

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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CARING HEART
AWARDS

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“Mostly, I’m looking forward to seeing young people changed and accepting Jesus into their lives.” —p. 4





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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



Why I Love Sunnydale Adventist Academy
bit.ly/whyiloveSAA



ACSDR Volunteers Help Tornado Survivors
outlookmag.org/accdr-volunteers-help-tornado-survivors



Beauty All Around
outlookmag.org/beauty-all-around

REALITIES AND RAILS

Adventist education is arguably one of the most important missions of the Adventist Church. If children are not educated with sound Christian principles, there is not much hope for the future.

Yet we face many challenges. There are a variety of educational options for families, and private education is not inexpensive. These twin realities of rising costs and competing interests, mixed with our belief in education's value, may be why we sometimes hear the topic of Adventist education referred to as the third rail—*too dangerous to touch*.

We should not stick our heads in the sand and ignore the facts. Yes, some schools are closing. However, others are thriving. So let's learn from the healthy Adventist schools. Let's collaborate, communicate effectively, and conserve our church's administrative resources wherever possible so we can offer the best educational outcomes to families and students. Rather than draining us, let's allow the third rail to electrify a revolution of change, success and spiritual commitment.



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

(l-r) Jordan Anderson, Gabriel Correa and Brianna Nelson attend Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas.

Photo by Richard Young

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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN MID-AMERICA

The mission of Adventist education is to enable learners to develop a life of faith in God and to use their knowledge, skills and understandings to serve God and humanity. This past school year, 2,647 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 attended our 74 schools in Mid-America.

In our classrooms, teachers focus on the following goals: Learners will 1) choose to accept God as the Creator and Redeemer 2) grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's creation 3) creatively apply their spiritual, physical, intellectual and social-emotional knowledge 4) demonstrate their commitment to God through service to others.

For this special Adventist education issue, *OUTLOOK*

editor **Brenda Dickerson** talked with **LouAnn Howard**, director of education for the Mid-America Union, about what's happening in our territory.

What is one of the biggest challenges right now for Adventist pre-K-12 education in Mid-America?

There are really two challenges that rise to the top. The first is teachers. As our baby boomer era teachers reach retirement age, our colleges and universities are not graduating the number of teachers we need in the field. This is not an Adventist phenomenon, but is seen throughout public and non-public education.

The second challenge is

commitment: parent, church and pastor. The pastor's commitment is vital. When the pastor is not a stranger, but comes to the school and worships, prays and plays with the students, it sends a strong message of support to both the student and teacher.

This also has an impact on the church and parents who are making a decision about their child's education. When pastors and teachers work together as a team to benefit both the church and school, it results in a positive church and school environment.

How are these challenges being addressed?

We have partnered with Union College trying to connect with potential teachers early in their college experience. Each fall, we host

a pizza feed where we talk with any college student who has an interest in education about working in Adventist education. This allows them to become familiar with our conference superintendents and also get a feel for what working in Adventist education is like. However, this is a first step, and we must look at other ways in which we can encourage our young adults to consider a career in Adventist education.

Many of our schools in Mid-America have only one teacher and one classroom. How can small schools market themselves in an appealing way to their communities?

Many people think that a small school means an inferior education. However,

Adventist students in the Mid-America Union are able to learn through real-world experience, as well as minister in unique and powerful ways. Last spring, Mile High Academy took a mission trip to the Kiryandongo Settlement Camp of Uganda (see p. 9).



there are so many benefits in small schools: spiritual focus, low student-teacher ratio, long-term academic achievement, a curriculum that is designed for small schools, community service opportunities, easier to incorporate differentiation in student learning, and a high number of students who not only attend college, but graduate. There are so many advantages!

I am a product of small schools. I remember fondly being able to listen in to other classes and begin to grasp a concept before it was formally taught. Our small schools do not need to be embarrassed—they can proudly tout their successes.

The North American Division has given us several ideas on how to market Adventist education to our churches and communities (see sidebar). We need to do more to make our school board, pastors and teachers aware of the need to market the school and give them tools they can adapt and use in their communities.

How can people who don't have an Adventist school in their area still support education?

They can pray for our schools. They can support—financially and in other ways—the local academies in the conferences. Many churches choose to partner with a nearby school and provide financial support. And, most importantly, they can reach out and befriend the young

people in their churches to encourage them and include them as vital members of the church, whether or not they attend Adventist schools.

What are you excited about for the coming year?

Curriculum always excites me. This year I'm incredibly excited to see the revision of our Language Arts curriculum, Pathways 2.0, introduced into our schools. To see the faith connections that have been embedded and to see a program specifically designed for Adventist schools that meets the North American Division English Language Arts standards excites me. I'm also looking forward to seeing what the second year of our Encounter Bible curriculum brings to our students.

Mostly, I'm looking forward to seeing young people changed and accepting Jesus into their lives. **U**

LOUANN HOWARD

is education director for the Mid-America Union.



North American Division Education Resources

The NAD Office of Education has a wealth of resources, some geared specifically toward educators employed at NAD-accredited institutions and some available to the general public. Here are a few.

For educators employed at NAD-accredited institutions

- **Online store** (adventist-education.myshopify.com) Great resources at NAD-negotiated prices [order before Sept. 16]
- **Britannica digital resources** (adventisteducation.org/resources/britannica-school) Three levels of online encyclopedia, images, eBooks [requires login]
- **Marketing your school** (adventisteducation.org/pc.html) Church bulletins/inserts, customizable post card, and brochures
- **Technology blog and website** (adventisteducation.org) Resources and recommendations

Resources for Sabbath school, homeschoolers, families and public educators

- **REACH** (adventisteducation.org) Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven [resources and training]
- **Be Like Jesus Companion** (nadeducation.org/be-like-jesus-companion) Early childhood activities and lessons, Bible stories, stories about Adventist pioneers
- **Music** (finearts.adventisteducation.org/the-basics.html) Lesson content for recorder and Christian heritage hymns
- **Adventist Learning Community** (adventistlearningcommunity.org) Professional development courses and resources for administrators, teachers, pastors, chaplains, members and seekers
- **Teacher Bulletin** (teacherbulletin.org) Integrated teaching units, tips for administrators, Adventist history, *Spirit of Prophecy* resources
- **CIRCLE** (adventist.org) Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center [plus teacher blog]

Caring Heart

Each school year, senior academies in the North American Division select a junior or senior student with a strong citizenship record, a personal commitment to witnessing and service, and an overall positive influence on their campus to receive a \$500 scholarship, a plaque and an engraved Bible.



SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Sidney Needles

Sidney is a four-year senior and a caring leader who is highly appreciated by her peers. Sidney preached two-week-long evangelistic meetings during her sophomore and junior years, and helped lead out in a VBS for a primary school in Tanzania during her senior year.

Sidney plans to continue her education at Union College this fall.



MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY

Hannah Dow

Hannah is a four-year senior from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She is a class officer and a member of the National Honor Society. She is also involved in campus ministries, chorals, the praise team, gymnastics, is a concert pianist, tutors, and is even writing and recording her own music album.

Despite her very busy schedule, Hannah is quick to help anyone and everyone in need. She will put in long hours without complaint if it means she can be of help to someone else.



MILE HIGH ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Amanda Sasmita

Amanda brings joy and energy to all she does, and her genuine care for others is evident every day. Amanda served as secretary on the MHA Student Association, was elected Student Association president for the upcoming school year, volunteers at her local church, and sings and plays music for chapels and her church.

In her Real World Learning project, Amanda worked with a classmate to design and implement a tutoring program to help elementary students after school. Her passion to encourage her peers best defines her caring heart.

Awards

2018-19



COLLEGE VIEW
ACADEMY

Savannah
Fortney

Savannah has a passion for helping others, and she spent her spring break serving the needs of the orphans in Honduras at the Pan American Orphanage. This coming school year Savannah is going to be the student chaplain, and will work hand-in-hand with Pastor Mic Henton to plan positive, Christ-filled experiences for students on campus.

Savannah was junior class president, and has been a leader on the court as well in both basketball and volleyball.



MIDLAND ADVENTIST
ACADEMY

Naden
Norwood

Naden's winning smile and kind heart have been a positive influence on Midland's campus for four years. Whether he's serving hot lunch, studying in the classroom or serving as a deacon at Linwood Boulevard Adventist Temple, Naden demonstrates how to be a servant of God and a friend to man.



CAMPION ACADEMY

Edwin
Garcia-Mencia

Edwin is a very polite young man. He is always willing to help when anything needs to be done. He does not discriminate between those who are popular or unpopular, and he treats everyone like a long-time friend.



DAKOTA ADVENTIST
ACADEMY

Jaelyn
Pickett

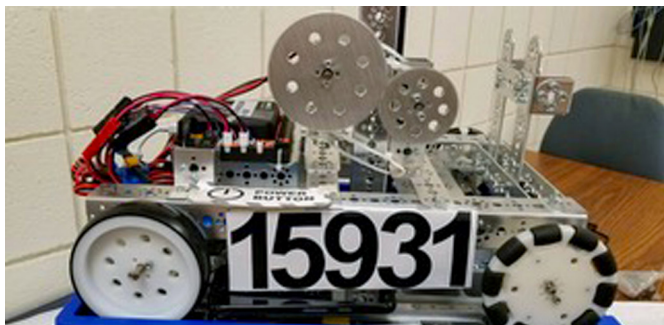
Jaelyn, a junior at Dakota Adventist Academy, hails from Dea Lacs, North Dakota. Jaelyn has demonstrated that selfless acts of service are a blessing to both the giver and the receiver.



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Peter Kenaston



DAA ROBOTICS TEAM INSPIRED AT TECH COMPETITION

Dakota Adventist Academy has found a niche that students are excited about: robotics. When technology director Peter Kenaston arrived at DAA, he began talking with administration about how to bring IT to the school. Robotics was chosen, and 10 students eagerly signed up to be a part of the robotics club. Kenaston applied for and received

grants totaling \$11,500 for registration, materials and travel to Florida for the FIRST Tech Challenge with the Adventist League.

FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. According to data from the FIRST Longitudinal Study, students in this program are 2.6 times more likely to enroll in an engineering course their

first year of college, and 75 percent of FIRST alumni are more likely to work in a STEM field. FIRST participants are also more likely to attend college and show increased communication, problem solving, time management and conflict resolution skills.

The team—named Tin Heads—designed, built, programmed and operated a robot they called Genesis. The students kept a notebook labeling the engineering principles and STEM skills learned. On May 2, four students and two sponsors traveled to Forest Lake Academy for the FIRST Tech Challenge.

Team member Rosalyn Ray, a junior, wrote that many of the team members wanted to go for the experience and to see the competition, but not actually to participate. “But Mr. Kenaston enforced that we stick with it,” she explained. “So we did. We

worked and reworked our robot so much we had to replace a piece on the rack and piston set that was worn out from so many test runs.”

When the competition began, the Tin Heads jumped into first place. “We were stunned, but tried to stay calm,” wrote Ray. “We had some trouble: the wheels were not properly greased, and there was nothing we could do to get them fixed, and our autonomous mode never really worked. However, we still came in third, which was more than any of us ever hoped for.” The team also went on to win the Inspire Award, one of the most prestigious awards at the event.

Senior Nonthida Pathomsiri said, “Robotics Club was not just a great experience in learning about technology, but also a great bonding experience for all of us.”

Teammate Da Yeong Ko added, “I’ll join Robotics Club again next year. It was an experience I will never forget.”

Team member Jaelyn Pickett summed up the experience: “Robotics Club was super cool. The family atmosphere of the entire competition showed the kind of people FIRST is made up of.”

Sue Nelson is superintendent of education and Pathfinder/SS director for the Dakota Conference. Peter Kenaston is technology director for Dakota Adventist Academy.

Left: IT director Peter Kenaston with the four students who participated in the FIRST Tech Challenge: (l-r) Nonthida Pathomsiri, Da Yeong Ko, Jaelyn Pickett and Rosalyn Ray.

Right: The Tin Heads Robotic Club received third place overall, in addition to a second place Design Award, second place Innovate Award, second place Motivate Award, and first place Inspire Award.

Eulalia Kenaston



Peter Kenaston



MILE HIGH ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Courtesy Mile High Academy



Forty students, faculty, sponsors and community professionals served the Kiryandongo Settlement Camp of Uganda last spring.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

“Be Brave. Take Risks. Nothing can substitute experience.” – Paulo Coelho

The Mile High Academy Uganda mission students presented a program at Denver South Church last May. This was an extension of the Uganda mission trip the students took February 27 through March 11 where they held medical clinics, Vacation Bible School programs, educational activities, and built a basketball court for the community to enjoy. Even though the Uganda mission Real World Learning class is no longer in session, the students have continued their passion for

the people of Uganda and service in general.

REAL WORLD LEARNING AT MHA

At MHA we believe in learning through experience. When students have opportunities to solve real world problems they gain the necessary skills to go on to college, future careers and life. As students are taken out into the community to experience hands-on projects, meet with community leaders and ask questions

of real-life innovators, their desire to create solutions for the world’s needs becomes inherent in them.

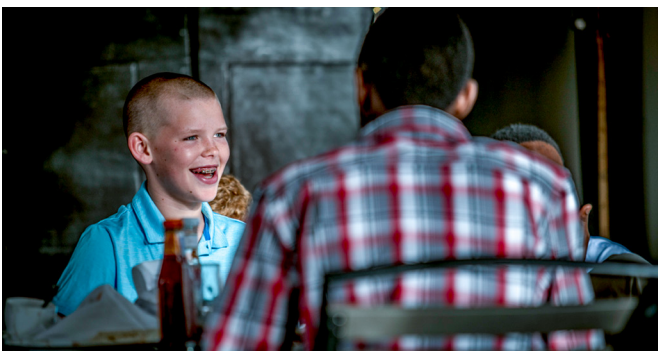
In the last couple years, MHA has taken community experience seriously by leading students out of the classroom and into the real world where the need is authentic. At MHA, students engage in positive ways with business leaders to create action plans for the community.

Real World Learning asks students to look beyond themselves and find ways they can help locally, nationally

and internationally.

We at MHA know that schools are no longer islands of education. Instead, we function within a greater collaborative network that brings experts in every field together with our amazing teachers to create the perfect learning environment for our students.

Agape Hammond is director of marketing and communications for Mile High Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.



Evelyn Cornforth Retires

Still offering training

Pablo Colindres-Moreno



Evelyn Cornforth, well known and appreciated throughout Mid-America territory as the manager of MAUC's Revolving Fund, has recently retired. Cornforth also served as an accountant for the union for nearly 15 years.

"Evelyn was the face of the Revolving Fund to many

local church and school treasurers over the years, as she was the one folks talked to when they had questions about their loans or accounts," said MAUC treasurer **Troy Peoples**. In addition, Cornforth has always been more than willing to volunteer to fill other needs, such as answering phones for the entire office. "She could multitask and not only do her full-time job, but take the time to help answer phones so we could save a part-time budget that had previously been allocated to a receptionist, and help put more money back into ministry," Peoples noted.

Cornforth was also instrumental in helping the MAUC conferences and union office convert to

the NAD accounting software. "She helped support several local churches here in MAUC by teaching them how to use the EMS software developed by Union College for local churches, and she will continue to help train local churches on the new NAD local church accounting software on a contract basis," added Peoples.

Even in her retirement, Cornforth is more than willing to help her church. "Although I am retiring from the Mid-America Union office family, I will still feel very much a part of the work throughout this union, thanks to my heart investment in these Revolving Fund projects," Cornforth said.

"My joy at the Mid-America

Union office has been working with churches throughout our territory as they borrow money from the Revolving Fund for capital projects," added Cornforth. "I travel quite a bit, and my bucket list includes visiting these churches to see the results of their projects. I was able to visit the Houston, Missouri, church and the treasurer showed me around the fellowship hall they added, courtesy of the Revolving Fund. It was especially rewarding to see the space being used for community outreach."

Articles on these pages were written by Brenda Dickerson, communication director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Arreguin Providing Software and Accounting Support

Hugh Davis



Abasai Arreguin has recently joined the Mid-America Union Conference team as an information technology and accounting assistant. Arreguin attended Union College, studying both accounting and computer information systems, and was well recommended by professors at the college.

MAUC treasurer **Troy**

Peoples said, "I am looking forward to working with Abasai in a role we have not previously had here in the union office since I came in 2010."

Arreguin—along with MAUC associate treasurer **Gwen Speak**—offers software support for the cloud-based accounting software the North American Division is providing to local conferences. In addition,

he is providing computer support for the union office. "I look forward to the great opportunities in working for the conference and I hope to serve by God's guidance and through the knowledge I have gained over the years," said Arreguin.

In his spare time, Arreguin enjoys hiking, biking, learning and going on adventures.

Don Schneider Passes

Former NAD president, conference president and pastor passes away at 76

Don C. Schneider, former president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, passed away on May 23 in Burleson, Texas, where he was living with **Marti**, his wife and partner in ministry. He was 76.

Schneider served as NAD president for 10 years. He was elected to the office in 2000 at the General Conference Session in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Prior to that, he served in various conference ministries in Oklahoma, Oregon and the Central Union, and was president in five

conferences—Wyoming, New Jersey, Arkansas-Louisiana, Rocky Mountain and Northern California.

After the Schneiders retired in 2010, Don and Marti pastored the Denver South Church in Colorado for three years. They settled in Texas in 2013.

“Don Schneider was truly a powerful and well loved leader in our church,” said **Gary Thurber**, president of the Mid-America Union Conference. “He would begin each talk he gave by saying ‘Jesus is my friend,’ and wanted all he came in contact with to have Him

as their friend too. He went out of his way to care for people like no leader I have ever seen. He served here in the Mid-America Union on three separate occasions, each time with distinction and grace. On a personal note, Don had a profound influence on my ministry journey with his support and wise counsel.”

Because of Elder Schneider’s long years of service to the Adventist Church, many friends and colleagues are mourning his passing. “Don was ‘the Jesus man.’ There is no more eloquent statement that can be made,”

said **Daniel R. Jackson**, current NAD president. “He traveled throughout the NAD and the world declaring that Jesus was his best friend. His loss will never be equated with being forgotten. He was a ‘one-of-a-kind’ man and leader.”

Pastor Schneider is survived by his wife Marti, daughter **Carol**, son **Don Jr.**, and daughter-in-law **Dorothy**.

The memorial service for Elder Schneider was held at the Keene Adventist Church in Keene, Texas, on May 28.



In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Don Schneider to the Worthy Student Fund of Joshua Adventist Multi-grade School.

Joshua Adventist Multi-grade School
1912 Conveyor Dr
Joshua, TX 76058



Courtesy North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Living Legends Award Presented to Local Elder



Courtesy livinglegendsawards.org

Dr. Kolade Alabi, a retired chemist from Lincoln, Nebraska, and member of the Allon Chapel Church, was given the Living Legend Award for Service to Humanity at the 14th annual awards program at the Emmanuel Brinklow Adventist Church in Maryland earlier this year. Dr. Alabi and four other recipients were flown to the event where they were given first-class treatment.

Dr. Alabi was honored for his years of volunteer service to his community in various capacities. Most of his contributions to the community have come about as the result of ministries he established through his church, Allon Chapel.

Dr. Alabi leads out in prison ministries, where he not only reaches out to incarcerated men and women during their confinement, but also provides support post-release to assist them in re-integrating into society and making a better life for themselves. He

also oversees the operation of a Foodnet distribution site; established and manages a computer lab specifically designed to help immigrants learn computer skills and improve their English proficiency; and has organized health fairs to educate and assist the community in maintaining healthy bodies as a way of preventing diseases.

Dr. Alabi lived with his family in Nigeria before coming to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to earn a bachelor's of science degree in chemistry and computer science, which he completed in 1977. He then went on to earn a certificate in industrial management in 1980. His pursuit of higher learning continued and he obtained a master's of science degree in analytical chemistry in 1981. His terminal degree is a Ph.D. in soil science, agronomy, which he earned in 1983. Dr. Alabi devoted 34 years of service to his career before retiring in 2011.

Dr. Kolade Alabi is a member of the Allon Chapel Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He leads a number of ministries, including prison ministries, a Foodnet distribution site, a computer lab to help immigrants, and various health fairs around the community.

About the award

The Living Legends Award for Service to Humanity Annual Ceremony focuses on providing funding for humanitarian causes; encouraging young people to become humanitarians; bringing public awareness to the work of lifelong humanitarians; and leveraging the power of the arts to inspire all to serve humanity.

The event recognizes the work of prolific and influential humanitarians, features performances by world-renowned musical artists and composers, and includes highlights from the Brinklow Humanitarian MicroGrant recipients.

Hugh Davis is digital media manager for the Mid-America Union Conference.



Learn more about the Living Legends Award program at livinglegendsawards.org.



Watch this year's event at emmanuelbrinklow.yourstreamlive.com (Alabi's section begins at 1:58:37).



Oluwatoyin Alibi



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Prison Ministries Encourage Inmates

Rugby prison ministry expands to Devils Lake

Tom Deede began a prison ministry in Rugby, North Dakota, but when a couple of men Deede had studied with were transferred to Lake Region Correctional Center in Devils Lake, North Dakota, they requested Bible studies be held there also. This caused a prison ministry to be started in Devils Lake as well.

Deede asked if any fellow church members would be willing to take on the prison ministry in Devils Lake, and **Randi and Pam Suckut, Eric and Sarah Christianson, and Brian and Kathy Tebelius** accepted the responsibility.

After background checks and training were complete, studies began on Saturday evenings. Eric and Sarah initially led out, but as time progressed the leadership of the Bible studies passed to Randi, Pam, Brian and Kathy.

“We are allowed into the jail around 6:30 pm until 9 to 10:30 pm, depending on how many inmates want to meet,” says Randi Suckut. “Because Devils Lake does not allow intermingling of inmates from different units into one group study, we do studies with up to three or four units every Saturday night.”

Because the inmates are at the jail for one week to four months, the studies are not in depth. They consist of reading and discussing a chapter

in the Bible or studying a parable Jesus taught.

“Some of the men and women know the Bible well and some don’t know it at all,” explains Suckut. “We also give Bibles to those who request them, and Bible studies are used from Amazing Facts, Native Day Studies, and Discover lessons. *Steps to Christ, Desire of Ages*, booklets of encouragement, bookmarks, and Christian adult coloring pages are also distributed to those wanting them.”

Beyond the walls

At the end of each Bible study, the men and women are given a piece of paper to write prayer requests. The requests are consolidated and passed to members of the Manfred and Bowdon Country churches. The

members are asked to keep these men and women and their requests in prayer. Some of the church members even send cards of encouragement to the inmates.

“We have experienced the Holy Spirit working in this ministry, as inmates have told us that the messages presented were just what they needed to hear,” says Suckut. “We’ve also received letters and cards stating how much the studies and letters are appreciated.”

One inmate wrote, “I was just writing to once again thank everyone involved with coming to the LEC and volunteering their time and energy with helping everyone. I know that the others and I greatly appreciate it and look forward to our church group every Saturday. You help give

hope and determination to us, and help us strive to better our lives. I’ll keep you all in my prayers.”

Suckut says that with this ministry, they hope to be planting seeds and letting the Holy Spirit water and nourish so there can be a harvest.

Members of the Manfred Church continue to lead Bible studies on Thursday evenings in Rugby as well. Tom Deede and Randi Suckut also plan to facilitate the start of a Bible study at the Bismarck Penitentiary. This request came from one of the inmates who studied with Deede in Rugby. “We know there is a prison ministry in Jamestown and possibly other places throughout the Dakotas,” adds Suckut.

Dakota Conference News

Randi and Pam Suckut pause after ministering to inmates at Lake Region Law Enforcement Center in Devils Lake, North Dakota.



Courtesy Dakota Conference

Lucas Nelson's Courage Inspires the Creation of Legos for Kids Program

No parent wants to hear that his or her child has cancer, but that was the diagnosis for **Lucas Nelson**, age 12, on Aug. 25, 2018.

His parents, **Sue Nelson**—Dakota Conference superintendent of education—and **Loren Nelson III**—Dakota Conference VP of administration and youth director—were enjoying a respite from a busy camp season at Lucas' grandparents. Toward the end of the summer they noticed he had become listless, separating from the many activities he once enjoyed, to spend time in his own cabin. It had been a long summer in a series of many long summers, so they

thought perhaps Lucas was tired of the whole process—just wanting some personal time. At the grandparents' home, however, it became more noticeable that he had no energy. Their worst fears were confirmed with the prognosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Thus began a year of intense treatments: chemotherapy, bone marrow extraction, abnormal weight loss, fevers, extreme fatigue, extended hospital stays and intense pain. His distractions were video games with friends around the country and Legos. He could no longer attend school, but fortunately was ahead in his studies. Isolation became his

habitation to avoid infection.

Friends and family rallied to offer prayers and support from a distance. **Jennifer Turk**, a close friend of Sue's, heard of Lucas and his family's desire to boost Lucas' courage by helping others through his ordeal, and she offered an idea.

Turk knew that Lucas loved Legos. With the Christmas season approaching, she reasoned, *Why not put Legos into the hands of orphaned children in Lucas' honor?* Thus began Lucas' Legos for Kids.

In one and a half months, over 30 pounds of Legos were collected. Turk and other contributors shipped the collected Legos to International Children's Care in Vancouver, Washington. In January of 2019, the first Lego shipment traveled with **Sharon Fleck**, ICC children's services director, to the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic to children who had never played with Legos. Sue

and Jennifer were excited that the Legos were delivered to that specific orphanage, as they had been there on a mission trip together while in high school. "It was fun to see the blessings come full circle," said Sue.

In addition to the Legos for Kids program, Lucas was also visited while he was in the hospital by volunteers from Love Your Melon, a company started in Minnesota with the mission to improve the lives of children battling cancer. He was left with encouragement and a LYM hat.

Lucas also received a pillow with encouraging notes and texts made by George Stone Elementary students (below, left). Lucas was visited by volunteers from Love Your Melon, an organization with the mission to improve the lives of kids battling cancer (right).

Lucas still faces many challenges, but his spirit is encouraged.

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Lucas holds a gift pillow with encouraging notes and texts made by George Stone Elementary students (below, left). Lucas was visited by volunteers from Love Your Melon, an organization with the mission to improve the lives of kids battling cancer (right).



Photos: Sue Nelson

Iowa-Missouri Schools Raise \$1,005 for Evangelism During Give One to Save One

Karen McCarthy



Students from Des Moines Adventist School celebrate the largest amount raised by Iowa-Missouri schools during any Give One to Save One campaign.

Students and teachers of Iowa-Missouri Conference schools raised \$1,005 during this year's Give One to Save One campaign, over \$300 more than their goal and the largest amount raised in a given year to date.

This marks the fifth year conference schools have participated in Give One to Save One, which encourages every student and teacher to give just \$1 each (25 cents per week) during the month of March to support the

evangelism offering collected conference-wide on the last Sabbath of the month. Schools turn in their money to the local church and report it to the conference. The goal each year is based on the number of students and teachers in our schools, and this year's goal was \$700.

As part of this year's Music Festival at Sunnydale Academy in April, students were introduced to **David Branson**, who was baptized by **Pastor Lou Alfalah** during an evangelism series at the Sunnydale Church.

"We want our students to not only develop a relationship with Jesus and perform well academically, but to have an opportunity to serve others," shares **Dr. Joe Allison**, conference superintendent of education. "I wanted the students to see the tangible results of their supporting conference evangelism."

Iowa-Missouri Conference News

Centerville Church Investment Leader Retires at 97

Prue Simmons, 97, recently retired from her position as investment leader at the Centerville Church. Simmons is not sure how many decades she has served in this role, nor could any current church members recall. What everyone does remember, however, is the enthusiastic spirit with which Simmons encouraged members to participate in investment projects and offerings.

Simmons says the greatest blessing of being investment leader through the years has been "helping the Lord's work go around the world." And when she was asked what

advice she would give to other investment leaders, she said simply, "Make it your own."

Other offices Simmons has held in the Centerville Church through the years include treasurer, deaconess, superintendent, personal ministries leader, teacher, MV leader and speaker.

While Simmons' diminishing eyesight makes it

necessary for her to step down, her vision of finishing God's work remains clear.

What keeps her connected? "Christ crucified," she answers. "He gave His life for

me, so I want to show Him how much I appreciate Him."

Gwen Simmons is communication secretary for the Centerville Church in Iowa.

Prue Simmons (right) is recognized for her years of service by church elder Sherrill Baugher and church family.



Gwen Simmons

Three Iowa-Missouri Schools Receive 2019 Versacare STEM Grant

Melissa Morris



Three Iowa-Missouri Conference schools were recently awarded \$5,000 grants for technology improvements. The schools are Hillcrest School in St. Louis, Missouri; Andrews Christian Academy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Springfield Junior Academy in Springfield, Missouri.

Versacare is an independent Adventist healthcare services organization that provides

financial grants to Adventist ministries in a variety of areas, including STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) grants for conference-operated elementary and secondary schools within the North American Division. Grant amounts range from \$5,000 for small schools with three classrooms or fewer to \$10,000 for larger schools.

“We plan to add additional

Students at Hillcrest School utilize iMacs and iPads as part of their classroom instruction.

iMac computers and iPads to each of our classrooms,” said **Melissa Morris**, principal and grades 7-9 teacher at Hillcrest. “The balance will be set aside for future needs as our school continues to grow.”

Joe Allison is superintendent of education for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Schools interested in applying for grants with Versacare should visit versacare.org.

In Other News

There's a lot more happening in Iowa-Missouri than will fit on these two pages each month.

Visit imsda.org to read stories such as:

- **Hillcrest Students Visit National WW1 Museum**
- **College Park Students Make Quilt for Children in Crisis**
- **Waterloo Church Adopts Missionaries**
- **St. Louis Central Hosts Women's Appreciation Day**
- **Spencer Church Mobile Food Pantry Feeds 123 Families**
- **Lebanon Church Offers Natural Health Alternative**

Prescott School Honors Student Authors with Red Carpet Event

Prescott Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri, recently honored their young authors with

an evening celebrating books they published with Studenttreasures Publishing, a company dedicated to publishing books by children.

Students eagerly anticipated and helped plan the celebration. It was a formal evening, complete with a “red carpet” each author walked, official photographs, book

readings, a dinner, and ice cream sundaes.

Each student chose someone to read their book to the audience, and after the stories were read the students autographed one another's books. Local church members who attended were impressed by the quality of the children's books, and students are already planning what they will write about next year.

A Prescott student listens as his mother reads his book aloud to the group.

Judi Thompson is principal of Prescott Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Judi Thompson



Grand Island Students Express Appreciation



Photos Courtesy Platte Valley Elementary School

I serve as head teacher at Platte Valley Elementary School in Grand Island, Nebraska, where I have students in grades 2-8. During the first semester social studies class, my students and I studied about our hometown and came to the agreement that it is a nice, safe location to live.

Because we appreciate this safety, I asked my students if they would like to put together a program for the

local police officers, EMTs, firefighters and veterans to honor them for their service in our city and country. The students were eager to thank these local public safety officers, so we began planning. We decided to have a community appreciation breakfast and program.

The students created flyers and handouts, and they sketched a variety of scenes for the invitees. Personal letters of thanks were written

as well. At the event, the girls performed a cheerleading song and the boys sang a *Yankee Doodle* song. The students also did a choral recitation of the *Gettysburg Address*, presented a tone chime version of *America the Beautiful*, and performed an original song entitled *You've Been Working in Our City*.

A tribute to public safety officers

On the day of the program,

students excitedly lined up at the door to greet guests and escort them to the breakfast buffet. American flags lined the driveway leading to the school entrance and the gymnasium was adorned in red, white and blue streamers, banners, banquet tables and decorations.

The students introduced themselves to the guests, then the honored guests introduced themselves and described their work in the community. Thirty-one

Grand Island public safety officers show the children their emergency vehicles following the program. The students were able to meet the men and women face to face, and understand how much these brave people actually care about students, their families, and the town where they work.



to Community First Responders

members of the Grand Island Police Department, Fire/EMT Departments, Sheriff's Department and Veterans attended the event.

The students expressed thoughtful sentiments toward the guests throughout the program. In memory of those who lost their lives in service, two students played a tribute on lap harps.

Each visitor was given a selection of student drawings and a tri-fold flyer of thank you notes, along with a business card-sized pledge that we will keep them in prayer each morning at school.

I closed the program with a personal address to our guests. It was the story of my husband on the day we arrived to Grand Island when we had experienced firsthand the amazing dedication of the Grand Island public safety officers (see sidebar).

Appreciating and praying for our visitors

As an educator I have led multiple programs to help students realize the importance of getting to know those who give of themselves

to serve their community. I have found that meeting with men and women in uniform face to face has helped many children understand that these brave people are real, and they actually care about students, their families and our town.

These special men and women have proven to be a blessing to my family, and they are now appreciated by my students and school family as well.

Following the program, the firefighters, EMTs and police officers invited the students to tour their emergency vehicles. The students were able to see these men and women as people who not only keep us safe, but also enjoy what they do.

The Platte Valley Elementary students did a wonderful job letting our visitors know they are appreciated, and we continue to pray for each one of them every morning at school.

.....
Cathy Tomlinson is head teacher at Platte Valley Elementary School in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Grand Island Public Safety Officers Give of Themselves in Time of Need

That morning, our GPS led us to our new address. We arrived to find people walking in our yard and all around our tiny new home. We soon found out they were Platte Valley Elementary School board and church members waiting to help us unload.

We were nearly done unloading our U-Haul, talking and laughing, when my husband and another person started backing up toward the U-Haul ramp carrying a piece of furniture. As my husband was stepping down off the U-Haul, his right foot missed the ramp. Down he went. I found him lying on his back in severe pain. A 911 call was made and the local fire/EMT vehicle arrived. I remember standing still—as if frozen—looking around at a yard full of people I barely knew, my husband lying in pain on the ground, and the EMT first responders telling me we had to go with them right away to the hospital.

I remember the school board chair saying she'd take care of our belongings and lock up. The pastor said he'd return the U-Haul. And a very kind new friend offered to follow behind the medics and stay with me at the hospital.

Emergency room X-rays showed that my husband had shattered both bones in his right leg. Due to the severity of the breaks, we were told he had to be transported immediately to Lincoln, Nebraska, to see a surgeon.

I later learned that not only church and school members, but neighbors we hadn't even met, came and helped with our belongings after we'd gone. I also found out the very same first responders who initially assisted my husband after his fall had returned on their own time that afternoon and helped with the final unloading of our U-Haul.

I shared this story at the program because we were so amazed and impressed at the kindness showered upon us in our time of need. These people—church members, Platte Valley Elementary School staff, neighbors we had not met, and firefighters/first responders—had acted in kindness and become family.

—Cathy Tomlinson



Maplewood Academy Hires John Bedell as New Principal

The Minnesota Conference is pleased to announce the appointment of **John M. Bedell** as the new Maplewood Academy principal, beginning July 2019. Bedell currently serves as education superintendent for the Minnesota Conference. He is a graduate of Andrews University and holds a master's degree in history, with 36 years of experience as an Adventist educator. During those years, Bedell has served the church as a one-room schoolteacher, head teacher, high school teacher, vice principal and, currently, as a superintendent.

Bedell brings with him a wealth of knowledge in the educational field. In his current position, he's worked with 10 elementary schools to support the teaching staff and school boards. Bedell passionately worked to emphasize the outdoor classroom in elementary schools, helping students and teachers get into God's nature. He also serves on the Nonpublic Education Council for the Minnesota State Department of Education.

Bedell has a thorough understanding of the philosophy of Adventist education. In addition, he has a unique perspective on Adventist education, born out of his master's thesis titled *The Integration of Public Schools*. As a result,

Bedell believes the church should extend ministry to those families who have children in public school.

He also developed a strong interest in the Civil Rights Movement while studying for his master's degree, and thus came to Adventist education with an understanding of the impact of diversity.

Focused perspective

Bedell believes the Adventist Church is the remnant church with a global reach, "having the everlasting gospel to preach to those

who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6).

As superintendent, Bedell has preached in many of the conference churches to promote Adventist education and diversity. Bedell has pointed families, teachers and students to the need to build a personal relationship with Jesus, and the conference administration believe he will bring his unique, focused perspective to Maplewood Academy.

Bedell will take over principal responsibilities from **Dr. Glen Baker**, who accepted

a call to serve as principal at Forest Lake Academy in Florida, one of the largest day academies in the North American Division. Dr. Baker served Maplewood Academy well and we wish him all the best as he transitions to his new position.

.....
Brian Mungandi is communication director and vice president of administration for the Minnesota Conference.

John Bedell brings knowledge and experience with him to the position of Maplewood Academy principal.

Bedell, who holds a master's degree in history and has 36 years of experience in Adventist education, begins his position in July.



Brad Leavelle

Oak Street Christian School Partners with Home School Organization

Oak Street Christian School in Brainerd, Minnesota, has developed an outreach program that fills its building every other Friday. The Adventist school partners with a home school organization known as Christian Kids Fellowship. Together, they present classes that include music, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and physical education.

During the last meeting of the school year, the two groups enjoyed a field day together. With 11 students from Oak Street and another 30-40 home schoolers, there was a crowd.

CKF began during the 2008-2009 school year. At that time, **Sara Hiner** was the teacher for the Oak Street school. She met with

two home school parents, **Michelle Bernatsky** and **Susan Amick**, and the program was born.

“Our original goal was to provide a place to get together and do the things that were hard to do as home schoolers,” Hiner says. “You can’t really play kickball with one child and one parent.”

The program grew quickly, from 12-14 students in the first year to 30-40 kids. The three founders focused on a low-cost program that provided a valuable service.

“It was amazing,” Hiner says. “I remember one year I had six students in my regular classroom, but then there would be 45-50 students on Fridays.”

Hiner, who currently teaches grades 1-4 at Capital City Adventist Christian

School in St. Paul, Minnesota, also experienced the program as a parent.

“In my last year in Brainerd, my four-year-old daughter Emily was part of CKF,” she says.

Christal Hernandez is the current teacher at Oak Street. She appreciates what the interaction with CKF brings to her classroom. “It offers a lot of opportunities to our students,” she says. “One CKF parent is a pilot. We toured the local airport and he taught us a lesson on aerodynamics. If you look at our school student body, it is six families. With CKF, there are another 20 families.”

The home schoolers pay \$35 for a day of lessons, and there are eight lessons in a semester. The parents stay at the school and help if

discipline issues arise. Also, the parents go through the Verified Volunteers background check program.

As the outreach has grown, the classes have moved from volunteer teachers to paid teachers. The music class is taught by a certified teacher who retired from the public school system, and an instructor from the YMCA teaches the PE class. Hernandez, who is from Hawaii, teaches the students to play the ukulele. CKF students often take part in Oak Street science fairs or history projects as well.

Hernandez has seen the home school students grow in their interactions with others. “We had one student who didn’t want his mom out of the room, but later he branched out,” she says. “Soon he had more self-confidence and he was spending a half day at our school.”

Hernandez estimates half her current Oak Street students started visiting the school with CKF. The home school program also led to one home school parent being baptized and the family joining the Brainerd Church.

“My favorite thing is the fact that [the program] is still going after all these years,” says Sara Hiner.

John Bedell, former education superintendent for the Minnesota Conference, is now principal at Maplewood Academy.

Students from Christian Kids Fellowship and Oak Street Christian School work on a project together. The students have classes together that include music, STEM, and physical education, as well as field trips and events such as science fairs.

Photos: John Bedell



Fettig Rides Across Wyoming to Raise Awareness

Wyoming is a state where the people are independent, bold and value freedom. They also look out for one another, which is a rare thing in today's society.

It is no surprise then that **Karen Fettig**, a member of the Worland Church and the founder of Beneath Our Wings, felt called by God to take a bold step to raise awareness of human trafficking in Wyoming and beyond.

Fettig believes God is leading her to ride to stop human trafficking. By ride, I mean ride across the state of Wyoming on the back of a donkey/mule, while having her horse trailer wrapped with messages encouraging trafficking victims.

An unusual trek

Fettig's trek started with a Saturday evening potluck and prayer service at the Cody rodeo grounds on June 29. There at the Montana/Wyoming border on June 30, the ride began. Fettig will pass through Cody and Ten Sleep for their 4th of July parades, then head to Casper, Wyoming, for the Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo. She will conclude the ride in mid to late July by raising awareness at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

A place like no other

Fettig's goal is to honor and glorify God and have this ride make a tremendous



impact on human trafficking in Wyoming. She desires to have Wyoming become a place like no other, in that we value all children and victims and facilitate liberty and justice for all.

This is a monumental undertaking and we ask for your prayers and financial support as Fettig rides to free human trafficking slaves and bring greater awareness to this horrific evil taking place in our country and in our state.

Samantha Nelson is a member of the Cody Church in Cody, Wyoming, and co-founder of The Hope of Survivors, a ministry for victims of sexual abuse.

Beneath Our Wings ministry is located in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, and is dedicated to bringing awareness on human trafficking, sexting and other subjects that affect youth and families.

They want to educate girls, especially in rural Wyoming, on the dangers that lie outside of their close-knit group of community protection.

Learn more at www.beneathourwings.com.



Beneath Our Wings is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made online at beneathourwings.com/donate.



Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Adventist Serves Colorado District 54 in House

For Colorado Representative **Matthew Soper**, an Adventist from Delta, Colorado, public service has always been a calling. After winning the election in 2018, he represents District 54 in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Growing up under the tutelage of his parents and great aunts and attending fifth through eighth grade at the Adventist school in Delta, he learned to love God and to have compassion for fellow humans. He also developed a passion for public service. He believes these experiences gave him the foundation to become an effective state legislator.

Soper studied political science at Colorado Mesa University before earning his law degree and a master's degree in public international law from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He went on to earn another master's degree in intellectual property law from the University of New Hampshire.

Soper says he believes that studying law in both the U.K. and the U.S. helped tremendously. "Surprisingly few members have law backgrounds," he explains. "And having a deep knowledge of legal history and law has proven useful in legislating key pieces of criminal justice reform."

Soper explains that because of his Adventist background, he understands the importance of religious liberty

and takes steps to ensure its protection. He blocked an amendment that would allow Sundays to be exempt from bail setting hearings and pushed for an amendment that prevents state agencies from collecting specific religious information on people who have been granted a vaccine exemption based on religious faith.

"Advocating for religious liberty is part of my role," he explains.

Soper also says Denver is not as caught up in partisan politics as other parts of the country. Often, he finds himself debating a colleague on the floor in the morning and then co-presenting a bill in committee with the same colleague that afternoon.

"Getting to know not only your side of the aisle, but the other side [as well] helps to build bridges. A sense of humor also helps," he says. "Politics is about personal relationships, and members can respect each person."

While he doesn't make

Matthew Soper represents District 54 in the Colorado House of Representatives. Soper believes his Adventist background makes him uniquely qualified, especially in areas of religious liberty.

a habit of talking about his religious faith, he does try to schedule political activities outside the Sabbath hours. "That doesn't always happen," he explains, but for him, "attending church is important, as it sets the tone for the coming week and helps me refocus my thoughts as well as spend time with my church family."

He also finds time for God during his 15-minute walk to and from the Capitol. He says he spends that time in prayer.

Soper credits his parents

with his success in Colorado politics, as they have always been encouragers, and they keep him in their prayers. "My parents have been supportive and very proud of my successes in politics," he adds. "They knew from an early age that my life was angling toward a political career."

Carol Bolden assists in communication at the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Photos Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Barbara Goyne's Living Legacy

Family tribute continues retired professor's work to help students succeed

What should you wish for while blowing out the candles on your 90th birthday cake? **Barbara Goyne** had to make that decision at her birthday dinner surrounded by her family this summer. As soon as the candles went out, she got a surprise!

The backstory

Barbara's four adult children know her well. She has been a dedicated teacher all her life, including 12 years as assistant professor of biology at Union College (1976-1988). But even outside the classroom she was always helping people learn.

The seed for this epic birthday gift started decades ago when one of Barbara's children experienced trouble learning in school. Her son couldn't pick up on reading like his siblings, or the other children in his class. Finally, he was tested and the family learned he had dyslexia.

Barbara dove into research and started helping him find ways to learn and succeed despite the diagnosis. She hired experts, tutors and physicians to discover the best way to help her boy.

In her own classroom, Barbara also noticed signs of learning disabilities with some of her students. One by one, she referred them to the Teaching Learning Center on Union's campus. Barbara had



Union College Golden Cords Yearbook

Barbara Goyne took a special interest in helping students with learning disabilities during her time as a science professor at Union College. Now a tribute endowment in honor of her 90th birthday will continue to ensure that Union students get the help they need to succeed.

a passion for helping students succeed. She partnered with the TLC to do supplemental instruction for anatomy and physiology classes and found other ways to assist students who struggled.

A gift that never stops giving

Sitting around the birthday cake, the siblings announced their gift: The Barbara Goyne Tribute Fund for Student

Success, an endowment fund at Union College.

"As soon as we told her, she immediately connected it back to working with my brother and the TLC. She was really pleased," says **Thomas Goyne**, Barbara's son.

Endowment funds are the quintessential gift that keeps on giving—forever! The gifts contributed by each donor are held securely, while a portion of the interest earned each year will be available for

the TLC to use.

Thomas is a professor at Valparaiso University and has witnessed students slip through the cracks without getting the help they need.

"Just from my own experience teaching chemistry, supporting students with disabilities and special needs is one of my passions," he says. "I'm really excited about this wonderful opportunity. Union means a lot to me."

Thomas continues, "The

hope is that it will really make a difference for individual students who for whatever reason need a little extra help, whether it be a learning disability or a mental health issue.” Thomas believes it will give them the boost they need to stay in college and be successful.

How endowment funds help students

Union had an active program helping students succeed long before it was common on school campuses. Throughout the ‘80s and early ‘90s, other schools were touring Union’s TLC to see how they could implement programs of their own.

Today the mission of the TLC has expanded to help any student looking for help—not only those with disabilities. They run several different programs to help incoming students adjust and succeed in college. Counselors assist students with time management, study skills, identifying their learning style, discussing mental health and much more.

One challenge faced by TLC professionals comes into play when they believe a student could benefit from testing for a learning disability. Testing is administered by physicians, and sometimes the cost can be prohibitive.

Debbie Forshee-Sweeney, director of the TLC, has a close-up view of students dealing with learning disabilities and how it affects them. “Nothing is more frustrating than to sit across the table from a student who desperately needs something. I’m

not talking about new shoes. I’m talking about a roadblock—that if it was solved it would make a complete difference in their lives,” she explains. “This endowment is addressing one part of that, which is huge.”

The Goynes family structured this endowment fund to have flexibility to meet the needs of TLC students, even when that means off-campus support services.

Forshee-Sweeney is already seeing the positive effects of their gift. “I am very grateful that when a student comes in and needs services, we now have a financial means to help them do that—which ultimately means they can get the help they need.”

Leaving a legacy

LuAnn Davis, Union College vice president for Advancement, was a student at Union when Barbara was a teacher. “I am excited we get to keep her name alive on this campus and help students succeed,” says Davis.

Endowments have long been an integral part of supporting Union College. “For a long time the most popular endowment our donors made was for student scholarships,” says Davis. “Those are so important, and we definitely still need those. But recently people have broadened their thinking about the impact they want to make. We are seeing more program endowments.”

When setting up or contributing to an endowment, donors can choose an area that resonates with their passion. The ongoing nature

of endowment funds means it gives financial stability and allows the recipient to move forward with long range plans from year to year that better serve students.

“It is a guaranteed source of income every year,” says Davis. “We can count on the funds being there, and it helps us make plans for the future.”

Endowments are for everyone

“Anyone can contribute to existing endowments,” Davis explains. “After the ‘kids’ announced their gift, Barbara and her husband were so impressed they each contributed too!”

Thomas Goynes says he knows how hard it is for students who have a learning disability and don’t come from a wealthy family. “The reason things turned out so well for my brother, who is now a physician with a diverse personal library, is my family had the means to get him the help he needed.”

Thomas says he has seen many students who do need help, but their family can’t afford the thousands of dollars to make it happen.

“Together we can step in and create that support,” he continues. “I hope some of the people who have benefited from the TLC through the years can also contribute to this endowment.”

Carrie Purkeypyle is a Union College graduate and freelance writer based in Sacramento, California.



If you would like to create an endowment to honor someone in your life, contact the Union College Advancement Office at advance@ucollege.edu or 402.486.2503.

Barbara Goynes and her husband, Dr. Robert Goynes, currently live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.



Courtesy Thomas Goynes

Graduates Find Their Paths with Adventist Education

Photos Courtesy AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

Graduation ceremonies at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas, were held on Sunday, May 19. Each of those students received scholarships and will be attending college in the fall.

The education they received helped prepare them for the next steps to come, says **Richard Young**, principal of Midland Adventist Academy. “We are called to help our students influence the world and spread the word of Jesus,” says Young. “Through an Adventist education, they see that the best life is the one lived not for ourselves but in service to others.”

As a community partner with Midland Adventist Academy, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission shares the mission of keeping a positive outlook toward others and helping shape the world around us. AdventHealth’s focus on whole-person health is based on CREATION Health principles. The “O” in CREATION refers to outlook—our view of life and hope for the future.

Two of Midland’s graduating students, **Bomi Kilanko** and **Paige Kreiter**, talked about what that hope for the future means for them. Both plan to pursue careers in the medical field, with Kilanko heading to medical school and Kreiter majoring in nursing.

Bomi Kilanko

Kilanko will be attending the University of Missouri-Kansas



■ Bomi Kilanko (left) and Paige Kreiter

City School of Medicine in a combined baccalaureate/doctor of medicine program that allows students to earn their medical degree in six years.

“I made the decision my junior year to go to medical school,” he says. “I’m passionate about science and I believe a career in medicine will enable me to serve others and give back to my community.”

Kilanko attended Midland from kindergarten through his senior year of high school. “I think what I’ll miss most is the camaraderie and relationships,” he says. “I made a lot of good memories over the past 13 years. I’m grateful for every single one.”

He says the education has

helped strengthen the foundation for his faith. “Having teachers who are great at what they do and intentional about fostering a Christ-centered learning environment made a big difference,” he says.

In addition to his studies, Kilanko held several leadership roles, including class pastor and vice president. He played varsity basketball all four years of high school, and was involved with choir and band, where he played the tenor saxophone.

Paige Kreiter

Kreiter plans to be a pediatric nurse. “I always wanted to be a nurse when I was younger, and I love kids, so I thought it

would be a lot of fun to care for them,” she says.

Kreiter will major in nursing at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Like Kilanko, she has attended Midland since kindergarten. This May, she graduated as the valedictorian of her class.

She says her Adventist education not only prepared her for college, but also helped shape her outlook on life. “It’s helped me to know God better,” she says.

She credits her success in education to the instructors she’s had over the years. “I’ve had great teachers,” she says. “All of them encouraged me when I said I wanted to be a nurse and helped me pursue my dream.”

Kreiter says she will especially remember the close connections she’s made throughout her 13 years at Midland. “It felt like I was at home there,” she says. “It was a place where I felt like I belonged.”

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.



AdventHealth Shawnee Mission congratulates the class of 2019! For more information about our health services, visit AdventHealthKC.com.

Making a Difference in the Amazon

In Peru's most isolated region, the Amazon, people face unique healthcare challenges. Widespread poverty, the remoteness of the area, high cost and long distance of travel, and a shortage of medical workers and supplies have all led to a situation where many people's basic healthcare needs go unmet.

For more than a decade Avista Adventist Hospital, in collaboration with Centura Health's Global Health Initiatives, has devoted its resources and staff to making a difference in the region.

"We accomplish a large part of our work through short-term medical mission trips—providing free surgical and primary care services as well as health education," says **Calvin Smith**, director of Avista's surgical services department. For more than five years Smith has led teams of healthcare providers and administrators to Iquitos, the capital of the Peruvian Amazon.

"I'm extremely proud of all

the work we do and have seen lives change because of our efforts, but one program that stands out is Helping Babies Breathe," says Smith. "This education initiative alone has saved hundreds of lives since it began in 2015."

In villages along the Amazon river, babies are often delivered at home without the supervision of a skilled provider. Helping Babies Breathe is an evidence-based program designed to teach those who attend births how to respond to the early dangers faced by babies in these remote settings.

Using curriculum developed by the World Health Organization, American Academy of Pediatrics and other global health leaders, Avista labor and delivery nurse **Michelle Perkins** teaches simple breathing intervention techniques that help save lives during the golden minute after birth, and it's making a difference.

On a recent visit, a GHI team met baby **Jose** and his mother. Jose was tiny and would still be in the NICU if he was born in the United States. At birth he weighed less than five pounds and had trouble breathing. His mom was frantic with worry—the birth of her daughter two years earlier had been nothing like this.

Thankfully, the attending midwife had Michelle's training and knew to quickly clear Jose's airways so he could breathe on his own, saving his life. Baby Jose's story gives us just a glimpse into the hard work and dedication that's led to an amazing tally of over 700 toddlers, babies and newborns born along the Peruvian Amazon who are given a chance at life through this education program.

Unprecedented dedication

Greg Hodgson is the founder and executive

director of Centura's Global Health Initiatives and says, "The dedication of Centura Health caregivers is unprecedented, but the work they do wouldn't be possible without funding, and that's where we need the community's help."

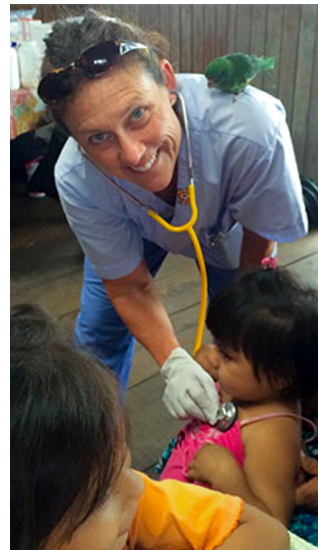
Avista's team will be traveling once again this September, and with them they'll be bringing resources to perform the area's first minimally invasive gynecologic surgeries. You too can aid efforts through donation. Each dollar raised will support programs that deliver health and wellness to the people who need it most.

Kirsten Gurmendi is communication advisor for Centura Health Avista Adventist Hospital.



Search Global Health Initiatives on www.centura.org or Facebook for ways to get involved.

Photos Courtesy Centura Health



Baby Jose waits to be seen by the Centura Health—Global Health Initiatives team (far left).

Labor and delivery nurse Michelle Perkins, RN, from Avista Adventist Hospital checks on one of the children in Peru.

Berreth, Lillian, b. Dec. 4 1924 in Sioux Falls, SD. d. Jan. 4, 2019 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by husband Edward; 3 brothers; 5 sisters. Survivors include sons Edward Jr., Dennis, Kenneth, and Ronald; daughter Leesa Rang; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren.

Berthelsen, Jeraldine L. (Swim), b. Sept. 12, 1934. d. May 17, 2019. Member of College View (NE) Church. Survivors include husband Owen; sons Kelly, Steven and Gary; daughters Kara Buck and Monique Saunders; 17 grandchildren.

Burrows, Nellie Ruth, b. July 26, 1935 in Ottawa County, OK. d. March 31, 2019 in Joplin, MO. Member of Galena (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Floyd; son Steve; daughter Marsia Neely; 1 brother; 2 sisters; 1 grandchild. Survivors include son Kip; daughters Julie Lane and Shelley Hartin; 1 brother; 11 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Dubois, Louise, b. Aug. 2, 1943 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. d. May 7, 2019 in Argyle, SD. Member of Custer (SD) Church.

Forbes, Myrna Lorraine (Banta), b. July 30, 1937 in Riverton, WY. d. April 27, 2019 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include husband Frank; sons Brian and Bruce; daughter Brenda Dickerson; 2 grandchildren; 2 brothers.

Griess, Maybell "May" Jean Beaty, b. June 17, 1931 in Bowdle, SD. d. March

29, 2019 in Aberdeen, SD. Member of Aberdeen Church. Preceded in death by husband Raymond; 3 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include children Randall Beaty, Daniel Beaty, Cheryl Smith, Catherine Griffith Beaty, Joyce Crabtree, Bruce Beaty, Patricia Gadberry, and Roger Beaty; 1 sister; 17 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

Jantzen, Patricia Rowland, b. July 15, 1929. d. Nov. 28, 2018. Member of Hutchinson (MN) Church. Preceded in death by husband Roy. Survivors include daughter Rachel Massey; 2 grandsons.

Johnson, Lloyd, b. Sept. 28, 1931 in Bowdle, SD. d. May 11, 2019 in Pierre, SD. Member of Pierre Church. Preceded in death by wife Gayle. Survivors include children Craig, Marlin, and Rhonda Goransson; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren.

Markstrom, Norma, b. May 26, 1931. d. April 22, 2019 in Grand Junction, CO. Survivors include daughters Deborah Pessin and Brenda Hart; 6 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Opp, Albert "Tom," b. May 31, 1930 in Livona, ND. d. Jan. 23, 2019 in Grand Forks, ND. Member of Grand Forks Church. Survivors include wife Helen; children Greg, Debbie, David, Dean, Gary, and Rod; 9 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Quance, Arthur C., b. Nov. 11, 1925 in Staples, MN. d. May 7, 2019 in Loveland, CO. Member of Tolstoy (SD) Church. Preceded in death by son Derek; 3 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Carol; daughter Debbi Luke; 3 grandchildren.

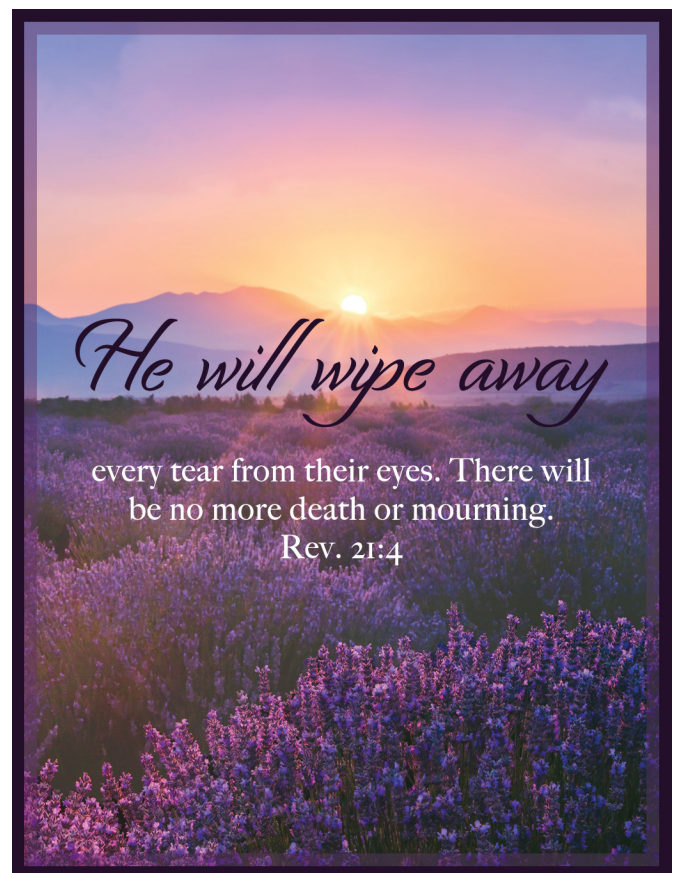
Russell, Charles A., b. May 30, 1931 in Hewitt, MN. d. Dec. 24, 2018 in Brainerd, MN. Survivors include wife Marjorie; sons Charles and Donald; 1 brother; 3 sisters; 1 granddaughter; 1 great-granddaughter.

Schack, Jerald "Jerry," b. Oct. 2, 1937 in Aberdeen, SD. d. May 18, 2019 in Tolstoy, SD. Member of Bowdle (SD) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Cindy Lou. Survivors include sons Rhett and Flynt; daughter Shawn Johnson; 1 brother; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren.

Schack, Shirlee (Ericson), b. June 8, 1944 in Big Springs, SD. d. May 18, 2019 in

Tolstoy, SD. Member of Bowdle (SD) Church. Survivors include daughters Melanie Decker and Michelle Rosen; 4 grandchildren.

Voegele, Wayne Willard, b. March 1, 1931 in Tolstoy, SD. d. March 31, 2019 in Wichita, KS. Survivors include wife Darlena; children Janna Chacko, Julie Damschroeder, and Stanford; 1 sister; 7 grandchildren.



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JULY 2019

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
	Denver	8:31	8:29	8:24	8:19
	Grand Junction	8:43	8:41	8:37	8:32
	Pueblo	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:14
	IOWA				
	Davenport	8:39	8:37	8:32	8:26
	Des Moines	8:52	8:49	8:44	8:39
	Sioux City	9:06	9:03	8:58	8:52
	KANSAS				
	Dodge City	9:05	9:02	8:59	8:54
	Goodland	8:17	8:14	8:10	8:05
	Topeka	8:52	8:49	8:45	8:40
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	9:05	9:01	8:56	8:48	
International Falls	9:18	9:14	9:08	9:00	
Minneapolis	9:02	8:59	8:54	8:47	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:26	
Kansas City	8:47	8:45	8:41	8:36	
St. Louis	8:29	8:26	8:23	8:17	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	9:01	8:59	8:54	8:49	
North Platte	9:19	9:16	9:12	9:06	
Scottsbluff	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:19	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	9:40	9:36	9:30	9:23	
Fargo	9:24	9:20	9:15	9:07	
Williston	9:57	9:53	9:47	9:39	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	9:28	9:25	9:20	9:13	
Rapid City	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:24	
Sioux Falls	9:11	9:08	9:03	8:56	
WYOMING					
Casper	8:47	8:44	8:39	8:33	
Cheyenne	8:35	8:32	8:28	8:22	
Sheridan	8:56	8:53	8:48	8:41	

AUGUST 2019

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
	Denver	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:34
	Grand Junction	8:25	8:17	8:08	7:58	7:48
	Pueblo	8:07	8:00	7:51	7:42	7:31
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:19	8:10	8:01	7:50	7:39
	Des Moines	8:31	8:23	8:13	8:02	7:51
	Sioux City	8:44	8:36	8:26	8:15	8:03
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	8:48	8:40	8:32	8:22	8:12
	Goodland	7:58	7:50	7:41	7:31	7:21
	Topeka	8:33	8:25	8:17	8:07	7:57
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	8:39	8:29	8:17	8:05	7:52	
International Falls	8:50	8:39	8:27	8:14	8:00	
Minneapolis	8:38	8:29	8:18	8:06	7:54	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:19	8:11	8:03	7:53	7:43	
Kansas City	8:29	8:21	8:12	8:02	7:52	
St. Louis	8:11	8:03	7:54	7:45	7:34	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	8:41	8:33	8:24	8:13	8:02	
North Platte	8:59	8:50	8:41	8:30	8:19	
Scottsbluff	8:12	8:03	7:53	7:43	7:32	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:14	9:03	8:52	8:40	8:27	
Fargo	8:58	8:48	8:36	8:24	8:11	
Williston	9:29	9:18	9:06	8:54	8:40	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:05	8:56	8:45	8:34	8:21	
Rapid City	8:16	8:06	7:56	7:45	7:33	
Sioux Falls	8:48	8:39	8:29	8:18	8:06	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:25	8:16	8:06	7:55	7:43	
Cheyenne	8:15	8:06	7:57	7:46	7:35	
Sheridan	8:33	8:23	8:12	8:01	7:49	

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Southern Adventist University seeks to fill a faculty position in the School of Journalism and Communication. Candidate will bring his or her creativity, energy and academic and professional excellence to the SJC. For a complete list of responsibilities, requirements and qualifications visit www.southern.edu/jobs.

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degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, rick.young@ucollege.edu.

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

TRAVEL

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EVENTS

Fourth Annual Rochester GYR: The Rochester Church in Rochester, Minnesota, will be conducting its fourth annual General Youth Retreat (GYR) July 12-13. Guest Speaker: Adam Ramdin, Youth Director of the North England Conference, UK. Guest Musicians: One Voice Quartet. No registration fee required. Two Sabbath meals will be provided. All ages are welcome. Contact us at 315.560.4122, Rochester-GYR.com, or Facebook.com/RochesterGYR.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Oct. 11 and 12, 2019. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. 2019 honor classes are: 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, IA. Plan

to attend. For more information: Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368 or email: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Plainview Adventist Academy/Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4-5, 2019 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '80, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, '15. Call 701.751.6177 x210 or visit www.dakotaadventistacademy.org for more information.

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SOME THINGS TO WATCH FOR

Daily album of photos from MAUC Pathfinder groups Aug. 13-17

Unique stories and testimonies from Pathfinder groups around the Mid-America Union

Mid-America Union Parade Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2:40 pm

Mid-America Union Baptism Friday, Aug. 16, 5:30 pm

Mid-America Flag Raising Sabbath, Aug. 17, 7 am

Master Guide Investiture Sabbath morning, Aug. 17



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