

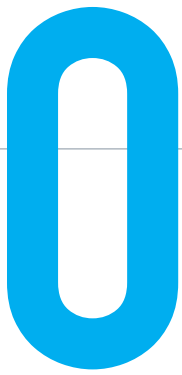
OUTLOOK

bringing a calling into

FOCUS

Union College helps students
find the place where
God-given passion
and talent meet





FINDING A CALLING

I believe God creates each of us for a purpose—just like He demonstrated to the prophet Jeremiah when he said, “before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet among the nations” (Jer. 1:5, NIV).



Steve Nazario/Union College

DR. VINITA SAUDER
Union College president

At Union College, discovering this God-given calling doesn't happen by accident. Through personal spiritual and academic mentorship, inspiring worship, and plenty of opportunities for involvement and leadership, we help each student discover the place where their inborn gifts intersect with the passion to make a difference in their own corner of the world—no matter the chosen career.

In this issue, you'll find stories of Union graduates who found a calling while in college that ultimately became a fulfilling career changing lives, along with stories of current and future students in the process of discovering their own God-given purpose.

If you know someone who is considering college, encourage them to visit us and find out how our educational community can help them become the person God created them to be.



The Problem with Pain
bit.ly/theproblemwithpain



Infirmity in the Body
outlookmag.org/infirmity-in-the-body



Pastor Appreciation Month Videos
outlookmag.org/tag/pastor-appreciation



ON THE COVER

Ashton Kennedy is a senior studying elementary education at Union College.

More on p. 4

Photo by Steve Nazario



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"I give 100 percent of the credit to Union College for me coming even remotely close to my calling" —p. 4



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PURSUING

a passion for leadership

Gina Creek was mentored at Union. Now she mentors future leaders.



Photos Courtesy Gina Creek

To say Gina Creek is passionate about leadership is a striking understatement. And in her current position, director of Leadership Development at Adventist Health System, she's helping future leaders find the true calling that matches their God-given gifts.

But Creek didn't always see herself as a leader.

"I give 100 percent of the credit to Union College for me coming even remotely close to my calling," the 2003 graduate said. "Before Union, I don't know if I would have ever used the term 'leader' to describe myself. But being at Union helped me realize that one ingredient required for true and authentic leadership is to find something outside

of yourself that you are so compelled by that it calls you to leadership."

Drawing out the inner leader

Her freshman year, Creek tried to stay behind the scenes. But second semester her best friend, Melissa Larson Evans, was working in Campus Ministries, and she and Creek had ideas for community service projects. Pastor Rich Carlson agreed to let the two share the position of Outreach Coordinator, and they began pairing community members who needed help with students who wanted to help.

"There was something deeply compelling about

Gina Creek was able to follow her calling and seek out a career in leadership development thanks to the support of her husband, Greg.

the impact that we college students could have, and it caught my imagination," Creek said. So she and Evans organized a service activity to assist an elderly shut-in who needed help cleaning her home and yard. "Pastor Rich told us to make an announcement inviting others to come with us. We had no idea how many people would show up—but it was a large turnout. We wanted to change the world in a small way, and it was amazing to know we'd helped that woman and created an amazing opportunity for students and staff to participate. That changed my perspective on what I wanted my life to be like."

By the end of the year, Pastor Rich Carlson, Union's vice president for Spiritual Life, had put Creek in charge of Project Impact, Union's school-wide annual day of service. "He saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," she said. "He invited

me to do something I wasn't prepared for, but his support, mentoring and pure belief in me helped me be what I needed to be."

The next fall, Project Impact taught Creek another powerful lesson about leadership. Too many requests and not enough volunteers left a couple of sites without help. While the rest of the school celebrated a day of positive effect on the community, Creek was crying alone in her dorm room. But Carlson again helped her realize her true potential. "He told me that I didn't fail," she said. "We talked about what we'd learned, what we'd do differently, and where we should go from there. Looking back, that experience set up my whole life."

Creek worked in Campus Ministries for four of her five years at Union, serving in leadership roles including student chaplain and Union for Christ director; she only stepped away to serve as ASB president. Through it all, she found a unique outlook on her role as a leader. "I'm not attracted to leadership in and of itself," she said. "I'm attracted to the problems I can solve by being in a leadership position."

Becoming a student of leadership

As a math education major, Creek was living off campus her senior year and completing her student teaching practicum. Despite her schedule, she agreed to help document the work

of the Campus Ministries department to make it easier to train new student leaders. Soon she was also researching how other Adventist colleges ran their ministry departments.

When Carlson invited Creek to attend annual chaplains' meetings, her project further expanded: She was commissioned to compile a manual showing how institutions interpreted campus ministries in their own contexts. Thanks to grants through the General Conference, North American Division, and independent foundations, she spent the next two years traveling to 13 Adventist colleges throughout North America, interviewing full-time and student employees of campus ministries departments, attending events, observing and capturing information that she eventually presented in her book, *Crafting a Culture: A Guide to Leadership in Campus Ministries*.

It was while writing the book that she found the best version of her life. "I was reading about leadership, thinking about leadership, hearing how others were running their leadership programs, and while I believed there was no way anyone would pay me to do it, it was my ultimate dream."

Pursuing a passion for leadership

Now, she's living that dream. After graduating, Creek taught for a few years at the high school and college

levels. "I like math, and I liked my students, but it didn't make me feel as alive as leadership," she said.

So, pursuing her passion, she moved to Kansas City and earned a master's degree in organizational development. After relocating to Orlando, Florida, Creek and her husband, Greg, agreed she would take a year to search for a job in the leadership field; she'd go back to teaching if she couldn't find one. Less than a month later, she began serving at Adventist Health System in organizational change management, where she helped other employees implement and handle change within the workplace, primarily in the IT sector. From there, she rose through the corporate ranks, serving as a leadership development coach, director of Organizational Development, and finally moving into her current role as director of Leadership Development.

Creek says her experience of searching to find her calling has helped her be more compassionate and understanding when interacting with the interns and residents she helps place in temporary positions that may become careers. "When you're in college, it can be hard to imagine life outside of the college experience. It took me years to find the situation where my personal compulsion for excellence was as important as my personal calling God has placed on my heart," she said. "I wanted a job that let me unleash both my personal and spiritual sides with the same level of energy, and I didn't know

that's what I was hungry for until I found my career path. Now I get to help others look for the place that inspires them to work harder, be more excellent and follow the heart of God."

While Pastor Rich was and continues to be her mentor in leadership, Creek says the core principles of Union and the people there helped shape her and her future. "It was Dr. Smith being president, his connectivity to the students, making sure the ASB president was part of the school board, and inviting me onto search committees," she said. "It was the way Linda [Wysong Becker] worked with student leaders and how Barry Forbes runs the business program and engages with students. We were allowed to take on leadership roles, and we found mentors. All of the people who make up Union and the spirit of Union impacted me."

Creek recalls a conversation she had shortly after meeting her future husband. The two were talking about their plans for the upcoming year, and Creek told him she hadn't signed a teaching contract. "I told him I'd be pursuing my master's in leadership, and he asked me what I wanted to do with that. I told him, 'I don't

Gina Creek, now director of Leadership Development for Adventist Health System, believes she developed her passion for leadership from her mentors at Union College.

know, but I'd love to be able to equip and empower young leaders to be successful so they don't experience failure," she said. "What I'm doing is so close to that version. I never dreamed it would happen, but looking at how doors have opened, I'm overwhelmed with humility. I hope everyone gets to live life so abundantly."

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Lauren Bongard Schwarz graduated from Union College in 2004. She is a freelance writer in Bozeman, Montana.

Thanks in part to Adventist Health System's leadership development program and Union's culture of developing leaders, more than 60 Union College graduates now serve as C-suite executives in hospitals and health networks across the country, and many more hold leadership positions.



RUNNING

the best employee wellness program in the world

Union graduate shares her passion for fitness full time

For Alyssa Walton, healthy living is a passion and a way of life, and now she helps run one of the best corporate wellness programs in the world.

“Wellness is fully ingrained in our company culture,” said Walton, 2017 Union College health and human performance graduate and wellness specialist at Lincoln Industries. “We are committed to the wellness of our people and their families. Our people are our most important asset to success as a company.”

Walton helps operate a fully integrated employee wellness program that includes an onsite fitness center and medical clinic. Lincoln Industries, the largest privately held metal finishing company in North America, provides many services to employees—including health coaching, biometric screening and an annual incentive trip to climb a 14,000-foot mountain.

In fact, Lincoln Industries was named the world’s top healthy workplace for small and medium-sized companies in 2017 at the Fifth Global Healthy Workplace Summit, a ranking that tracks how workplace health leads to desired outcomes such as enhanced productivity, reduced absenteeism and improved morale.

For Walton the joy comes in getting to know their

unique population and seeing lives changed.

“It’s about building a relationship with our people,” Walton explained. “Wellness can be an uneasy topic, but the better I know our people, the better I can help design and implement programs that are beneficial and relevant to their lives.”

During an internship with Lincoln Industries while in her last semester at Union, Walton was assigned to serve as an individual health coach for a small group of people. “I remember one individual in particular—we focused on fitness, nutrition and sleep,” Walton said. “The person lost weight, had more energy for their kids and was performing better at the job. It was great helping make those changes that impacted every area of life.”

Finding a calling in corporate wellness

Walton grew up in rural Nebraska in a family who either farmed or worked in healthcare. She knew she wanted to help people, so her family encouraged her to pursue nursing. At that point, Union was an obvious choice. “I needed to stay in Lincoln because I was engaged,” Walton said. “I did some research and discovered

Union has a phenomenal program with great results.”

Every freshman takes a general fitness class: Concepts of Wellness. One day in class, a guest speaker, alumna Rachel Huggins, introduced Walton to the world of corporate wellness. “I had no idea the field existed,” she said. “I worked as an LPN for a few years, and I liked the idea of transitioning from treatment to the prevention side of healthcare.”

With guidance from Dr. Nancy Petta, Union’s health and human performance program director, Walton made the switch.

Connecting with a fitness-focused company

In one of her first classes—Intro to Fitness and Wellness with Dr. Shawntae Razo—Walton visited Lincoln Industries for the first time. She was so impressed with what she saw that she set up an appointment to shadow the company’s health, safety and performance manager to learn more about corporate wellness.

Walton ultimately landed the internship with Lincoln Industries in the last semester of her senior year—and continued working there after graduation. She loves sharing her passion for healthy living. “We try

to create an environment for our people that makes being healthy the easy choice,” she said. “Wellness and healthy lifestyles are important to our success.”

The Union influence

At Union, Walton appreciated the mentorship and friendship of the health and human performance faculty. “Dr. Razo and Dr. Petta are so much more than professors and advisors,” she said. “They were some of my greatest encouragers. I wasn’t a traditional student. I lived off-campus, was married and had a kid. They met me where I was and supported me. I would not be where I am without them.”

But more importantly, she found a family who helped build her faith when she needed it most. “God led me to Union because I needed to strengthen my relationship with Him,” Walton said. “I was surrounded by the love of Christ and people who challenged me to grow in my faith. Because of that, I feel like I better understand His purpose and the gifts God has given me for my life.”

.....
Ryan Teller is the executive director for Integrated Marketing Communications at Union College.



Alyssa Walton is passionate about fitness and now she shares that passion with more than 400 employees at Lincoln Industries, whose corporate wellness program has been rated best in the world.

DEVELOPING

careers for a constantly changing industry

Scott Cushman/Union College



Although she graduated with a business degree, Brittney Needles Origas wasn't looking for the traditional 9–5 job after her 2015 graduation. She wanted to pursue a passion and feel challenged in her daily life—sentiments not always associated with an accounting career.

Origas found an opening with Spreetail, an ecommerce startup in Lincoln. “I applied when Spreetail was still VMInnovations,” said Origas. “I started as an accounts payable associate, and I’ve been given opportunities to grow within the company ever since.”

Spreetail, which sells household items online, grew at a dizzying pace

Brittany Origas started working as an accounts payable associate at online retailer Spreetail shortly after graduation, but her passion for growing relationships led to a position building the young company's career development program.

in the three years that followed. What began with a dream and 75 employees has become a bustling business with more than 450 employees and new locations opening throughout the country, more than doubling in the last year alone.

Origas went into her career with confidence, thanks to the leadership opportunities she was afforded during her time at Union. “Looking back, I realize what made the biggest impact on my educational experience

was getting involved in leadership positions and working as part of a team,” said Origas. “My involvement on campus as basketball captain and all the opportunities in the business program helped me learn time management skills and get a touch of adult life while working toward my degree.”

More specifically, Origas recalls her time spent in policies class with professor Barry Forbes. “Doing a capstone project helped me see how the bigger picture works and has helped me

fast-track my career.”

Origas has now transitioned to a new field within the company that utilizes the leadership skills she learned and the mentorship modeled to her at Union. As a career development specialist, her job now focuses on the success, learning and development of her rapidly expanding team.

Something Origas especially appreciates about her job is the culture and environment Spreetail embodies. “We see challenges not as roadblocks to opportunities, but as chances to learn and push the limits. It’s how I live. It’s hard not to love every bit of it.”

Because of their fast company growth, Spreetail is on the lookout for more employees who match their mantra: be relentless, pursue challenges, act like an owner, raise your bar, practice humility, and make Spreetail better.

“Selling goods is what we’re about,” says Origas, “but really, it’s bigger than that. It’s about building relationships—and I love everything about it.”

Danica Eytelstein is a senior communication major from New Jersey.

A CALLING to sell smoothies

Smoothie bar baristas help their employer rebrand the company

Lincoln summers are pretty hot. And Nicholas Morrison thinks a nuVibe smoothie could save your life.

The senior business and graphic design major is a little biased, though, because he started working as a barista at the local juice and java hotspot about a year ago.

Morrison's friend, graphic design major Tanner Deming, already worked at nuVibe, and his designer's eye quickly noticed that the company's promotional materials and social media pages used generic stock images. "I thought using our own photos could help us with our reach, so I did a shoot on my own and gave the photos to the manager," said Deming.

Pleasantly surprised, nuVibe owners Thad and Colleen Potratz asked Morrison and Deming to do a full menu shoot and a complete brand redesign.

"Thad and Colleen knew Tanner and I were studying graphic design so they brought us in to make their vision happen and also brought in a friend of theirs to do more of the coding we weren't able to do," Morrison explained.

From dream to reality

Neither Morrison nor Deming thought they would have a chance to work on a rebrand when they started mixing juices at nuVibe, but both appreciated the opportunity. "I hadn't taken photography classes at Union yet, so I felt nervous about the big photoshoot," said Deming. "However, I think sometimes as designers, we see certain skills in the field we may not have learned in classes, yet because of taking classes we know how to learn those skills ourselves—which is so valuable."

Morrison added that he was new to nuVibe and wanted to do a good job, but hadn't really done a lot with web design yet. However, Morrison was taking a web design class at Union that semester, which helped. "While I wasn't experienced enough yet to do a lot of the coding myself, at least not quickly, that understanding helped me know what was possible and how to communicate our ideas to the coder on our team."

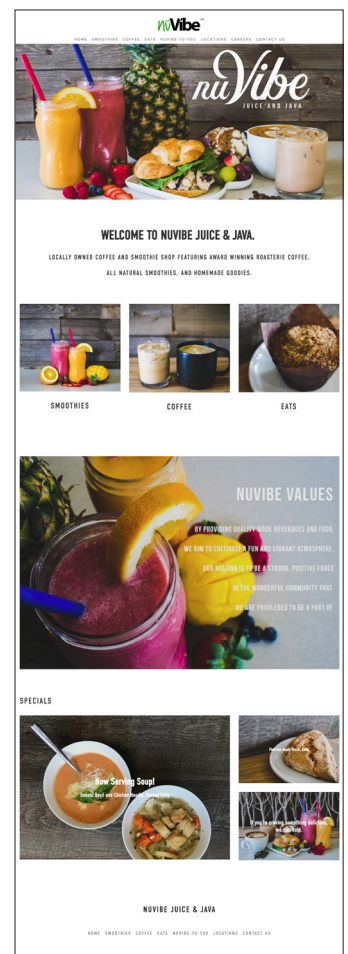
For Morrison, the opportunity to redesign felt like a true step into the professional world.

When graphic design majors Nicholas Morrison and Tanner Deming started working as baristas at a local smoothie bar, they couldn't resist helping the company remake its image.

"It was cool because for the first time I felt like a 'professional' because they treated us as such," he said. "They asked for our input, expertise and ideas."

After months of collaboration, the team's work has paid off. "The website is fully functional now and it's just a matter of updating, refining and adding features as they come up," said Deming.

Both Deming and Morrison are happy with the results and thankful for the opportunity to learn and work on projects outside the classroom setting. "The amount of freedom the owners gave us made it so easy and fun to work on this project with them," said Morrison. "We really felt like we were doing something that mattered and would help their vision for nuVibe



become a reality. It's just awesome to be included in the process, both as a barista and a designer."

Danica Eystenstein is a senior communication major from New Jersey.

HELPING

high school seniors learn to lead

Scott Cushman/Union College



A team from College View Academy won the first Union College Leadership Experience event Sept. 6-8, 2018. Savannah Fortney, Jada Brewer, Emma Trumble, Daniel Klein III, Diego Perez, Matthan Sigowa and Garrett Fortney all received a \$1,000 scholarship to Union for winning the competition.

For high school students Savannah and Garrett Fortney from Lincoln, Nebraska, Union College's first Leadership Experience proved to be an excellent training ground for learning how to be a better leader.

The siblings from College View Academy were part of a team that won the leadership simulation and will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to

Union College.

Fourteen teams from six private high schools across the Midwest attended the event Sept. 6-8, designed by Union leadership students to help the high schoolers improve their leadership skills through training and practice.

"We listened to each other's ideas and helped each other," said Savannah, her school's Student Association secretary.

"That's what helped us win—our communication."

During the competition on Friday, teams participated in a simulation that required members to assume specific civic leadership roles and respond as a group to a disaster situation—in this case a tornado. The teams were judged on how they creatively solved each challenge and worked together.

"Diego Perez was our mayor, but he didn't speak more than anyone else," said Savannah. "There were some in our group who don't normally give a lot of input. He directly asked for their opinions, and their ideas were really good."

Savannah's and Garrett's fellow team members, Emma Trumble, Jada Brewer, Daniel Klein III, Matthan Sigowa and Perez also received \$1,000 scholarships from Union College. The second place team from Mile High Academy in Denver, Colorado, received \$500 scholarships, and the third place team from Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, received \$250 scholarships.

"We believe the Leadership Experience is a great way for high school student government leaders to test and build their leadership skills," said Dr. Linda Becker, director of Union's leadership program. "The competition is designed to build teamwork and help the students learn to solve problems in creative ways."

Nebraska District 29 Senator Kate Bolz gave a keynote speech for a Thursday night banquet, which followed a day of training—including

participating in Project Impact with Union students and employees who take the day off from classes to serve at more than 60 community organizations around Lincoln.

The event helped teach Garrett the importance of community. "Everyone plays a part in what we do every day," he said. "I learned it's important to rely on other people—they have your back—and communicate well."

"I would do this for a job, it was so much fun," said Savannah, who served as the city emergency manager during the simulation. "I loved working with our group and we put a lot of effort into it. It was rewarding to win first place."

"We want to make sure all students have a chance to exercise their abilities and to connect and learn from other leaders before they graduate," said Becker. "This program provides an opportunity for students to grow themselves and connect to internships and mentors to better their understanding of what it means to be a leader."

Ryan Teller is the executive director for Integrated Marketing Communications at Union College.

This event was made possible thanks to generous sponsorships from Union Bank & Trust, State Farm Insurance and Premier Catering. Learn more about Union's leadership program at www.ucollege.edu/leadership.

WHY UNION COLLEGE?

At Union, we'll do everything possible to help you have a great educational experience and discover your God-given calling.

Photos: Courtesy Union College



Living a calling

Trying to decide where God is leading? We'll help you discover what He designed you to do and give you the education to do it.



Exceptional academics

Immerse yourself in an education experience rated in the top tier by *U.S. News* that has led to 100% first-time board pass rates by both our nursing and physician assistant programs this year.



Growing faith

More than 40 student-led weekly worship opportunities and building a personalized journey with one-on-one spiritual mentors means you'll live in an environment that encourages a stronger connection with your Creator.



Amazing location

Our capital city location offers exciting internships and jobs thanks to state government, international business, a Big Ten university and a booming tech industry on the Silicon Prairie.



Top-tier college

Union College was ranked as a top-tier college in the *U.S. News and World Report* annual "Best Colleges" ranking for the thirteenth year in a row.

Union value

- » Union named "Best Value School" for 2019 by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- » Union gives away \$6.5 million in scholarships each year.
- » 100% of students receive scholarships each year.

Our guarantee

We're so confident you'll find your dream career and follow your calling, we guarantee it. If you decide to try another career, you can return to Union within six years and earn a second degree TUITION FREE! Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/guarantee.

Bottom line

Come see for yourself! Spend a weekend with us and discover how Union may be the perfect fit. It's free, and we'll even help pay for your travel.

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402.486.2504

2018 Conscience and Justice Council Educates and Empowers

Faithful voices advocate for liberty

The third Annual Convention of the Conscience and Justice Council convened under the theme Freedom and Equality from Sept. 13-16 in Houston, Texas. The Conscience and Justice Council is another name given to the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty directors of the nine Regional Conferences in the North American

Division, regional representatives from the North Pacific Union and Pacific Union, and representatives from Oakwood University. As this group of leaders survey the landscape of our country and the times in which we live, they feel compelled to continue emphasizing and highlighting the public affairs components of this ministry as it relates to justice

and fairness, along with continuing to be strong advocates for liberty of conscience. During the event, **Edward Woods III**, chairperson for the Council, posed a series of questions: “Are you tired of the injustice in America and the silence of people of faith? Have you witnessed disparities in the criminal justice system and the silence of people of faith?

Do you have any family or friends who question the role of communities of faith in the face of injustice? In showing empathy to those suffering from injustice, have we forgotten how to advocate?” Woods further reminded attendees that Prov. 31:8-9 emphasizes, “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are despoiled. Speak up and judge

Photos Courtesy Cryston Josiah



(left) Pastor Cryston Josiah presenting his workshop titled “Seeking the Latter Rain.”

(below) Stephen Brooks, executive secretary/ PARL director of Southwest Region Conference, and Edward Woods III, PARL director for Lake Region Conference and chairperson of the Conscience and Justice Council worked diligently to coordinate the event.



fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Throughout the convention, participants were encouraged by all of the presenters—from **Wintley Phipps**, to **Elton DeMoraes**, to **Orlan Johnson**, to **Claudia Allen**, to **Timothy Golden**, to **Cryston Josiah** and many others—in how to do exactly what God’s word through Solomon admonishes each of us to do.

Servants of God and friends of man

Pastor Josiah, vice president for administration and PARL director for the Central States Conference and one of the organizers

and presenters, said, “From the birth of Adventism in the 1800s, our pioneers spoke out against injustices and were strict abolitionists. They were so spirit-filled and spirit-led that they even advocated for obeying God rather than man if some civil laws were unjust.”

In his Sabbath sermon, Phipps shared that throughout the history of Christianity as far back as Martin Luther, when the church lost sight of its mission, the *persecuted* church became a *persecuting* church. He shared that we must be mindful to remain mission-driven, lift up Christ, and always advocate for the freedom of liberty and conscience.

Some of the powerful workshops dealt with our U.S. immigration laws and how we can still help those impacted by children being separated from their families without breaking any laws. Other workshops emphasized the need to pray sincerely for the Latter Rain because we will need the power of the Holy Spirit to take courageous stands, even if it means sacrificing everything.

Updates were presented by **Lincoln Steed** of *Liberty Magazine*, **Melissa Reid** from the North American Religious Liberty Association, and **Dwayne Leslie, Esq.**, General Conference PARL Department, on situations of

religious persecution already taking place inside and outside of North America.

Pastors and laypersons alike were inspired to be more like the salt of the earth and light of the world; to be in the world for the benefit of humanity. **Sister Beverly Russell** and **Sister Judy Lane** from the Berean Church in St. Louis, Missouri, testified that they not only had a great time learning and fellowshiping together, but they will take what they’ve learned back to their local church and by God’s grace make a difference for the good of all people in their community. **0**

Mid-America Union News with Cryston Josiah

(l-r) Pastor Keith Goodman (Southwest Region Conference), Orlan Johnson (NAD PARL director) and Pastor Bobby Waters (Central States Conference) enjoyed connecting during the weekend.



Wakinda SDA Fellowship Aims for Fun and Comfortable Connections

Not your typical Adventist Facebook group

The impact of social media cannot be denied. Facebook is a world of its own, and the Wakinda SDA Fellowship Facebook group, a virtual Facebook group born out of Wakanda from Marvel's Black Panther movie, is a world within that world that has nearly 11,000 members. It is an example of a viral sensation.

What is Wakinda?

On Feb. 18, 2018 (President's Day weekend), just days after the release of

the Black Panther film, **Saba Nwankpah** of New Jersey saw a post regarding the movie from **Cryston Josiah** of Missouri. The post said, "It's already begun... my People being critical of my People! (Pastor of the Wakanda SDA Church)." Wakanda is the fictional territory where the superhero in the movie lives.

Finding the post hysterical, Nwankpah reached out to Josiah and asked if she could use the name to start a Facebook group: the Wakanda SDA Church. Together they formed what

is now the Wakinda SDA Fellowship Facebook group.

Thinking the group would only consist of their friends and a few others, they were surprised when it already had 55 members in less than two hours. Josiah jokingly commented that at the rate it was growing, it might be the fastest growing church on the planet.

Wakinda SDA Fellowship (Formerly The Wakanda SDA Church) has grown into a group of (mostly) committed Adventists who enjoy fellowship, faith and fun. They make fun of the things that some take too seriously, and focus on topics that are at the cross section of where black identity, Adventism and culture collide. It isn't a church, so come as you are, but not without your funny bone.

Three founding principles of the group are:

- Our roots stem from Wakanda.
- We're a kind(er) version of our faith to others and to ourselves.
- We're "Kinda SDA"

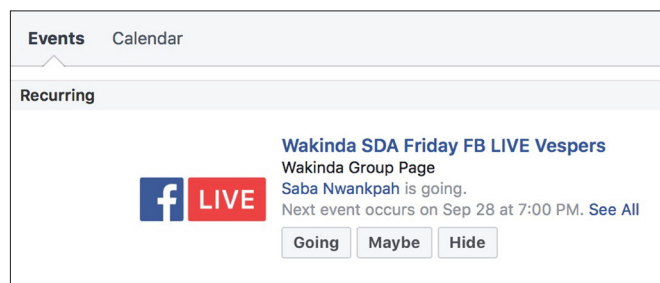
Why Wakinda?

The Black Panther is a movie with a black superhero that portrays black people as kings and queens and leaders in a place that has not been colonized by the outside world. Similarly, Wakinda brings black identity, culture and Adventism into one place.

Adventism is a *culture*, not just a *church*. This group is not intended to be like the 144,000 groups you may have encountered on Facebook that seem to create an Adventist elite or a separatist movement. The idea of Wakinda SDA Fellowship is

Wakinda by the numbers:

- 77 countries represented
- 5,000-6,000 members active per day
- 9,500 active at some point in the month
- 90 percent active with content in the group
- 2,000 views per week on Friday night vesper messages
- 185,000 interactions (posts, comments and reactions) per month



to be a fun, open space to be real and comfortable. It's a welcoming, non-judgmental environment with humor and order. It's for those who feel ostracized, judged and unwelcomed by the church.

Reconnecting with God through Facebook

As interest began to increase, so did the mission. "There's no way we can have this many people in one space and not throw out a lifeline to reconnect with God," shared Josiah. Because of the growing interest, Friday night vespers speakers formed an online church community with a spiritual component.

Many millennials are not looking for church, but they are looking for God. The goal of the group is not to reflect local churches; it is bigger than that. It has so many intersections making it a valuable reflection of the people who go to church.

Wakinda is about where the people are without the

facade. It shows the hidden church that talks about things not spoken about inside a normal church building: politics, women's ordination, drums, movies, the single's struggle, the parent's struggle and more.

It is a reflection of the people rather than the denomination. Sometimes the person who we display at church isn't who we really are, and challenges are sometimes more accepted outside of the church than in it.

Wakinda is intended to be a true reflection of what black Adventist culture actually says and thinks—how things relate to and pertain to us.

Leaders, Waints and Pharisees

The structure of Wakinda includes the leaders, senior pastor Cryston Josiah—who is for the people—and first elder Saba Nwankpah—who is about order. Then there are the Waints, aka the members.

From the moment the

group started, Pharisees, also known as trolls on Facebook, wanted to condemn everything about it. Calls were made to the conference president saying the group was promoting spiritualism, and angry texts were sent.

The group began as an open group, but once it exploded, they had to "close the fellowship hall," making it a closed group in Facebook terms, but still open to anyone who wanted to join. This helped keep good stuff in and bad stuff out.

"You can't be the light and salt of the world if you're in a bubble," says Josiah. Still, "closing the group was an ordained moment to balance the conversation," says Nwankpah.

Bridging the gap

Waints ask questions, have debates and post prayer requests. Tangible evidence of the power of it all comes in the form of prayer at a bedside of a hospital bed, or when Waints go back to

church because of the connections they made online.

Some of the long-term goals for Wakinda SDA Fellowship include having a meetup and a topical podcast. "We want to bring people in, but Adventist culture is not always conducive to that. We're bridging the gap of who we are because of tradition to what we're supposed to be as Christians," says Nwankpah.

Wakinda is like a gas station to get energy, but not a final destination. That is what the church is supposed to be. We have a home in heaven, not the sanctuary.

.....
Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

The idea of Wakinda SDA Fellowship is to offer a humorous, authentic space for people who may feel unwelcome at church.



Mark Seibold Joins Dakota Conference as VP of Finance

Mark Seibold joined the Dakota Conference administrative staff as vice president of finance, following the retirement of **Arlo Heinrich**, who held the

position since 2009.

Seibold was born and raised in the Jamestown, North Dakota, area and is a 1976 graduate of Sheyenne River Academy. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Union College and Andrews University. Seibold has spent most of his career in healthcare administration, primarily senior care services and business operations related to acute care.

"Growing up Adventist in North Dakota, the conference has always played a prominent role in my life," said Seibold. "From my earliest memories, I

feel like so many of the factors that shaped me were the influences of the people in my home church at Cleveland and in this conference in general"

Seibold recalls boyhood visits with his mother to the Book & Bible House at the old Jamestown conference office. "We'd see the dedication of the conference office staff going about their duties, and we knew they were performing an important ministry. I guess that memory affects how I feel about being here today. Though I could not have envisioned that life would lead here, I see this as a wonderful

opportunity to contribute to the church's mission."

Seibold says he believes there is tremendous good that has been and will continue to be accomplished through the conference. "My goal is to provide, to the best of my ability, the support services needed to continuously promote the work of the conference in the Dakotas," said Seibold.

Seibold has an adult son and daughter who both reside in North Dakota.

Stories on this page were written by Jacquie Biloff, communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Courtesy Mark Seibold



Centenarian Hopes Jesus Comes Soon

Dakota centenarian **Lillian (Vietz) Krueger** turned 102 in September. She is sharp and spry with future aspirations. At our most recent visit, she said with a laugh, "I want to live to be 117 years old."

Krueger grew up on a farm in McClusky, North Dakota,

with eight siblings—three brothers and five sisters. She was the third child. "People have small families nowadays. I only had two girls and a boy," she said.

Krueger enjoyed farm life and attended a country school less than a mile from her family farm. When she graduated from eighth grade, she attended Sheyenne River Academy for a year and worked for the farm manager's wife. "They wanted me to come back. I wish I had stayed at the academy. I liked it there," she said.

Her sister, 91-year-old **Ruth Fode** of California, said Krueger was shy when she was young. "We grew up with

a lot of love in a little country house with two rooms and a big porch," said Fode. "There was no indoor bathroom, no electricity and no phone. The only running water was when we ran and got it." She remembers one bedroom and a big kitchen-living room. "There were just beds here and there. As the children grew, bedrooms were added."

Fode remembers that Lillian took care of **Doris**, the youngest sibling. One day, as they were washing clothes with water from the rain barrel outside, Doris—about four years old at the time—accidentally dropped the kitten in the barrel. "She started calling to Lillian in German about the

kitty in the water," remembers Fode. Krueger was able to rescue the kitten and dry and clean it, which made Doris happy again. "Lillian is a very caring person," added Fode.

When Krueger married, she and her husband **Arnold** lived in Bowdon, North Dakota, on the farm homesteaded by his parents. Krueger enjoyed gardening, jigsaw puzzles and embroidery. "She does beautiful embroidery work still," said Krueger's daughter **Jeannette**, who currently lives with her.

"She says she wants to live until Jesus comes," said Jeannette. "She's not joking about living until she is 117. She hopes He comes soon."

Jacquie Biloff





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Voice in the Dark and Urine-Soaked Bible Lead Prisoner to Christ

At the age of 31, **Robert Douglas** was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole.

For seven years, his aggression often landed him in solitary confinement. One night while in “the hole” as he calls it, Douglas was bombarded by the echo of someone pounding on the other side of his metal cell wall. A rough voice repeatedly pleaded with Douglas to recite a Bible passage about salvation.

“Leave me alone!” Douglas kept yelling back. But the man persisted, instructing Douglas to search his cell for a Bible. Douglas arose from his stiff huddle, searched his cell and

found a Bible crammed behind the toilet, reeking of urine. He found a passage and read it, then continued reading aloud till dawn.

“Thank you, man!” exclaimed the voice on the other side of the wall. “That was really nice of you.”

When Douglas was released back into the general prison population the next morning, he asked the guard who the other prisoner was because he wanted to pray for him. “What’s wrong with you, man?” asked the guard. “Ain’t been nobody there all night but you!”

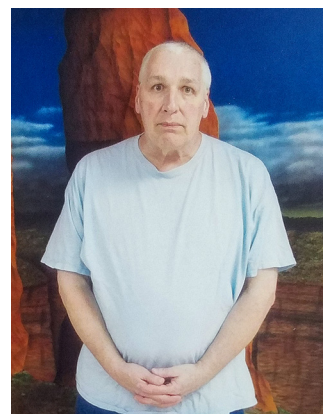
Douglas continued to read his Bible, studying on his own

for several years. About three years ago he joined with a group of other inmates who participate in Bible studies with members of the Davenport and Muscatine churches’ prison ministry team. Last year, in a portable baptistry that was brought into

the prison, Douglas was baptized into membership of the Muscatine Church.

Linda Gannett is a member of the Davenport Church and serves on their prison ministry team.

For more information about the Davenport and Muscatine churches’ prison ministry program, contact Pastor Eddie Cabrera at 417.840.2806.



Courtesy Anamosa State Penitentiary



Kids Help Assemble 1,000 Disaster Kits at Adventurer Family Camp

Some of the liveliest Adventists in the Iowa-Missouri Conference recently came together at Sunnydale Academy for the annual Adventurer Family Camp.

Pastor Brett Randall presented messages focusing on a relationship with Jesus to the 190 attendees and 20 support staff. Nineteen awards were

taught and earned, and there were puppets, praise teams, family time and more.

Children moved through stations to learn about missionaries from around the world, receiving a sticker or stamp in their “passport.” They learned about Jesus and His disciples, Paul and his journeys through Asia, and also had an

opportunity to participate in modern mission work in the form of community service.

As the Adventurers and families rotated through the stations, one of their stops was at the yellow Adventist Community Services booth. Under the direction of Missouri ACS director **Jody Dickhaut** and a dozen ACS volunteers, participants helped assemble 1,000 disaster kits.

Each kit includes personal hygiene items for individuals impacted by floods, tornadoes or other disasters. They will be sent to local distribution centers, churches and the state ACS warehouse and

stored until a need arises.

Thanks to those who participated and those who volunteered to make the weekend a success.

Rachel Ashworth is a member of the Sikeston Church and director of their Pathfinder club.

Learn more about Adventurers at imsda.org/adventurers. Learn more about ASC volunteer opportunities at imsda.org/acsdrr.

Courtesy Jody Dickhaut



Conference Office Joins Fight Against Hunger

Fourteen conference office staff recently joined hundreds of other volunteers in downtown Des Moines for Meals from the Heartland's 11th annual Hunger Fight.

Meals from the Heartland is a nonprofit organization in West Des Moines dedicated to feeding the hungry in Iowa, the United States and around the world. Since 2008 they have provided over 100 million meals to people in need.

In just two hours, conference

volunteers packaged 1,800 Hearty Packs, a meal containing rice, soy protein, vitamins, minerals and vegetables. Those packages will provide 10,800 servings of prepared food. It was the first year the conference office has participated in this event, but they plan to take part every year going forward.

"Meals from the Heartland is doing an incredible work," said conference president **Dean Coridan**. "I was impressed with how organized the event was.

It's amazing to see so much work accomplished in such a short amount of time."

In addition to the satisfaction that comes from taking part in meeting others' needs, participating in this event also provided the conference with opportunities to build relationships with other organizations in the community and build stronger bonds between colleagues within the office. "I really enjoyed the fellowship, having fun and laughing together," said **Robert Wagley**,

executive secretary. "It's a great way to bring communities and people together in doing the very thing Jesus asked us to do: serve and feed the hungry."

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

Learn more about Meals from the Heartland at mealsfromtheheartland.org.



Courtesy Meals from the Heartland

(l-r) Gail Coridan, Dean Coridan, Marlene Perry, Heather Perry, Peggy Wagley, Rhonda Karr, Randy Harmdierks, Kathy Ulrich, Scott Haakenson, Dani Karr, Robert Wagley, Carol Sirpless, Roxann Vietz and Virgil Minden

Adventist Community Services Volunteers Help Build Nine New Homes in Missouri

After seven long years of waiting, nine displaced Missouri families are in newly constructed homes.

Following heavy flooding along the Mississippi River in 2011, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers made the decision to blast the Birds Point-New Madrid levee in southeastern Missouri, where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers converge, to alleviate pressure on the river levee system.

The small town of Pinhook, Missouri, was destroyed by the resulting rush of floodwaters. Unfortunately, shortly after this happened the community of Joplin, Missouri, was devastated

by an F-5 tornado that took the lives of 158 people, and the focus of the federal and state response shifted from Pinhook to Joplin.

For seven years, residents of Pinhook have struggled to maintain their community and rebuild their homes. This spring and summer, 12 organizations—including Missouri's Adventist Community Services Disaster Response

team—collaborated to place nine families in newly constructed homes.

Each home cost an average of \$44,000 to build, with each family receiving \$39,180 in grant funds toward the cost. The volunteer organizations also donated nearly \$48,000 in combined materials and over 10,000 hours of volunteer labor.

With the help of generous donor support, MO ACSDR

provided all the interior and exterior paint, a value of over \$5,000. Thank you to all who support the local ministry of Adventist Community Services in the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Jody Dickhaut is Missouri disaster response coordinator for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Courtesy Jody Dickhaut

Support local ACSDR projects or learn about volunteer opportunities at imsda.org/acsdrr.

It's Time—Daughter Donates Liver to Save Father's Life

“It’s time...” When **Marshall Bowers** called his daughter in Lincoln, Nebraska, to tell her the time had come to become his liver donor, **Missy Sorter’s** heart skipped a beat. Years before, when her father had been diagnosed with a liver disease, Sorter had jokingly told him, “When you’re ready for a liver, just let me

know!” never thinking his disease would progress to that stage of intervention.

In 2005, Bowers, a retired pastor in Minnesota, was diagnosed with NASH, Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis, an inflammation of the liver with an unknown cause. He had lived virtually symptom free with the disease until a few years ago when the

disease progressed, and his liver began to fail. In November of 2017, his doctors decided it was time to move forward with finding a liver donor.

Liver donation is possible because the liver is the only organ that can regenerate itself. They gave Marshall two options: find a living donor or a deceased donor. Living donation was the

better of the two options, with a higher success rate.

Sorter knew she wanted to help her dad. “Donating a small piece of myself to give him the chance to live a longer and healthier life was a tiny sacrifice,” said Sorter. “My dad is the most giving person I know; he has a true heart of service and has dedicated his entire career to ministry. To be able to give him a new lease on life was an opportunity I couldn’t miss.”

Missy Sorter of Lincoln, Nebraska, credits her father’s faith and God’s guidance for bringing them both safely through liver transplant surgery and helping with their quick recovery.

8 grams to spare

After several lab draws it was determined that Sorter and her father were the same blood type, but being his donor required much more than that. She needed to be healthy. They did tests on everything from her cholesterol level to her clotting factors. They needed to be sure the vessels within her liver were able to be separated and they would line up with his vessels.

Her liver also needed to be large enough to be split. Bowers would receive the right lobe of her liver, which needed to be at least 800 grams for donation. Her test results showed that the right lobe was 808 grams—perfect for donation. Each of them would have part of her liver that would regrow over time.

Courtesy, Kansas-Nebraska Conference



On June 15, 2018, Sorter and Bowers underwent transplant surgery at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While determined to help her dad, Sorter struggled with fear. Not fear of surgery, but fear of Bowers' body rejecting her liver.

Sorter's father bolstered her faith. "My dad was never afraid of dying or surgery. He kept reminding me God was in control and he had given everything to Him. He just kept saying, 'God's got this!' His faith

is so strong!" With their surgeries lasting 10 and 14 hours respectively, Sorter and Bowers left their operating rooms after a successful procedure.

A God-given drive

Today, Sorter and Bowers are both doing well. Sorter was told it would take 8-10 weeks for her to recover. However, she was healthy enough to return to work only four weeks after surgery.

A few years earlier, after stepping on a scale, Sorter decided she wanted

to get into better shape. She started running and watching her diet. She lost 30 pounds and became an avid runner, logging 30 miles a week.

Looking back on that time, she feels God gave her that drive to prepare her for the donor surgery. She was in the best shape of her life and continued running until two days before the surgery. Doctors credit her active and healthy lifestyle for her quick recovery.

Bowers' new liver has grown quickly and is nearly back to full size. Doctors

are still balancing his anti-rejection medication, but he is back to biking and taking walks.

One of his goals is to be healthy enough to run, and Sorter looks forward to running their first mile together.

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

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Seven Baptized As a Result of Evangelistic Program

Source of Life Church Hosts Series for Russian-speaking Community

Photos Courtesy: Valeriy Ruchko



Three individuals sealed their covenant with God on Aug. 11 following a two-week campaign led by Pastor Valeriy Ruchko (right) and guest speaker Alexandr Lysychniy (left).

This past summer the Source of Life Russian Church conducted an evangelistic program for the Russian-speaking community in the Twin Cities. During the campaign, which ran from July 28 to Aug. 12, more than 60 people visited the bright, cozy hall of a Hopkins,

Minnesota, high school. There were both Russian- and English-speaking visitors, and some had never met Adventists before.

Over the past few years, Russian-speaking Adventists in Minnesota have been producing programs using non-traditional forms of

evangelism, which have yielded good results. Members received positive responses among the population. People are eager to attend such programs, despite the fact that they are often held daily for a number

of weeks. It seems such forms of evangelism have a strong future. They provide an opportunity to involve a large number of church members, they are more likely to be visited by non-believers, and

Over 60 people attended the evangelistic series held last summer in Hopkins, Minnesota. Some had never before met Adventists.





Four more people were baptized at the church camp for Russian-speaking members and their guests, including Natalia Vladyka, who was baptized by Pastor Valeriy Ruchko.

they are cheaper. They do, though, sometimes require a realignment of church provisions for spending campaign funds in order to effectively respond to gospel-sharing opportunities in these modern times.

On Saturday, Aug. 11, as a

direct result of the evangelistic series, the first baptisms took place: three people made a covenant with the Lord. The following Saturday, another four people were baptized at the church camp for Russian-speaking members and their guests.

The church staff thank the Source of Life church members for their active support of the program and dedication to the ministry. Praise God for His blessings!

Valeriy Ruchko pastors the Source of Life Russian Church in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Both Russian- and English-speaking visitors attended the programs, which included special stories and classes for the children.



Nueva Esperanza Hispanic Company Organizes as an Official Church

One of the fastest-growing Hispanic congregations in the Rocky Mountain Conference, Nueva Esperanza—or New Hope—began as a plant project under Aurora Hispanic Church. Several families joined the then pastor of the church plant, **Frank Wilson**, in accepting the call to spread the gospel to the Aurora area. On Sabbath, Aug. 25, this growing company officially became an organized church.

With nearly 150

people in attendance for the celebration, **Pastor Eric Nelson**, RMC vice president for administration, gave the message, encouraging members to trust in the Lord as their provider. Former pastor **Cesar Pompa** challenged church leaders to serve faithfully; **Ruben Rivera**, director of Hispanic ministries for RMC, affirmed church members by reviewing the fundamental doctrines; and current pastor **Juan Estrada** shared significant

moments in the history of the church, including challenges they've faced.

"Pastor Estrada is giving good leadership and direction to the church along with strong lay leaders who are energetic in sharing their faith and giving Bible studies," said Nelson.

One member, **Noemi Borjon**, serves as Pathfinder director, membership clerk, and secretary for the now-official church and recently joined the Human Resources department at Rocky

Mountain Conference.

Originally called Maranatha Hispanic, the church is now known as Nueva Esperanza Church. Nearly 75 people, including children, attend Nueva Esperanza each week. During fellowship lunch, church elder **Heriberto Martinez** said, "It's a miracle to see how this church is growing each year."

.....
Ruben Rivera is director of Hispanic Ministries for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Photos: Jerene Nelson



On Sabbath, Aug. 25, the Nueva Esperanza Church officially became organized. The Nueva Esperanza Church is one of the fastest-growing Hispanic congregations in RMC. Nearly 75 people, including children, attend weekly.



Current pastor Juan Estrada (speaking), along with other pastors, elders and administrators participated in the service.

Newday Church Member Volunteers in Costa Rica to Help Trafficked Women



“Meaningless! This is meaningless! Someone please tell me the truth!”

Katie McTavish listened to these words screamed by a young American man outside Del Ray—the largest brothel in Central America. “Intoxicated and physically exhausted, this man put words to the cry of the human heart,” says McTavish, who spent time last summer working with Face of Justice Ministries in Costa Rica, an organization whose mission is to bring justice and freedom to those trapped in sexual exploitation and prostitution through prevention, intervention and restoration.

A college student and member of Newday Church, McTavish was serving as an intern with Face of Justice Ministries when she heard those words of hopelessness spoken by the man on the street.

McTavish says she was honored to do ministry alongside staff and other volunteers by working in their safe home, Casa Libertad—or Freedom House—where girls ages 12-17 have been removed from situations of sexual exploitation and are experiencing restoration by

receiving counseling, education and freedom.

In the Red Zone, the area of the city where many women are in prostitution, the ministry runs an outreach called Casa Esperanza, or Hope House. There women are invited to receive job training, food, safety, and to participate in Bible studies. One powerful experience in ministry for FOJ, explains McTavish, is to go onto the streets for night ministry bearing cups of coffee, cookies, warm hugs and prayer for the men and women in prostitution. By pursuing these friendships, she continues, the ministry can offer practical opportunities for a new way of life and share the truth of Jesus.

Many facets of this organization are motivated by prevention, intervention and restoration, but in short, this ministry operates with the heart that *every* person deserves

A team prays on the street in San Jose, Costa Rica, before bringing food, coffee, and prayers to those working on the streets.

justice and freedom through love, which truly comes from knowing God.

One difficult week during McTavish’s internship, some girls ran away from the safe house, followed by ambulance visits, suicide attempts and cutting incidents. Like a domino effect, as one girl’s trauma resurfaced, another hit rock bottom. “I held a woman in the red light district while she sobbed and showed me wounds, burns and bruises from the abusive relationship she is trapped in,” recalls McTavish. “At the same time a few feet away, a woman who overdosed was unresponsive for nearly 30 minutes. We called an ambulance, but it never showed up because the system is broken.”

McTavish says with emotion, “Jesus chose to throw His heart into the mess [of humanity]

again and again. The intentional, reckless love of God doesn’t ‘return the favor’ when we abandon, reject and curse Him. When despair paralyzes the human heart, prayer enables us to cling to hope as our anchor.”

McTavish continues, “I was 14 years old, sitting in church at Newday Parker when I first heard God calling me to be a proclaimer of freedom. Since then, I’ve spent much time learning about the issue of human trafficking and how to effectively combat it. God calls all his believers to be proclaimers of freedom and justice, and ultimately, this freedom only comes from knowing the truth of Jesus. Humanity is crying out for freedom and truth, and the desire of the Father is to set the hearts of His people free.”

McTavish says her prayer is that the freedom in truth empowers people to fight for the freedom of others, whether it’s the girl trapped in sex trafficking or the coworker who does not know Jesus.

Carol Bolden, communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference, and Katie McTavish, a student at Colorado Christian University, collaborated on this article.



Photos: Katie McTavish

Physicians Conduct Wholeness Screenings for Better Mental and Spiritual Health



Christmas Day and the New Year signify a time of hope and new beginnings. During this time, we look back and reflect on our blessings from the past year. It is also a great time to reevaluate our priorities and think about whether or not we experience the Christmas promise of love, peace and joy throughout the entire year, or only during the holidays.

With the goal of offering whole-person care, Shawnee Mission Health is now conducting wholeness screenings by asking patients about their ability to experience love, peace and joy. The result has been an open conversation about topics surrounding mental and spiritual health.

Opening up about love, peace and joy

According to SMH regional director of Clinical Mission Integration **Nathan Harrup**, most physicians have been pleased with how patients have reacted when asked if they experience love, peace and joy

in their life.

“Patients have been more honest and open in discussing spiritual needs than providers, or we as leaders, anticipated they would be,” said Harrup. “We forget sometimes how questions about spiritual well-being fold into the larger conversations about personal balance and wholeness that so many people are having these days.”

Although patient responses are always confidential, Harrup and his team track the type of feedback physicians receive to ensure the questions are resonating with patients. When a patient’s spiritual or mental health need is identified, the physician can send a referral to the E-Spiritual Care Center, which contacts the patient to provide support over the phone and determine next steps.

“Within a few months, thousands of patients have been willing to acknowledge a lack of peace in their lives,” explained Harrup. “This has created opportunities to provide encouragement and support,

and has triggered a number of referrals to the E-Spiritual Care Center for even more focused follow-up.”

Our caregivers at the E-Spiritual Care Center are trained to be nonsectarian and religiously inclusive, but do sometimes refer patients to local clergy or faith groups for additional guidance. Depending on the need, they may also suggest resources such as local food banks, shelters, counselors and financial aid centers.

Determining your spiritual wholeness

If you do not visit a physician who regularly asks questions that spark conversation about your mental and spiritual health, you may be wondering how best to start evaluating the presence or lack of love, peace and joy in your life.

“There is no reason any of us shouldn’t ask ourselves these spiritual wholeness indicators daily as a starting point for taking stock of our inner well-being,” said Harrup. “But the truth is spiritual self-diagnosis is difficult, because while it is the most deeply personal thing imaginable, it is best experienced in community.”

Harrup suggests that spiritual hunger is a sign your soul needs nourishment just as we recognize our bodies need nourishment through feelings of physical hunger. We can attend to our spiritual hunger through participating in activities like a quiet walk, honest prayer, Scripture reading and reflection,

and embracing the love, forgiveness and compassion offered by God. Additionally, one of the best ways to form spiritual lifestyle habits is to interact regularly with a spiritually mature friend or mentor.

Through purposeful dialogue and formal assessments, SMH physicians are serving as mentors to help patients identify ways to improve health of mind, body and spirit.

“At times, what is urgently desired may be a moment of prayer or immediate reassuring words, so we are training team members within each practice to come alongside patients in moments of need,” said Harrup. “They, along with the physicians, are really the first responders in terms of administering spiritual comfort and emotional care.”

Jackie Woods is a project manager/writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

SMH is part of Adventist Health System, a national healthcare system with more than 1,000 care facilities in nine states. On Jan. 2, 2019, we will be united under one nationwide name, AdventHealth. Learn more at AdventHealth.com.

New Program Addresses Spiritual Wholeness for Outpatients

Adventist hospitals across the country have begun rolling out a program that addresses the spiritual needs of outpatients during the clinical assessment process. The ultimate goal is not only to meet the physical and emotional needs of each patient entering Adventist outpatient clinics, but also to address each individual's spiritual needs.

The new Clinical Mission Integration program (CMI)* has been especially well received by employees at clinics managed by Adventist hospitals in the Centura Health system. Program leaders recognize that an environment of spiritual wholeness cannot exist in an outpatient clinic unless its team members are empowered to create that environment.

Diana Goldy, regional director of CMI for Centura Health, is passionate about her new role in spearheading this program.

"I am in awe at the power of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of ordinary people who are called to the mission of Adventist Health System," Goldy said. "It is extraordinary to see how God is extending the healing ministry of Christ, clinic by clinic."

Building trust among team members

Rebecca Jacobson, one of three CMI specialists, shares Goldy's enthusiasm for the program.

"Today, I was doing my rounds and stuck my head into the office of one of our nurses," Jacobson said. "She turned her chair around to reveal eyes red from crying. Her son had moved out that morning to live with his father in Wisconsin. She agreed that it might be a good move for him, but she was still very much struggling with the new reality for her family. We were able to talk for a long time, and she asked that I continue to pray for her."

To date, the CMI program has been implemented in 46 clinics involving 147 physicians. There have already been 48 team member referrals to Centura's Employee Assistance Program.

"These referrals don't typically happen unless there's a sense of trust in the system," said **Eric Shadle**, vice president for Spiritual Integration. "There's a relationship in place before a team member is referred. It shows that there's a tangible need for spiritual guidance and nurture in our clinics, and it

validates what we're trying to accomplish."

Impacting the standard

The CMI call center is receiving as many as 100 calls per day system-wide from outpatients seeking spiritual guidance. Callers are connected with trained chaplains who listen, care and pray with them. The chaplains provide prompt spiritual care by phone and make follow-up calls as needed. They also provide callers with referrals to local faith communities upon request.

"The CMI program is only in its infancy, but already it is making a huge impact on our team members and patients," Shadle said.

Janell Mitton, assistant

administrator for orthopedic clinics at Porter Hospital said, "Having a CMI presence in our clinic has been a great experience. My team knows they have an additional person to talk to and lean on. Our crew has already identified that Rebecca, our Clinical Mission specialist, is an asset that will allow us to continue to set the standard in our field of care."

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

**We presented the clinical study that led to the creation of the CMI program in the September issue of OUTLOOK magazine.*



Getty Images

Allen, Lawyer, b. March 4, 1939. d. Dec. 27, 2017. Member of St. Louis (MO) Central Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Brenda; daughter Julie. Served in U.S. Air Force.

Anderson, Regina “Jeannie,” b. Aug. 29, 1929 in Watertown, SD. d. Feb. 20, 2018 in Madison, SD. Member of Watertown Church. Preceded in death by husband Donald; 3 brothers; 2 sisters; 1 grandson; 1 great-grandson. Survivors include children Daryl, Harlan, David, Donald Jr., and Darla McCrary; 4 sisters; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren.

Courtney, Neal “Bert” D., b. June 20, 1951 in Des Moines, IA. d. July 20, 2018 in Des Moines, IA. Member of Creston (IA) Church. Preceded in death by parents; adopted son Craig. Survivors include wife Deana “Vern”; daughter Megan Rogers-Courtney; sons Jason and Brandon; stepdaughter Kati Eckstein; 3 siblings; 3 grandchildren. Served in U.S. Navy during Vietnam War.

Darrough, Gertie L., b. Jan. 24, 1932 in St. Louis, MO. d. Aug. 11, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. Member of St. Louis Central Church. Preceded in death by 3 siblings. Survivors include husband Fred; sons Guy, Craig, Scott and Fred; daughter Debra Sims; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Edwards, Catherine, b. March 16, 1918 in Douglas, GA. d. Aug. 12, 2018 in Lebanon, MO. Member of Waynesville (MO) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Betty;

son Anthony. Survivors include daughter Charlene Le Blanc; son Charles Le Blanc; 2 sisters; 8 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

Fulp, Clara M., b. Aug. 20, 1936 in Monett, MO. d. July 20, 2018 in Sedalia, MO. Member of Sedalia Church. Survivors include daughters Karen Adams and Gaylynn Salmons; sons Michael and Gregory; 2 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Gates, Nida Ferne, b. July 21, 1924 in Denver, CO. d. Aug. 27, 2018 in Denver, CO. Member of Life Source (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband H. Gordon. Survivors include daughters Gloria Cross and Debbie Brownfield; son Gordon; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Hansen, Daniel Aaron, b. Aug. 17, 1964 in Wadena, MN. d. July 13, 2018. Member of Fergus Falls (MN) Church. Preceded in death by 3 brothers. Survivors include wife Audrey; 2 brothers.

Hartman, Glen F., b. Aug. 26, 1921 in Medora, Iowa. d. July 9, 2018 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Member of College View (NE) Church. Preceded in death by wife Margueriete. Survivors include son Glendal; daughter Joyce Jesse; 3 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Larsen, Douglas G. Sr., b. June 12, 1937 in Salt Lake City, UT. d. Sept. 18, 2017 in Ormond Beach, FL. Member of Kansas City Central (MO) Church. Survivors include wife Beverly Diane; sons Douglas G. Jr. and Robert F.; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Pearson, Ivan E., b. Aug. 8, 1923. d. March 5, 2018.

Member of Hepler (KS) Church. Preceded in death by wife.

Pettit, Mildred Downer Bardo, b. Jan. 11, 1920 in Prescott, AZ. d. May 25, 2018 in Moberly, MO. Member of Moberly Church. Preceded in death by first husband William Bardo; second husband Clair. Survivors include husband Leroy Fugitt; children Bill Bardo, Eva Sundean and Janice Purkey; stepchildren Paulette Murphy, David, Esther Visbal, Mark Fugitt, Noel Fugitt, Desiree Deitrich, Jonathan Fugitt and Aaron Fugitt; many grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren.

Reiswig, Berdette “Bert,” b. Dec. 20, 1929. d. May 9, 2018. Member of Harvey (ND) Church. Preceded in death by wife Ardelle “Del”;

1 brother. Survivors include daughter Renaye Wartner; son Kent; 2 brothers; 2 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Rodacker, Emil, b. March 8, 1927 in Robinson, ND. d. Sept. 20, 2018 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Survivors include wife Winona; son Monte.

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

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.
Rev. 21:4

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EMPLOYMENT

Adventist World Radio seeks IT Project Manager. Key roles include development and support of CRM resources for AWR's Center for Digital Evangelism. It is the policy of the GC to hire only Adventist Church members. Send resume to Kent Sharpe: sharpek@gc.adventist.org.

The GC Archives Statistics and Research department is looking for an Educational Research Specialist to develop educational curricula, write articles and develop TV program content on the history of the SDA Church. Must have MA/MSc, PhD preferred, 5 years experience in education/research, published in peer review journals. Please send resumes to StavnhagenR@gc.adventist.org.

Southern Adventist University seeks Dean for the School of Education and Psychology (SEP) responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is

required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs

Southern Adventist University seeks Dean for the School of Nursing who will be responsible for planning, organization, staffing and providing professional direction and evaluation of all levels of the school (ASN, BSN, MSN, DNP). Dean is also responsible for maintaining nursing program accreditations with ACEN and for maintaining compliance with the Tennessee Board of Nursing regulations as they apply to nursing education. Earned doctorate in the field of nursing required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs

Southern Adventist University seeks Vice President for Unity and Inclusion to provide leadership for areas of campus life that involve diversity including race, gender, sexual orientation and identity, and international students. The vice president will affirm and nurture a university community and campus climate that values and actively supports equity and diversity. A master's degree or higher is required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs

Union College invites applicants for a management teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will have a master's degree in a related field and should be a committed member of the Adventist Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa L. Forbes at Lisa.L.Forbes@ucollege.edu.

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

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TRAVEL/RENTALS

2019 ADVENTIST TOURS: Bethlehem to Rome (including Revelation's 7 Churches) June 2-19; Israel in Jesus' Steps June 2-10; New Testament Alive (Revelation's 7 Churches/Patmos/Greece/Rome option) June 6-19; African Safari & Service July 18-26. Tours led by Dr. Andy Nash and Dr. Greg King. \$1990+/person. For full info, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [Facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours).

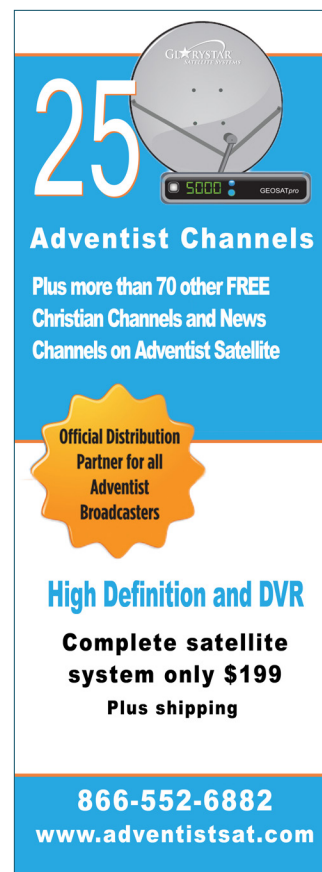
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EVENTS

GYC Conference in Houston, TX, Dec. 28, 2018-Jan. 1, 2019. At this year's conference, there will be a focus on missions. All over the world, people are dying for a lack of knowledge about who God is. We will explore the exciting possibilities God has in store for young people who desire to be His witnesses to the end. www.gycweb.org/conference/information

NAD Health Summit 2019 "Healing of the Nations"—Designed to provide training, networking and inspiration for anyone involved with or interested in health ministries. Jan. 20–26, 2019. Albuquerque, New Mexico. Register at www.nadhealth.org. For more information contact 1.443.300.8845 or summit@nadhealth.org.



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NOVEMBER 2018

DECEMBER 2018

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
	Denver	5:57	4:49	4:43	4:39	4:36
	Grand Junction	6:12	5:05	4:59	4:55	4:52
	Pueblo	5:58	4:51	4:45	4:41	4:39
	IOWA					
	Davenport	5:56	4:48	4:42	4:37	4:34
	Des Moines	6:08	5:00	4:54	4:49	4:45
	Sioux City	6:17	5:09	5:02	4:57	4:54
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	6:40	5:33	5:28	5:24	5:22
Goodland	5:44	4:37	4:31	4:27	4:24	
Topeka	6:21	5:14	5:08	5:04	5:01	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	5:51	4:41	4:33	4:27	4:22	
International Falls	5:52	4:42	4:33	4:26	4:21	
Minneapolis	6:00	4:51	4:43	4:37	4:34	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	6:07	5:00	4:54	4:50	4:47	
Kansas City	6:16	5:09	5:03	4:59	4:56	
St. Louis	6:00	4:51	4:47	4:43	4:40	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	6:22	5:14	5:08	5:03	5:00	
North Platte	6:37	5:30	5:23	5:18	5:15	
Scottsbluff	5:48	4:40	4:33	4:28	4:25	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	6:26	5:16	5:08	5:02	4:57	
Fargo	6:10	5:00	4:52	4:45	4:41	
Williston	6:34	5:24	5:15	5:08	5:03	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	6:29	5:20	5:13	5:07	5:04	
Rapid City	5:41	4:33	4:26	4:20	4:16	
Sioux Falls	6:16	5:08	5:01	4:55	4:52	
WYOMING						
Casper	5:56	4:48	4:41	4:36	4:32	
Cheyenne	5:53	4:46	4:39	4:35	4:31	
Sheridan	5:55	4:46	4:38	4:33	4:29	

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
	Denver	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
	Grand Junction	4:51	4:52	4:55	4:59
	Pueblo	4:38	4:39	4:42	4:46
	IOWA				
	Davenport	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40
	Des Moines	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:52
	Sioux City	4:52	4:53	4:56	5:00
	KANSAS				
	Dodge City	5:21	5:22	5:25	5:29
Goodland	4:23	4:24	4:27	4:31	
Topeka	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:08	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	4:20	4:20	4:23	4:27	
International Falls	4:18	4:18	4:20	4:25	
Minneapolis	4:32	4:32	4:34	4:39	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	4:46	4:47	4:50	4:54	
Kansas City	4:56	4:56	4:59	5:03	
St. Louis	4:40	4:41	4:43	4:47	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	4:59	5:00	5:02	5:06	
North Platte	5:14	5:15	5:18	5:22	
Scottsbluff	4:24	4:24	4:27	4:31	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	4:55	4:55	4:57	5:02	
Fargo	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:46	
Williston	5:01	5:01	5:03	5:08	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	5:02	5:02	5:05	5:09	
Rapid City	4:15	4:15	4:18	4:22	
Sioux Falls	4:50	4:51	4:53	4:58	
WYOMING					
Casper	4:31	4:32	4:34	4:39	
Cheyenne	4:30	4:31	4:34	4:38	
Sheridan	4:27	4:27	4:30	4:34	

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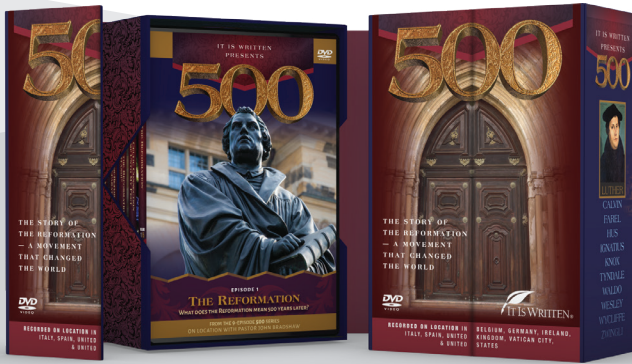


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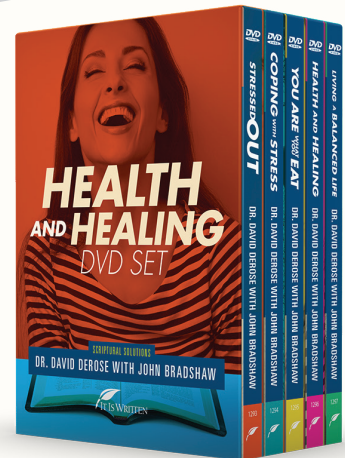
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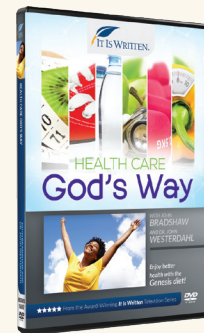
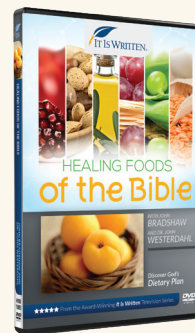
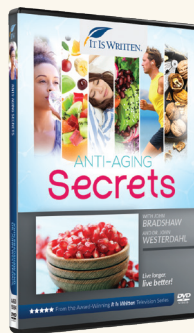
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