanthropic
Service for Institutions

Thanks to the foresight of North American Division leadership, the NAD houses a unique service not replicated elsewhere. Philanthropic Service for Institutions is a consulting and training office on the topics of philanthropy and fundraising and offers resources and assistance at no or low cost to all NAD institutions. PSI is both a one-stop shop and a gateway to services.

Fundraising is a reality for today's faith-based institutions, including Seventh-day Adventist organizations. Church member giving has changed, there is more demand for financial and managerial accountability, institutions are more complex for various reasons (including the influence of the internet) and financial resources must be expanded in ways that support productive and

successful institutions.

The principles of fundraising are rooted in the Bible, and practices of generosity have existed since time immemorial. Today fundraising is a full profession with the best fundraising occurring in the context of healthy organizations. Fundraising doesn't consist of "10 easy steps" but is a thoughtful process and requires an understanding of principles and how to adapt them appropriately.

15 ways PSI can be of assistance to any NAD entity

1. **The PSI website** philanthropicservice.com has online resources including an extensive annotated bibliography, podcasts, articles of current interest, commentaries on what is happening on the philanthropic scene, how-to advice and announcements.
2. **Fundraising handbooks, Successful Fundraising, consist**

Photos Courtesy Philanthropic Service for Institutions



Dr. Lilya Wagner conducts on-site training for Adventist organizations across the North American Division.

of several editions: for churches and pastors, for general audiences, Spanish version and Canadian version.

These can be purchased from AdventSource.org but come with an offer of assistance from PSI, ranging from a phone call to actual site visits.

3. **PSI has collaborated with the Adventist Learning Community** to create a course on fundraising. While geared toward pastors, it is accessible and useful for all who wish to learn the comprehensive aspects of fundraising (www.adventistlearningcommunity.com).
4. **PSI serves academies** through the Model for Academy Philanthropy program and offers general consulting for those not enrolled in this program.
5. **PSI has a program that provides hands-on training** and also lists resumes and job openings on our web page. Most important is our new volume called *Your Future in Fundraising*. Our mantra is *you don't have to be a professional to do fundraising well, but you have to do it professionally*.
6. **PSI has developed a significant project** called the *Fundraising Fitness Test* that aids in understanding which strategies are working by using information

points from an organization's database. This endeavor has put PSI "on the map" of professional fundraising.

7. **PSI assists with capital campaign planning** or review of existing plans.
8. **PSI helps an organization develop its case for support** and identify potential donors.
9. **Webinars on current or standard fundraising strategies are offered** periodically and a library of webinars is available on PSI's website.
10. **PSI does training on site** for boards, building committees, other relevant committees and churches and NAD organizations of all types.
11. **PSI holds a National Conference** with special guest speakers, classes and great networking opportunities.
12. **PSI helps with preparing and reviewing fundraising materials**, from letters to proposals.
13. **PSI has many informational and instructive materials** that can be shared, including a lending library and many online resources.
14. **PSI can assist in researching funders**—foundations, some businesses and government. It can also guide in identifying individual donors.
15. **On occasion the**

capacity building grant available from PSI allows extras an organization may not be able to afford, such as a database or a local trainer to speak to a committee or board.

and support as organizations raise funds. We look forward to serving you in the best way possible.

Lilya Wagner is director of Philanthropic Service for Institutions.

Learn more about PSI:
800.622.1662
info@philanthropic-service.com

PSI *cannot* actually raise funds with or for an organization—no credible consulting firm does. But we can provide ongoing advice

PSI's 2018 Conference on Philanthropy will be held June 26-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. More information at www.philanthropicservice.com.



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CENTRAL STATES CALENDAR

FEB-JUNE 2018

FEB 9-10
Denver, CO

Right to Romance
Family Life Marriage
Retreat

MARCH 3

Women's International Day of Prayer

MARCH 15-18
Kansas City, KS

ReBOOT
Youth & Young Adult
Summit

MARCH 17

CSC Education Spelling Bee

MAR 29-APR 1
Huntsville, AL

Alumni Weekend
Oakwood University

MAR 30-APR 28
Kansas City, KS

Revelation Today
It Is Written Reach KC

APRIL 21

Pastor's Spouse Appreciation Day

APRIL 27-29

CSC Marriage Retreat

MAY 24-26

Graduation Weekend
K-8 Schools

JUNE 6-10
Kansas City, KS

Camp Meeting

JULY 17-29
London, UK

iServe Mission UK18

'Tis a Gift to Be Simple

"Don't go to any fuss; I'm just a simple person."

Courtesy/Rita Kelly



Esther Wenz, 99, passed away Dec. 4, 2017 at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, North Dakota. The following obituary was written by her daughter, Rita Kelly.

Esther Wenz was born Aug. 26, 1918 to Adam and Barbara (Weisenberger) Seidel, the first of 12 children to be born in the new, two-story home on their 160-acre allotment of land. She attended a one-room rural school through eighth grade and vividly recalled a

day in the 1920s when the children looked up at the sky and asked the teacher, "What's that?" These young children had never before seen an airplane.

A lover of learning, Esther cried when she found out she could not attend high school in town—it was too far away and would cost too much to get there or to board in Dodge during the week.

Esther's parents came to America from the Odessa area in present-day Ukraine (Germans from Russia) in 1907, as did her parents'

friends, Philippina and Jacob Wenz, who homesteaded a half-mile down the road. Both the Seidels and the Wenzes converted from Lutheranism and joined the newly formed Seventh-day Adventist congregation.

The Wenzes had a son named Herbert. During the Depression, several of the Wenzes and Seidels traveled to Washington together to pick and sort apples, and to load and drive trucks. Esther and Herb went for several years in a row during a time when there were no crops or jobs in North Dakota.

November 13, 1940—a day registering 20 below zero—Esther and Herb married in the little Adventist church located on the farmland deeded to the church by Esther's parents. The first several years of their married life, Esther would leave Herb and their farm northeast of Dodge for the winter to work as a maid, cook and childcare provider in Washington. She proudly stated, "With that money we were able to buy two cows."

Eventually two children—**Larry and Rita**—joined them on the farm, one of whom was born in the winter of '48-49 when the snow was so deep Esther had to move to Hazen a month before her due date, in case she went into labor and couldn't get to the hospital.

In 1954 Esther and Herb planned to build a new home on their farmstead, but the well water wasn't good. Instead, they built a home in Bismarck, where they raised their children, staying there until Herb died at age 90. Esther lived there for over 59 years before moving to Touchmark.

Esther cleaned homes for a living for almost 50 years. At 82, when asked why she hadn't retired, she commented, "Well, some of the people I work for are old—they need me." Esther also served as the assistant treasurer at the Bismarck Adventist Church for 25 years, where she became a member in 1954.

Esther loved to do cross-stitch and to cook and bake, at which she excelled. At 94 she still made over 25 varieties of cookies and candy to share with friends and neighbors. Sometimes Esther would comment, "Don't go to any fuss; I'm just a simple person."

Esther is survived by her son and daughter, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a sister and numerous nieces and nephews.

She now returns to the land her father homesteaded to lie by her love, Herb, and to rest between her parents and his.

Iowa-Missouri Pastors Conduct In-Depth Study of Reformers

Pastors from across the Iowa-Missouri Conference gathered at Camp Heritage last December for a time of special focus on prominent figures of the Protestant Reformation.

The gathering was a culmination of the conference's year-long emphasis on the pillars of Protestantism, in commemoration of the 500-year anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg, Germany.

Earlier in the year pastors formed teams and spent several months conducting in-depth research on reformers John Wycliffe, John Huss, Jerome of Prague, Martin Luther and Huldrych Zwingli. The teams then presented their findings to

the larger group during the December gathering.

"Events like this are important not only for the church, but for our individual lives," said **Dean Coridan**, conference president. "I hope each pastor who participated will be able to apply what they learned to their own lives and ministries."

Jody Dickhaut, pastor of the Bourbon and Sullivan churches in Missouri, said, "This was probably the best meeting of this kind I've been a part of during my time in the Iowa-Missouri Conference. I was so blessed by the presentations and discussions."

Steven Shafer, pastor of the Atlantic, Exira, Fort Dodge, Guthrie Center and Harlan churches in Iowa,

stated that he "came away from this project and the discussion with the conviction that the biblical principles that sparked the Protestant Reformation are vitally important for my life and for the Church. God is calling us back to Christ alone, the

Bible alone, faith alone, grace alone, and to give all the glory to Him alone. He is calling us back to Himself?"

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

Pastor Steven Shafer presents his findings regarding Martin Luther's impact on the Protestant Reformation.



Randy Harmdierks

Macon Adventists Fulfill Woman's Last Wish

Sheryl and Aaron Hulse, owners of Custom Quilts and More in Macon, Missouri, were contacted in December 2017 by a hospice nurse named **Kim**.

Kim had a client in decline who had been busy making a quilt and had mentioned several times she wished to live long enough to see her quilt finished.

The top fabric, an

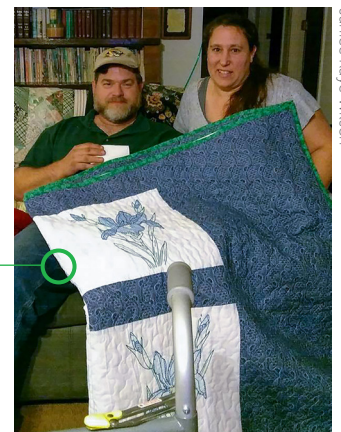
arrangement of floral squares on a blue background, was complete but still needed to be quilted with other layers. Kim hoped to have it completed for her client as an early Christmas present.

The Hulses were so moved by Kim's gesture they offered to complete the quilt at no cost, putting aside Christmas presents for their own family to do this act of kindness.

Kim's client was thrilled to receive the completed quilt and to have her last wish fulfilled.

.....
Janice Kaye Wilson is personal ministries director for the Macon Church.

Aaron and Sheryl Hulse display the completed quilt—a local hospice patient's final wish.



Janice Kaye Wilson

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Wichita Three Angels Church
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SABBATH, FEBRUARY 24

Wichita South Church
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9:30 AM - Sabbath School
11:00 AM - Church
2:00 PM - Afternoon Program



Speaker:
DOUG BING
President
Washington Conference

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Love in a Basket

Litchfield Church hosts fifth annual Thanksgiving basket outreach project

A beautifully browned turkey, mounds of mashed potatoes with pools of gravy, herbed stuffing, cranberry relish and pumpkin pie—add a grateful heart and you've got the makings of a Thanksgiving celebration! That is exactly what the members of the

Litchfield Church wished for everyone in their community when providing Thanksgiving baskets for those experiencing financial difficulty.

Members began planning their fifth annual Thanksgiving basket outreach project as soon as the previous

year's project was completed. Offerings to fund the baskets were collected, donations from local businesses were solicited and names of prospective recipients were obtained.

Finally, on the morning of Nov. 19, exactly 40 baskets lined the pews in the sanctuary. One by one, community members walked through the door and were greeted warmly. Many stayed to share a delicious meal prepared by church members. Everyone

left with happy smiles and heartfelt thank yous.

They took with them more than turkey and mashed potatoes; they left knowing somebody cared. It was love in a basket—a love that started in heaven, found a place in the hearts of a church family and overflowed to others in a tangible act of goodwill.

.....
Anonymous member of the Litchfield Church.

Courtesy Litchfield Church



Litchfield Church members prepared Thanksgiving baskets to give to community members in need.

Shelina Bonjour Joins Minnesota Conference Team as Youth Director

Courtesy Shelina Bonjour



The Minnesota Conference administration is excited to announce that on Jan. 1, 2018 **Pastor Shelina Bonjour** began her new position as the Minnesota Conference youth director.

Bonjour was commissioned on Dec. 9, 2017 at the Pathways Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Prior to accepting the position of youth director, Bonjour spent almost two years as associate pastor for the Andover District, working with the Pathways Church. Under her leadership, the church moved to a new location within the city limits of Maple Grove and began a youth group.

Before working in Minnesota, Bonjour spent two years as youth and outreach director at Caldwell Church in Idaho. She worked with

the youth at the church, helping with Adventurers and Pathfinders and doing outreach. Bonjour also spent several years working in Kettering, Ohio, first as young adult associate pastor for the Kettering Church, then as assistant dean and spiritual care director for Kettering College and Kettering Health Network.

Bonjour has a love for youth of all ages. She has been involved in Pathfinders throughout her various pastoral roles, including restarting a club. She has also trained youth in evangelism and outreach,

managed the youth department during camp meeting, directed Vacation Bible School and organized city-wide outreach events.

Prior to becoming a pastor, Bonjour spent multiple summers working at summer camps in a variety of roles. Bonjour met her husband, **David**, while working at camp. They now support each other in ministry as they serve using each of their own God-given gifts. They will celebrate their fifth anniversary in September.

.....
Savannah Carlson is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

Newday Fellowship and Parker Hospital Hold Sixth Annual Christmas Store

“Remember, choose what you need; not what you want,” a father instructed his three young daughters as they completed the check-in process for Newday’s sixth annual Christmas Store, which took place Dec. 3-6, 2017. These words told this family’s story. The excited girls stepped into the magic of the Christmas Store while dad, tears running down his face, was shown to the parent room and offered a hot drink and homemade cookies.

The Christmas Store, a partnership between Newday Fellowship, Parker Adventist Hospital and Parker Hospital Foundation, provides a Christmas experience for

The Christmas Store provides a Christmas experience for families who don’t typically qualify for holiday services.

families who don’t typically qualify for other holiday services in the community, but who would not otherwise have Christmas.

When they arrive at the Christmas Store, children are paired with a personal shopper and allowed to choose from a variety of gifts for every member of their household, including themselves. At the wrapping station, the child chooses wrapping paper for each gift, and then they are led back to their family.

In addition to blessing the families, the Christmas Store

has brought the Parker community together in service. Organized by Newday, the nearly 200 volunteers needed to operate the Christmas Store come from Newday, Parker Adventist Hospital, Parker Hospital Foundation, Parker Police Department and Parker Chamber of Commerce.

“The Christmas Store doesn’t claim to solve all the problems our families face at Christmastime,” one of the pastors at Newday commented, “but it does take the edge off this challenging



season and reminds families they’re not alone. They live in a community that cares.”

Lisa Engelkemier is the associate pastor at Newday Christian Fellowship in Parker, Colorado.

Photos Courtesy: Newday Fellowship

Wiser Generation Banquet Held at Boulder Adventist Church

For the second year in a row, Boulder Church held a Wiser Generation Banquet to honor those over the age of 55 in the church and local community. Thirty-nine guests attended the event on Dec. 10, 2017, including members of the church and friends from the local Mapleton Hill neighborhood.

Boulder Church pastor **Japhet De Oliveira** and his wife **Becky** were inspired by a similar holiday banquet they held when they were youth leaders at Newbold College Church in England. They would cook the food

themselves—with the help of a dozen or so teenagers who also acted as waiters.

Pastor De Oliveira observes, “There is such a great emphasis on young people anymore. I think it’s nice to pay some attention to those who are no longer ‘spring chickens,’ but who nevertheless do so much to keep everything going. They are amazing!”

Food and service was provided by noted Boulder catering service Spice of Life, and Boulder Chamber Orchestra—which performs several concerts each year at the church—offered a quartet

of musicians to provide 30 minutes of beautiful music.

Becky Carlisle, one of the attendees, said, “Such a lovely evening. Elegant, delicious food and wonderful entertainment. A beautiful Christmas gift.”

Rebecca Trafton added, “It captured the very best of the

holidays for me—friends new and old, music, good food, holiday decorations, a bit of nonsense, a lot of fairy glitter, some words wry and wise and some thoughts deep and provocative.”

Becky De Oliveira is the communication director for Boulder Church.



Becky De Oliveira

Union Student Wins Nationwide Recycling Contest

Many college students look for small ways to make the world a better place in their daily lives. But when Union student **Victoria Nichols** saw a big opportunity to change her classmates' views on recycling, she took it.

Last April, Nichols, a biology major from California, led Union in a nationwide recycling competition sponsored by Garnier. She entered the contest and was chosen to involve her community and her school in the collection of empty personal care and beauty items.

"I wanted to encourage my classmates to reduce their footprint on the earth," she said.

The contest was hosted by DoSomething.org and sponsored by Garnier, who partners with TerraCycle for the Rinse, Recycle, Repeat campaign to educate America's youth about the importance of

recycling beauty and personal care empties in the bathroom. Garnier and TerraCycle set a goal to divert 10 million beauty and personal care empties from landfills by the end of 2017.

Nichols was among the 50 applicants chosen to be captains for their college communities—based on their community involvement and demonstration of leadership skills. She worked to collect as many empty personal care and beauty containers as she could during April 2017, the first month of the program.

Nichols then had to break them down, box them up and ship them to New Jersey.

"It was a lot of late nights," she said. "I had good help breaking them down and organizing them all, which I am really thankful for."

As part of the contest, Nichols posted weekly

updates with all of her empties in pictures.

"Tori was the winner by far, with over 7,000 empties," said the representative from TerraCycle who spoke at a ceremony last November honoring Nichols and Union for the achievement.

"Recycling has always been a passion of mine," said Nichols. "I was really committed to this, and I offered a lot of incentives for people to help me with this project, as well as inspiring competition within the student body."

Nichols offered a variety of prizes, such as gift cards, help applying for scholarships and friendly competition.

For winning the competition, Nichols received a scholarship and Garnier created a community space in a local Community Crops garden.

Community Crops sponsors 12 locally owned and

maintained gardens around Lincoln, but many of the gardens lacked space for people to sit and enjoy the plant and animal life. So, on behalf of Union, Garnier gifted two picnic tables, two chairs, three trash cans and a covered area—all made out of the recycled beauty products—to a Community Crops garden located at 46th and Pioneers, just a few blocks from Union's campus. The recycled material is very durable and will last much longer than wooden equivalents.

"I used gift cards to help motivate students, but I learned that most people are passionate about making a change, and they only need an outlet to do so," Nichols said. "I'm glad we were able to make such a difference as a school."

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



Photos: Steve Nazario/Union College

Victoria Nichols (in red on right) celebrated Union's first place finish in the Rinse, Recycle, Repeat competition. Thanks to the win, Garnier created a public space made from recycled materials at the 46th and Pioneers Community Crops garden on behalf of Union College.

Don't Face Adulthood Alone

Mentors help students manage the transition to independence

What do you do when God opens a path before you, lights it with neon arrows, lines it with faith-fostering cheerleaders and hangs an “Enter Here” sign above the door? If you’re wise, you follow the path. But what do you do when you find the door at the end of the God-ordained path bolted shut?

Understanding the best ways to help students prepare for life is a daily challenge for **Rich Carlson**, Union’s vice president for spiritual life. He’s discovered there’s not a one-answer solution, which is why Union offers a variety of worship options.

One of these options is HeartScan, a spiritual mentorship program pairing individual students with a faculty or staff member to walk the faith journey together.

Dealing with a closed door

For **Melissa Burton**, 2017 graduate and now office coordinator for the Physician Assistant Studies program, this meant a mentor to walk with her down that neon-arrow, cheerleader-lined path to the perfect job—and to walk with her when she found that door bolted shut.

“That really shook me,” she admitted when she didn’t get her anticipated dream job. “I remember bawling my eyes out. I asked, ‘Why did that door shut?’”

Sharyn Adams, Burton’s spiritual mentor as a part of the HeartScan program, shared a candid answer: “I don’t know. Then she encouraged Burton. She listened to her. She prayed with her. She walked the hard path with her.”

HeartScan provided an opportunity to connect on a personal level with someone Burton trusted and admired. Through this mentoring relationship, Burton found the courage to face her fear of graduating and traversing the responsibility-riddled landscape waiting on the other side. She found talking with someone who was successfully navigating after-college life encouraging.

Burton was able to find a job she loves where she flourishes. She no longer fears the pressures and responsibilities of “adulthood.” Burton says she enjoys her job and is excited to be a Union staff member.

“The Union experience,” Burton said, “helped me find within myself the ability to be comfortable, well-equipped and able to approach work

with joy, purpose and mission.”

Mentoring comes full circle

As a Union employee, Burton’s choice to step up and walk the faith journey with a student as a HeartScan mentor was an easy one. She chose to mentor a former classmate and, because of their friendship, the transition from mentee to mentor was smooth. Burton doesn’t see herself as a guide, instead she sees herself as a fellow traveler.

As with her own mentors, Burton wants to continue fostering their friendship; in this way they can encourage and support each other through questions inside and outside of organized religion.

She is following in the footsteps of her mentors, whose life-encompassing approach to HeartScan allowed her to be “real and realistic” about where she stands with God and how she feels about God, the corporate church and those who make up the church body.

When asked if she would recommend HeartScan to other students, Burton said, “Yes! HeartScan gives students a spiritual mentor or—in my case—a life mentor. I think it’s good to have somebody there to help you overcome whatever you’re going through.”

Trena Reed is a freelance writer based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

For Melissa Burton ‘17, a spiritual mentor played a key role in helping her make the transition from college life to the working world. Now as a Union College employee, she is passionate about providing that same support to current Union students.



Love Yourself



Known as the month of love, February is a great time to express our affection for those we care about most. But it also presents a perfect opportunity to take time to love yourself by reducing stress, improving your outlook and getting some much needed rest.

Consider the practice of mindfulness, which can make a big difference in helping you get through life's chaos and stress. Being aware of what you're doing, thinking or feeling at any given moment may seem simple. But the truth is, staying focused has never been such a challenge.

Just think how much time we spend wondering what's going to happen later. What's for dinner tonight? Am I ready for my meeting at work tomorrow? Or fretting about what happened yesterday. Did my boss take what I said the wrong way? Was there something important I was supposed to do?

And then there's the stress of being constantly interrupted by your smartphone's dings and rings for incoming calls, texts and emails.

"Every time we see a new message on our smartphones, it upsurges a hormone called

cortisol into our system," said **Lisa Cummings**, Wellness Program Specialist, Shawnee Mission Health. "Being in a continued stress state can lead to diseases such as heart disease, some cancers, diabetes, anxiety and depression, to name just a few."

No wonder the practice of mindfulness is growing in importance as an essential part of our mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

What exactly is mindfulness? Mindfulness is about being completely in touch with the present moment. It is an amazing tool for stress management and overall wellness because it can be used at virtually any time and can quickly bring lasting results.

"Virtually any activity can be a mindful exercise—walking, listening to music, peeling and eating an orange—as long as you perform it with a sense of awareness and focus," said Cummings.

"Weariness, stress and the sense of being overwhelmed are nothing new to the human condition," said **Mark A. Stoddart**, administrative director of Spiritual Wellness at SMH. "To people who were preoccupied with so many things, Jesus said, in the

Sermon on the Mount, "Take no thought for the morrow... Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. In another passage, He challenged weary people to come to Him for rest. The practice of mindfulness is one of the ways in which we can learn how to get rest."

It's important to remember that while we can't control the thoughts, emotions or behaviors of others, we have the freedom to manage our own thoughts and responses. Mindfulness offers an achievable way to nurture and stay connected with yourself.

According to Stoddart, being mindful also calls for us to be still and take notice of what God has created. For example, have you ever stopped on a walking path on a warm sunny day and listened to the symphony around you—the birds, the crickets or the rustling of the leaves on the trees? Have you ever taken the time to feel the wind against your skin or the sunshine on your face? When was the last time you breathed in and enjoyed nature's aromatic spectrum?

"It's important to find ways we can be still and know God is God," said Stoddart. "You

Three ways to be mindful

Pay attention.

Next time you meet someone, listen closely to his or her words, and delay your judgments and criticisms.

Make the familiar new again.

Find a few small, familiar objects—such as a toothbrush, apple or cell phone—in your home or office. Identify one new detail about each object that you didn't see before.

Focus on your breathing.

Sit in a quiet place and feel your breath move in and out of your body. When your mind wanders, gently redirect your attention to your breath. You're simply becoming aware of what's happening around you, breath by breath.

can literally have a moment of worship just by being mindful."

.....
Lisa Cummings is spiritual wellness cCoordinator for Shawnee Mission Health.

Profession of Faith

For **Jordan Couch**, a summer internship transformed into a career in healthcare. He recognizes it as a personal calling and a way to connect his faith with his profession.

During the summer between Couch's junior and senior years in college, he was fortunate to land a 12-week summer administrative internship with Denver's Adventist hospitals. During that summer internship, Couch began to see the powerful merger of mission and ministry that happens in the halls of Adventist hospitals.

"I realized that the godly men and women who manage our hospitals do so with a prayerful commitment to Adventist principles," he says. "I was convinced that working with an organization like Adventist Health System would be an amazing daily extension of my faith."

More than a résumé line

Raised in the Portland, Oregon, area, Couch attended Adventist schools from kindergarten through college. He believes the foundation he gained from these schools helped pave the way for a life-long commitment to service in hospital administration.

Couch's story is not so different from that of many Adventist young people. He grew up going to church,

attending school and participating in sports. He worked for a couple of summers at Big Lake Youth Camp. A bit of an adventure junkie, he began his college education studying firefighting at the local community college while taking a business major at Walla Walla. At the same time, he worked for the local fire department.

When the opportunity came to apply for the summer internship in Denver, Couch figured it would be a good learning experience. After arriving in Denver, he quickly realized his experience would be more than a résumé line.

Couch caught the eye of the administrators. They invited him back after graduation for the three-year administrative residency program. He is currently working as an administrative resident for Castle Rock Adventist Hospital while working on his MBA in healthcare administration at UC Denver.

Couch attends high-level planning meetings and is included in executive decisions. He says he is impressed with what he witnesses behind the scenes. "I see top leaders and CEOs who espouse Adventist principles and values at every level," he explains. "During a system-wide conference this summer for administrative residents at the corporate headquarters in Orlando, I was impressed with something **Daryl Tol**, CEO

of Florida Hospital, said. He said, "Whatever decision we have to make—is it furthering our mission? Is it extending the healing ministry of Christ? If the answer is Yes, do it. If not, don't."

Couch will help manage the new batch of incoming administrative interns this summer. He's looking forward to working with more Adventist young professionals like himself. He hopes his newfound passion for the mission of Adventist healthcare will rub off on them.

"If you're a young person who wants to be tied to a company that has a strong sense of mission, you should definitely explore the opportunities available within Adventist

Health System," he urges. "Whether you're interested in clinical, administrative or other areas of service, you'll find more than a job. You'll find a career and a calling."

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.

For more information about the summer administrative internship with Adventist hospitals in Denver, contact Stephanie Lampson: stephanielampson@centura.org.



Courtesy: Centura Health

Jordan Couch found a passion for mission as an administrative resident at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital (pictured in front of Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver).

Atkinson, Frances (Huber), b. March 8, 1927 in Adams County, ND. d. Oct. 6, 2017 in Lemmon, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by husband Walter; 5 siblings. Survivors include children Avis Rowe and Wayde; 6 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Bender, William, b. July 1, 1931 in Mobridge, SD. d. Oct. 12, 2017 in Orange County, CA. Member of Bismarck Church. Survivors include wife Elsie; children Douglas, Bruce, Fonda Opp, Joel, Mary DeCouteau; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Bitzer, Janice M., b. Nov. 24, 1938 in Willow Springs, MO. d. Dec. 5, 2017 in St. Charles, MO. Member of West County (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include husband Llewellyn "Lou"; daughter Judy Rowe; sons Steven, Timothy and Tobias; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren.

Burgeson, Don, b. July 4, 1928 in Bemidji, MN. d. April 16, 2017 in Mesa, AZ. Survivors include wife Lorraine Nash; children Sherry, Nancy and Douglas; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Burns, Douglas E., b. Aug. 10, 1943 in Kansas City, MO. d. Sept. 22, 2017 in Springfield, MO. Member of Branch Memorial (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Phillis; daughters Eileen Hartman and Deborah Moyer; sons David and Daniel; 13 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Campbell, Joyce E., b. May 24, 1937. d. Oct. 10, 2017 in Washington, MO. Member of Bourbon (MO) Church. Survivors include daughter Nelda Shafer; sons James, Richard, John and Karl; 1 brother; 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Doty, Marjorie Loveland Becker, b. June 4, 1925 in Parks, NE. d. Nov. 12, 2017 in Cedaredge, CO. Member of Cedaredge Church. Preceded in death by 2 husbands; 7 siblings. Survivors include daughters Susan Steiner and Patricia Rosendale; stepsons James and Fred; 5 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Frase, Jonathan E., b. March 26, 1962 in Bay City, MI. d. Oct. 16, 2017 in Aurora, CO. Member of Twin Peaks (CO) Fellowship. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Debbie; parents Gordon and Irene; 1 brother; 2 sisters.

Gall, Mary "Evy," b. April 2, 1927 in Illinois. d. April 15, 2017 in Yankton, SD. Member of Yankton Church. Preceded in death by first husband John Kitsman; 2 sisters. Survivors include husband Martin; son John; 2 sisters; 2 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Garvin, Beverly, b. Aug. 18, 1932 in Muscatine, IA. d. Nov. 18, 2017. Member of Muscatine Church. Preceded in death by first husband Harvey Gifford; second husband Dean; son Trenton Miles. Survivors include daughters Leslie Rizzo, Stephanie Brand, Dikki Ann Andrews, Lisa Young, Dena Dierikx and Kristi Burreson; sons Randy and Gregg; 24 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

Gillham, Corrine Wagner Beck, b. May 2, 1934 in Manfred, ND. d. Oct. 6, 2017 in New Rockford, ND. Member of Bowdon Country (ND) Church. Survivors include stepmother Arlene Dollinger; husband Chaney; daughters Melodee Kerr and Corleen; 6 grandchildren.

Hamilton, Robert J., b. Dec. 27, 1950 in Placerville, CA. d. Oct. 9, 2016 in Mountain View, MO. Member of Iowa-Missouri

Conference Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include wife Alfreda; daughter Sonya Mae Wilson; sons Robert and Chad; 3 grandchildren.

Hammond, John R., b. March 31, 1931. d. Oct. 25, 2017. Member of Fort Lupton (CO) Church.

Jensen, Marjorie Marie Tryon, b. March 24, 1928 in Hastings, NE. d. Oct. 20, 2017 in North Hollywood, CA. Member of Cedaredge (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Russell; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Sandy Brandmeyer; son James; 1 sister; 7 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Jensen, Russell James, b. April 10, 1929 in Fulton, IL. d. Oct. 17, 2017 in North Hollywood, CA. Member of Cedaredge (CO) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Marjorie (now deceased); daughter Sandy Brandmeyer; son James; 7 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Johnson, Alice J. (Jensen), b. June 24, 1920 in Sandstone, MN. d. Oct. 9, 2017 in Olympia, WA. Member of Lacey (WA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Richard; sons Daniel and Herluf. Survivors include daughters Teresa and Rita; 4 grandsons; 10 great-grandchildren.

Krous, Laura Dea (Rollins), b. March 27, 1931 in Penokee, KS. d. Sept. 22, 2017 in Beatrice, NE. Member of Beatrice Church. Preceded in death by sons Kevin and Gary; 4 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Eudora Arrants and Jeannie Putnam; sons William and Larry; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 4 brothers; 1 sister.

Leach, Melvin Darrell, b. June 1, 1935. d. Oct. 11, 2017. Member of Campion (CO) Church.

Lester, Mary A., b. July 27, 1940. d. Aug. 16, 2017 in Wilmette, IL. Member of West Plains (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Darryl. Survivors include sons Patrick and Michael Moore.

Lyon, Bertha Almeda, b. June 3, 1921 in Douglas, WY. d. June 7, 2017 in Waverly, NE. Member of Torrington (WY) Church. Preceded in death by husband; son Loni; 2 infant brothers; 1 grandson; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughter Lori; son Gary; 1 brother; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

McGowan, Betty D., b. Feb. 3, 1950 in Huggins, MO. d. Oct. 30, 2017 in Mountain Grove, MO. Member of Mountain Grove Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 grandson. Survivors include husband Buddy; sons Darrin, Brent and Jamie; 5 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Mekelburg, Milton "Bud," b. Oct. 19, 1934. d. Sept. 14, 2017 in Yuma, CO. Preceded in death by wife Genevieve. Survivors include daughters Sue Helm, Teresa Johansen and Sara Powell; sons Roger, Arlen and Todd; 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Noble, Billy A., b. Oct. 8, 1943. d. Nov. 4, 2017. Member of Golden Valley (MO) Church. Survivors include wife Zelma; sons Gene, Darrell, Timothy and William.

Olson, Eric, b. Oct. 30, 1973 in Huron, SD. d. Oct. 29, 2017 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Huron Church. Survivors include parents; 1 sister; 1 brother.

Pettis, Alice Janette, b. Jan 9, 1933 in Sauk Centre, MN; d. Nov 26, 2017 in Waconia, MN. Member of Westview (MN) Church. Survivors include husband Jerry; sons Daryl and Kevin; daughters Janene Rick and Tamara Weidemann;

3 sisters; 12 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Plank, Glenda M., b. Aug. 26, 1946 in Dent County, MO. d. Nov. 30, 2017 in Rolla, MO. Member of Salem (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 half-sister. Survivors include husband Carl; daughters Lisa Mills; son Keith; 4 siblings; 5 grandchildren.

Puffer, Elizabeth A., b. Sept. 12, 1939. d. Nov. 19, 2017 in Columbia, MO. Member of Sedalia (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include husband Larry; daughter Louisa Doyle; sons Larry and Guy; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Rayburn, Roland M., b. Dec. 31, 1927 in Gibbon, NE. d. Nov. 28, 2017 in Springfield, MO. Member of Springfield Church. Preceded in death by siblings. Survivors include wife Enid; daughter Rebecca; son Jerry; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Reinhardt, Patricia Ann, b. April 6, 1944 in Shattuck, OK. d. Nov. 15, 2017. Member of Franktown (CO) Church. Survivors include husband Arlyn; daughters Arlyne Walker and Annette Wragge; son Andy; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Roe, Shellane E., b. Feb. 21, 1954 in Clinton, MO. d. Dec. 4, 2017 in Clinton, MO. Member of Clinton Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include husband Jim; daughter Jacqueline Heister; son Jonathan Lewis; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Rowe, Robert Daryl, b. Feb. 26, 1940 in Vona, CO. d. Aug. 21, 2017. Member of Canon City (CO) Church. Preceded in death by son Vernon Carr; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Cheryl; daughters Ginger Carr, Lena Jean Skinner and

Martha Carr; sons Fred Carr, Scott Robb and Daryl; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 20 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren.

Suter, Virginia Renstrom, b. April 13, 1930 in Sioux Falls, SD. d. Oct. 15, 2017 in Hot Springs, SD. Member of Hot Springs Church. Preceded in death by first husband Lee Renstrom; second husband John. Survivors include children Beverly Odell, Ed Renstrom, Sandi Nauman and Eric Renstrom; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Thompson, Vernon Owen, b. June 17, 1931 in Albert Lea, MN. d. Dec. 30, 2017 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Sally; 8 siblings. Survivors include wife Jill; son Michael; daughters Janelle Simpson and Michelle Pedigo; step-daughters Patricia Walters and Kristina Scott; 13 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren. U.S. Army veteran.

Tipton, Elsie L., b. Sept. 15, 1924 in St. James, MO. d. Oct. 2, 2017 in St. James, MO. Member of Rolla (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Virgil; 6 siblings. Survivors include daughter Wanda Gibson; son Homer Mounce Jr; 1 sister; 7 grandchildren; numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Valle, Virginia E., b. April 15, 1950 in La Garita, CO. d. Oct. 14, 2017. Member of Monte Vista (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Jose; 2 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include daughters Robin, Carrie Trujillo and Crystal; 2 sisters; 5 grandchildren.

Wareham, Cynthia D., b. Sept. 17, 1965 in Sioux City, IA. d. Nov. 6, 2017 in Sioux City, IA. Member of Sioux City Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother.

Survivors include husband Timothy; children Kylie, Caleb and Molly Van Tuijl; 11 siblings.

Weidner, Shirley, b. Aug. 14, 1933 in Severance, KS. d. Oct. 29, 2017 in Troy, KS. Member of Three Angels (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Ralph Carpenter Jr; 1 infant child. Survivors include daughters Kathy Bloss, Peggy Sutton, Rhonda Coy, Brenda Tracy and Tori Linebarger; sons Ed and Ted Carpenter; 4 siblings; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wenz, Esther, b. Aug. 26, 1918 in Dodge, ND. d. Dec. 4, 2017 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by husband Herb; 4 brothers; 6 sisters. Survivors include son Larry;

daughter Rita Kelly; 1 sister; 2 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

White, Charles L. Sr., b. March 5, 1922 in Saint Joseph, MO. d. Dec. 9, 2017 in Saint Joseph, MO. Member of Three Angels (MO) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Karen Ezell; son Charles Jr.; 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Elizabeth; 4 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild. Served in U.S. Air Force during WWII and the Korean War.

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

FEBRUARY 2018

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
COLORADO				
Denver	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:46
Grand Junction	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:00
Pueblo	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:46
IOWA				
Davenport	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:46
Des Moines	5:32	5:41	5:49	5:58
Sioux City	5:41	5:50	5:59	6:08
KANSAS				
Dodge City	6:05	6:13	6:20	6:28
Goodland	5:09	5:17	5:25	5:33
Topeka	5:45	5:53	6:01	6:09
MINNESOTA				
Duluth	5:13	5:24	5:35	5:45
International Falls	5:14	5:25	5:37	5:48
Minneapolis	5:23	5:33	5:43	5:52
MISSOURI				
Columbia	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55
Kansas City	5:41	5:49	5:57	6:04
St. Louis	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48
NEBRASKA				
Lincoln	5:46	5:54	6:03	6:11
North Platte	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:27
Scottsbluff	5:11	5:20	5:29	5:38
NORTH DAKOTA				
Bismarck	5:48	5:59	6:10	6:20
Fargo	5:32	5:43	5:53	6:04
Williston	5:56	6:07	6:18	6:30
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Pierre	5:52	6:02	6:12	6:22
Rapid City	5:05	5:14	5:24	5:33
Sioux Falls	5:40	5:49	5:59	6:08
WYOMING				
Casper	5:20	5:29	5:38	5:47
Cheyenne	5:17	5:26	5:35	5:43
Sheridan	5:18	5:28	5:38	5:47

SUNSET CALENDAR

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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).

The General Conference of SDA's Archives, Statistics and Research is seeking a Managing Editor for the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventist. Duties include coordinating research, selection and work flow, developing resources, process, and plans for guiding the process through to a successful launch in 2021. Must be SDA church member. Detailed knowledge of church structure and editorial experience required with background in religion and academia preferred. Send resume to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

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PUC is seeking a Controller in the Financial Administration Department. Responsibilities include leadership and supervision over accuracy and productivity of day to day financial activities, collaboration on annual budgeting, provision of financial analysis tools/metrics, oversight of operations in accounting department, including strategic thinking for department goals and objectives. Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related

field preferred. CPA license preferred. Minimum of five years experience and supervisory responsibilities. Please call 707.965.6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PUC is seeking full-time positions in our Facilities Management Department. Looking for positions of Tradesman Supervisor-Painter, and Tradesman 1- Carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting and carpentry. For Painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For Carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, able to be team player, handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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

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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.

Laurelwood Adventist Academy Members of the Class of 1968 will meet at the Adobe Resort in Yachts, Oregon, the weekend of Aug. 3, 4 and 5, 2018 for a 50-year class reunion. Call and make your reservations now. Reference Laurelwood Academy's 50th Class Reunion. Questions? Call Jacquie Jenkins Biloff at 605.295.0040 or email at skyjaky@gmail.com.

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.

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