

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

OUTLOOKMAG.ORG

CREATING
HEALTHY CHURCH
COMMUNITY P. 8

GROWING
YOUNG
BIG CHALLENGES
AND BIGGER
OPPORTUNITIES



JAN 2020



PERSPECTIVES

4 WHO'S PUSHING YOUR SWING?
Gary Thurber

5 CREATING REALITY THROUGH COMMUNICATION
Seth Pierce

FEATURES

6 BIG CHALLENGES AND BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES

8 FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

NEWS

- 10 MID-AMERICA UNION**
- 12 CENTRAL STATES**
- 14 DAKOTA**
- 16 IOWA-MISSOURI**
- 18 KANSAS-NEBRASKA**
- 20 MINNESOTA**
- 22 ROCKY MOUNTAIN**
- 24 UNION COLLEGE**
- 26 ADVENTHEALTH**
- 29 FAREWELL**
- 30 INFOMARKET**

OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) January 2020, Volume 41, Number 1. OUTLOOK is published monthly (10 months per year) by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. Printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE and additional offices. USPS number 006-245. **Postmaster: Send all undeliverables to CFE.** Free for Mid-America church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. **CONTACT us by email: info@maucsa.org or phone: 402.484.3000.**



“You have to come to the point where you love your young people more than you love your traditions.” —p. 6





Justice Council Focuses on Connecting with Those Marginalized
bit.ly/2LjVsDk



AdventHealth Votes New Board Chair
bit.ly/3825J0z



2019 NAD Year End Meetings Report
bit.ly/34NTXEO

ABIDE. COMMUNE. REFRESH.

Our theme for 2020 is Abide With Me. How blessed we are that Jesus Christ has bridged the gap between heaven and earth and invited us into community with Himself! Furthermore, we are honored that our fellowship with others is an extension—and strengthening—of that bridge. Indeed, experiencing community with one another embodies for us the experience of being in fellowship (abiding) with God.

This year, we want to explore the concept of abiding and learn more about the importance of communication and the value of presence in creating community through fellowship—talking, eating, praying, playing, crying, laughing, together—as we journey through this life with each other and with Christ.

“We have the companionship of the divine presence, and as we realize this presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Jesus Christ ... He is the source of spiritual power implanted within us, and His influence will flow forth in words and actions, refreshing all within the sphere of our influence.”

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers 388, 390



BRENDA DICKERSON
 editor



ON THE COVER

Jordi Obregon, from Wichita, Kansas, is a theology student at Union College who helped lead worship music at the Growing Young event in Kansas City.

More on p. 6

Photo by Timothy Floyd

MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE

President

Gary Thurber

Secretary

Gil F. Webb

Treasurer

Troy Peoples

Church Ministries

Roger Wade

Communication

Brenda Dickerson

Education

LouAnn Howard

Hispanic Ministries

Roberto Correa

Human Resources

Raylene Jones

Ministerial

Mic Thurber

Religious Liberty

Darrel Huenergardt

Women's Ministries

Nancy Buxton

midamericaadventist.org

OUTLOOK STAFF

Editor:

Brenda Dickerson

Designer/Managing Editor:

Brennan Hallock

Digital Media Manager:

Hugh Davis

outlookmag.org

CONFERENCE NEWS EDITORS

Central States

Brittany Winkfield

communications@central-states.org

central-states.org

913.371.1071

central-states.org

Dakota

Jacquie Biloff

jbiloff@icloud.com

701.751.6177

dakotaadventist.org

Iowa-Missouri

Randy Harmdierks

rharmdierks@imsda.org

515.223.1197

imsda.org

Kansas-Nebraska

Stephanie Gottfried

sgottfried@ks-ne.org

785.478.4726

ks-ne.org

Minnesota

Savannah Carlson

scarlson@mnsda.com

763.424.8923

mnsda.com

Rocky Mountain

Rajmund Dabrowski

rayd@rmcsda.org

303.733.3771

rmcsda.org

UNION COLLEGE

Ryan Teller

ryteller@ucollege.edu

402.486.2538

ucollege.edu



our swing, we won't ever have that calm assurance and peace that comes from knowing Jesus is with us and will take care of us on this swing called life.

Jesus used the word picture of a shepherd and his sheep to illustrate this truth. He said: "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers" (John 10:2-5 NASB).

So, as this new year begins, I invite you to turn off all the noisemakers modern life affords us—TVs, cell phones, iPads, tablets and any other thieves of our time and attention—so you can spend quiet time abiding in Christ.

Doing this will give you the assurance to be fearless no matter the size of challenges life brings ... because you will know the Good Shepherd is the One pushing your swing. **O**

GARY THURBER

is president of the
Mid-America Union.



Who's Pushing Your Swing?

By Gary Thurber

Iwant to begin by thanking communication director Brenda Dickerson and her team for praying over and creating our theme for the

2020 issues of OUTLOOK magazine. Abiding both in Christ and with one another is truly one of the great needs we have as a church. It is amazing that even though we might seem more connected than ever through our use of cell phones and social media, loneliness and isolation appear to be on the rise.

I frequently watch people in airports, restaurants, buses, and yes even in church, glued to their cell phones while making no effort to be "present" with the people around them. And if we are

doing this to one another, it is possible as well to not abide, or be "present," with our Savior.

"Higher, Daddy!"

When our oldest son Ryan was around three years of age, he was a maniac on the swings. No matter how high I pushed him, he wanted to go even higher.

One day a gracious church family invited us over for a meal. They lived on a farm and had made a huge swing from the towering arms of an oak tree in their yard. As soon as Ryan spotted the swing, he made a run for it. Our friends were excited to see Ryan in the homemade tire seat swing, and immediately began pushing him.

To my surprise, he didn't want them to push him high at all. This just wasn't like him. True, with this enormous swing he would go

higher than he had ever been before—but that is what he liked to do.

I walked over to the swing and asked, "Ryan, don't you want to go high?" He looked at me and said, "Daddy, would you push me?" Of course I agreed, and then, at every pendulum of the swing he yelled, "Higher, Daddy!"

What made the difference? I believe it was the simple fact that Ryan knew me and not the other gentleman. He knew I loved him and would let no harm come to him. He knew his dad would take care of him and therefore could return to his fearless self and enjoy the ride.

Knowing the Shepherd

This begs the question, *Who is pushing your swing?* It is an important question because ultimately, if we don't know and trust the one pushing

CREATING REALITY By Seth Pierce

THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Most of us have experienced a bad day at school. And, for many of us, a patient person listened to our tale of woe, nodding with a kind of knowing and yet condescending sympathy.

Several years ago, however, a middle schooler from Mexico had a bad day that two nations and countless social media users understood.

On April 16, 2015, a middle school girl named Alondra Luna Nuñez was forcibly taken from her school in Mexico and delivered to a woman she did not know in Texas. Dorotea García had visited Alondra's home state of Guanajuato earlier in March. While there she identified Alondra as her missing daughter who had been taken illegally to Mexico eight years prior. Despite protests and presenting official papers, Alondra was still swept away to live with a stranger in another land.

Thankfully, video of the incident began circulating, as well as a video from Alon-

dra calmly giving updates on her situation. The online outcry managed to grab the attention of officials who conducted a DNA test. Their conclusion? Dorotea García was not Alondra's mother, and Alondra was quickly taken back to her family. This international debacle resulted in traumatic experiences for the Nuñez family—all because someone misnamed someone else.

In the mid-1960s, sociologists Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckman made the observation that "Reality is socially constructed."¹ By reality they don't mean things like gravity, but things like how you know to sit (not stand) on a chair, wear your swimming suit to the beach and not to the bakery, and how not to pick your nose ... at least in public. The fabric of society, according to Berger and Luckman, is that "The common objectifications of everyday life are maintained primarily by linguistic signification" (p. 37). This means our abstract ideas of love, hope, faith and justice are actualized by the way we communicate with each other.

The amazing power of words

This idea, known as "social constructivism," has some biblical foundation. One of the most powerful texts on what it means to be human occurs shortly after Adam receives the breath of life. "Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name (Gen 2:19, ESV). This isn't just a setup for cutesy discussions with kids on the fun of naming the animals; this is God giving humanity the gift of communication to describe the physical reality He has just created.

Numerous passages throughout Scripture promote the power of this gift. Prov. 25:11-13 notes how finding the right words is equivalent to a jeweler placing gold and silver in their proper settings. James indicates we can burn the world down with careless communication (James 3:6). Jesus suggests that the words we choose to deploy will play a role in the judgment

(Matt. 12:37); and Ellen White suggests that speech "is to be carefully studied and carefully guarded. This is the most important branch of education, but one which is sadly neglected in all our associations. The power to communicate to our associates may be a great blessing or a great curse."²

Our reality is shaped by how we communicate to others, or ourselves. We use words to inflict pain or heal it. Communication can normalize hate, inspire acts of justice, and unmask abuses of power. Because it is ubiquitous, we often take for granted that the content and form of communication is fine.

However, the political and theological tribalism experienced by those in our communities testifies to the fact that our communication is sick and in need of healing.

A way to start is to take a moment to reflect on the tone and content of what we say and put online and then ask *What kind of reality—or community—are we creating?* 0

1. *The Social Construct of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge* (NY: Anchor, 1967), 1.

2. Manuscript 77, 1897.



DR. SETH PIERCE

is a popular author and speaker who pastored for 16 years before entering academia as assistant communication professor at Union College.

BIG CHALLENGES AND BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES

for Strengthening Local Church Culture

By Timothy Floyd

Leadership guru Max De Pree once said, “the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.”¹ We have to know what we are up against before we can make plans for action. In an attempt to define our present reality in the church, let’s talk honestly for a few lines.

DEFINING REALITY

In 1965, the Seventh-day Adventist Church began studying the issue of why people leave the church. Since that study began, there have been over 37 million Seventh-day Adventist members worldwide.

However, over 15 million of them have left the church in that time.²

When asked why they left the church, the majority of the responses did not necessarily indicate a lack of belief or specific theological disagreement; rather their reasons pointed toward a relationship breakdown evident in a variety of behaviors, actions or perceptions.

Additionally, over 63 percent of those who have left the church were young adults when they left. That means that in every generation (at least since we started studying this in 1965), there has been a mass exodus due to a relational breakdown in the late teen and young adult age. As a church, we have not been supporting our younger generations well enough, so they leave.

This is unacceptable. We now have over 55 years’ worth of data indicating that

the younger generations are leaving in startling numbers, and we have invested a lot of resources understanding the reasons why they have left. We have mountains of research on this single issue within Adventism, and yet we have seen no change in the problem.

This is the reality we face. The question is, what are we going to do about it? Will we continue business as usual, or invest in changing the culture that causes these losses?

GROWING YOUNG

Beginning in 2016, a small group of Adventist pastors, teachers, conference and union leaders began studying the book *Growing Young* by Kara Powell in an effort to find a solution for our own challenges.³ Kara’s team had been looking at the same issue as the Adventist Church’s Nurture and Retention study, except within Christianity as a whole. They decided to stop focusing on the problem, and start looking at what they call “Bright Spots” in ministry. These are congregations that are effectively loving and serving young people already.

These congregations are engaging young people ages 15-29, and are growing



Photos Courtesy/ Timothy Floyd

spiritually, emotionally, missionally and sometimes also numerically. The researchers identified six “core commitments” present in every one of the churches studied:

1. **Unlock keychain leadership.**

Instead of centralizing authority, empower others, especially young people.

2. **Empathize with today’s young people.**

Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

3. **Take Jesus’ message seriously.**

Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

4. **Fuel a warm community.**

Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships.

5. **Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere.**

Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve all of them in all facets of your congregation.

6. **Be the best neighbors.**

Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.⁴

Twelve others and myself joined a cohort for the purpose of becoming certified trainers and speakers for the NAD in Growing Young Adventists.⁵ Once we became certified trainers and speakers, our job was to become a mentor and resource coordinator to local pastors and

their churches who wanted to improve their generational bonds.

Church culture change takes intentionality and a lot of hard work, but change is possible, and the two congregations who have embraced the journey so far have already begun to see fruit from their labors!

Additionally, Growing Young Adventist Summits were held in November 2018 in Kansas City and in October 2019 in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. These Growing Young Adventist Summits were a learning journey for local churches and leaders from across the Mid-America Union where leaders gathered to learn practical skills to improve intergenerational ministry in their local churches. Attendees learned practical ways of helping to build faith communities that will not only survive, but thrive in the years ahead.

Through the leadership of MAUC Church Ministries director Roger Wade, we are giving congregations practical knowledge and skills to help make change possible. We endeavor to not only stop younger generations from leaving the church, but to make local churches in the Mid-America Union places where every member can flourish and have a tremendous impact on the world around them.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

One of the most powerful takeaways I gained from the Barna collaboration in 2013 was a statement author and researcher David Kinnaman made to the North American Division leadership: “You have to come to the point where you love your young people more than your traditions.”⁶ Until we are willing to make our young

people a priority (with time, energy, budgets and authority) we will not change. Our churches will continue to decline, and within 15-20 years, we will be a shadow of what we once were.

Or, we could take the steps to change our church culture now and salvage what remains. When we put the teachings of Jesus (not traditions) at the center of our church culture, we begin to empathize with all members. This drives a warmer community, where we prioritize our young people, and we mentor them in leadership opportunities. As a result of that we become better neighbors to our communities, and we grow ... but we are Growing Young. **0**

Timothy Floyd is youth and young adult director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

1. De Pree, Max. *Leadership Is an Art*. New York: Currency, 2004.
2. Trim, David. *Nature & Retention*. General Conference Annual Council 2017: Adventist Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, 2017.
3. Powell, Kara Eckmann. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016. 19.
4. *Growing Young*, page 43.
5. For more information on Growing Young Adventists, please visit www.growingyoungadventists.org.
6. Barna Group. *Seventh-day Adventist Church Young Adult Study*. Silver Spring, MD: Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2013.

Pastors Tim Floyd (opposite page) and Guadalupe Montour conduct GYA training at the New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas.



Hear more from this author by listening to OUTLOOK’s podcast at outlookmag.org/tag/podcast.



Learn how your church can start Growing Young by contacting Mid-America Union Church Ministries director Roger Wade: roger.wade@maucsd.org or 402.484.3009.

GROWING YOUNG ADVENTISTS



Faith and Fellowship

What's the best way to create a healthy church community?

By Rachel Ashworth

Many Christians grow up in the same church from childhood to maturity and beyond.

Having a “home church” can be great for a child, offering a place to return to as an adult and a place to call home when school, work, or their own family is unfriendly and maybe even ungodly.

As a young adult of 33 years I've had the great opportunity to land my church membership in many congregations both small and large—all of which have been different. What I've noticed, looking back, is that those churches that fellowshiped together are the ones that had the most impact on me spiritually, socially and interpersonally.

This makes sense to me because our relationship with others models a relationship

with Christ and is a direct result of God's need for relationships among us. We were created for this purpose! Fellowshiping together and with God is very important for Christians. It was for the new-church apostles (Acts 2:42), and it remains so in God's church today.

Fellowship defined

Modern churches tend to define fellowship in one way: whatever happens in the fellowship hall! Potlucks, baby showers, wedding receptions, mid-week prayer meetings, and youth groups. So if your church doesn't have a fellowship hall, does fellowship happen?

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines fellowship as many things, including companionship, company, and community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience.

Based on these definitions, are our churches truly fellowshiping together? Are we keeping companionable

company with others in our church? Are they our friends? Do we share interests, activities, feelings and experiences—or do we hide our true interests, our past, our feelings? Are we maintaining equality in our fellowship? It seems fellowship is more complicated than planning a potluck.

Everyone's a friend

When we arrived in Casper, Wyoming, in the summer of 2013, my husband and I were utterly alone. We were broke, we had no friends, and we had never been to a church with more than 10 pews. We were spiritually floundering when we made the 1,200-mile drive, and God knew exactly what we needed when we arrived.

Within a few days of our first Sabbath at the Casper Adventist Church, I was invited to meet with another mom at a local park for an afternoon picnic. When I arrived she was there early with about 10 other people, all

with a potluck style picnic in mind. I made my first friends that day and our time living there was filled with events just like it. Some things were planned weeks in advance like Wyoming Winter Retreat and the annual barbecue and hayride at Mills Spring Ranch. Other things, like sledding parties and game nights, were thrown together on a Sabbath afternoon. You never knew what to expect or who would be attending, but it was always a great time and always rooted in friendly fellowship.

We moved away from Casper about three years later, but a friend tells me their annual events are still going strong. Some programs have gone by the wayside and new ones have begun and grown into something beautiful, forging bonds between members, reaching out to the community, and even forming mentorships among generations. The youth are mentored through boys and girls



groups headed up by men and women in the congregation. These groups meet every few weeks for an activity or event.

The congregation also moves house to house for vespers each week. My friend Jesse calls this the most community-building event the church does because it allows members to open their homes to others, and those in attendance can bring any videos, studies or books they wish to discuss. It is an open format of sharing, learning and fellowship—and, of course, food.

Family fellowship

Is Casper Church's recipe book of fellowship activities a one-size-fits-all solution for your church's challenges? No. As Jesse says, the people and how they make you feel will determine the spiritual impact of the fellowship.

Some churches will break into families or factions, leaving outsiders to fend for themselves. This can be a problem in all sizes of congregations. Even our largest college and university churches have difficulty facilitating fellowship on a person-to-person level, despite having ample money for planning events. People can feel like they have no place at all, and if they don't find community in a smaller group, they may never experience the type of spiritual growth biblical fellowship can create.

A small, tight-knit congregation is not without its issues either. My home church in Sikeston, Missouri, tries in vain to plan fellowship activities that make an impact on its members. The challenge is that the majority of the attending members are family—immediate or

extended. Since we already spend time together, we often don't go the extra mile to spend time in focused fellowship with other members.

However, I believe it's my responsibility to include others in focused fellowship. Some ways I do that are inviting someone from church to a family birthday party and befriending the "new" person at church. There can be a lot of planning or a level of spontaneity that pulls off the usual layers of apprehension.

L-O-V-E

The more you invite others into your home, the less you will care that the furniture isn't dusted or the floor isn't mopped. When it comes to biblical fellowship, L-O-V-E is the trend. It's not the hottest coffee shop, the newest Bible study guide, or a themed

potluck. Just eating with other people creates bonds and helps us understand each other.

A small church means little money, so expensive events are out of the question. What we have tried to do is create experiences that will reach the needs of our own congregation while also serving the community. In our small church, this seems to work.

In simple terms, fellowship is showing love to one another, growing closer to God, and learning to love the way He loves.

If you're unsure how to move forward with fellowship in your church, big or small, look at how you love your closest friends and family and ask yourself how you can replicate that with other church and community members. **O**

Rachel Ashworth is a member of the Peace Point Chapel in Sikeston, Missouri, and a blogger for OUTLOOK magazine.



Hear more from this author by listening to OUTLOOK's podcast at outlookmag.org/tag/podcast.

Photos Courtesy Rachel Ashworth



Deeper Fellowship

What if church was full of first responders?

"The nitty-gritty of fellowship—that's the overarching thing all of us who show up to church are trying to do. And it's hard. We are largely untrained in how to interact with people outside idyllic circumstances. When something goes wrong at church, it feels like a medical emergency where the people with the knowledge and skills rush in to help while those of us who would likely make things worse keep our distance. I've witnessed this at church with the lady who comes and cries in the pew. Unfortunately, there seems to be very few people who know how to help. We need skills that give us the ability to move *toward* people who are hurting, rather than *away*."

For more on this topic, read Kendra Carlson's blog: outlookmag.org/is-church-a-hospital

Biloff Receives Communication Award



Hugh Davis

The Mid-America Union Communication Department presented its first Excellence in Communication Ministry award during the MAUC Year-end Executive Committee meeting last November. This award will be given annually to an individual in the territory based on

Jacque Biloff, communication director for Dakota Conference, was honored for her dedication and years of service to the Adventist Church in Mid-America.

their dedication to fulfilling the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and their creativity, collaboration, and innovation in addressing communication challenges.

The first award was presented to Dakota Conference communication director **Jacque Biloff**.

When Biloff was hired in 2009 she was surprised to find that the Adventist Church as a whole—and Dakota

Conference in particular—has kept *financial* rather than *personal* records of churches, members, baptisms, pastors and teachers. While searching for some of that history, she was amazed to find Adventist cemeteries in the Dakotas. These she recorded, and set up means for their signage and protection.

Biloff realizes that the fortitude and faithfulness of the aging population has contributed much to the Dakotas. To acknowledge and remember those passing each year, she started the *Hall of Remembrance* feature during camp meeting—a slide show set to music featuring a person's photo, date and place of birth and death, and home church.

In addition, Biloff launched the Dirt Kicker Charity Run as a communication outreach

initiative to bring the community to a familiarization of Adventism, while at the same time donating funds to a local charity. It is now a national run and considered one of the top 10 in the state of North Dakota.

Employment in the communication department has allowed her the flexibility to travel with her husband, Dakota Conference president **Neil Biloff**, and meet wonderful people and hear and share their stories. She says that serving in this role has stretched, humbled and challenged her, for which she is grateful.

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

Summit Examines Biblical Foundations of Worship

Over 60 attendees gathered at the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2019 for the second Response Worship Summit, focusing on the

book of Psalms as a means of inspiring and informing gospel-founded, biblically rich worship experiences. The three-day event included a variety of international presenters, biblical preaching, discussion for equipping local worship leaders, and time for worship experiences.

The Adventist-initiated event, geared toward pastors, elders, worship leaders and members who want to focus more on worship, was sponsored by the College View Church, *AdventSource*,

the Kansas-Nebraska Conference and the North American Division.

In between presentations, attendees were encouraged to participate in singing and reading from the Scriptures. There was also time for small group discussion around the tables and attendees were invited to write a prayer to God and to write prayer requests on slips of paper throughout the event to be pinned to the prayer wall near the entrance to the gathering room.

Seminar topics included the use of various genres of music in worship, art and drama in worship, planning liturgy, creative hymnody, and how to prepare a praise ensemble.

Plans for next year's worship summit are already underway, and will draw inspiration from worship themes in the book of Revelation.

Brenda Dickerson



responsesummit.org

Mid-America Joins ADRA in Promoting Education

A Mid-America Union education leader was part of a North American Division assessment team who recently traveled to Malawi to evaluate the educational needs at ADRA-sponsored schools. The schools are located in one of the poorest areas of one of the least developed nations in Africa. The United States Agency for International Development reports 37 percent of young children in Malawi are chronically malnourished.

“The needs of the educational system in Malawi are significant,” said **Gerard Ban**, associate director of

education for the Mid-America Union, who was part of the assessment team. “There is a severe lack of resources, teachers and buildings. The class sizes are very large—in some classes there are over 120 students. Some students lack necessities like textbooks, paper and pencils, and many classes meet outside under trees with nothing but a small blackboard.”

Ban noted that although the best path forward for Malawi is through education, currently many children—especially girls—don’t complete basic schooling.

ADRA is currently feeding 50,000 children at 186

schools in five nations across southern Africa, according to **Janelle Walikonis** who oversees ADRA’s school feeding initiative. “The feeding programs are important not only because the children need the food, but because food helps keep kids in school and to perform

well academically,” stated Walikonis. “We are looking forward to exploring a partnership with the NAD education ministry to improve the quality of education, and thereby further nourish the dreams of the students.”

Gerard Ban participated in the evaluation process for strengthening the educational system in Malawi.



Courtesy Gerard Ban

Speak Transitions to Gulf States

Gwen Speak, associate treasurer of the Mid-America Union Conference for the past four years, has accepted the invitation of the Gulf States Conference to serve as their treasurer. Speak began her new responsibilities on Dec. 1, 2019.

Speak graduated from Union College twice—the first time with a teaching certificate which she used for four years, the second time with a degree in accounting. After her second graduation, she worked for the General Conference Auditing Service for five years before

accepting the associate treasurer position in the Dakota Conference. She gained 10 years of experience there before coming to MAUC as associate treasurer.

In addition to bearing responsibility for the day-to-day treasury work at Mid-America, Speak was also the MAUC point person for AASI.net and APS.net (the NAD accounting software used throughout most of the division). In that role she not only was the go-to person to troubleshoot issues at the local conference, but also the liaison between conferences

and the division in dealing with software problems.

“It was extremely helpful to me to have someone of her caliber and knowledge on the treasury team,” said **Troy Peoples**, MAUC vice president for finance. “Not only does she understand the accounting very well, using her skills she learned as a teacher she could communicate that to the field in ways that were understandable. It will be very difficult to find someone with her skill set to fill the role she has left. However, Gulf States will be in good hands as she takes

up her new role as treasurer for that conference.”

Speak said she has enjoyed her time in the Midwest territory. “While I look forward to a new chapter in my life, I will miss everyone in Mid-America,” she stated.



Pablo Collindres Moreno

Mission Trip Gives Relief, Funds to Support Efforts in Northern Bahamas Conference

Spangled between the depths of the North Atlantic and Florida's eastern coast, the Bahamas comprises more than 700 stunning subtropical islands and 2,400 cays, most uninhabited, and all fringed by spectacular coral and fathomless ocean trenches. Each year, millions visit the beautiful shores of Nassau, Freeport, Abaco, Exuma, Eleuthera, Bimini, Andros and other popular locations in the Bahamas to experience some of the

clearest ocean waters, most beautiful beaches, duty-free shops, delicious native dishes, fishing and scuba diving excursions, and luxurious accommodations.

However, like all Eastern Caribbean islands, the Bahamas are vulnerable to hurricanes. Grand Bahama and Abaco are two of the popular islands that were affected by the damaging winds of Hurricane Dorian in September 2019.

It has been reported that

the effects of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas were among the worst experienced for any natural disaster in the country. Hurricane Dorian struck the Abaco Islands as a category 5 hurricane on Sept. 1, and a day later hit Grand Bahama Island at the same category.

If that wasn't bad enough, the hurricane stalled over Grand Bahama for another day, finally pulling away from the island on Sept. 3. Damage was estimated at over \$3.4 billion, and there were at least 65 deaths in the country. Another 282 people were missing after the hurricane.

Compelled to help

Like many, I sat in my home and watched the violent storm. I began receiving text videos from relatives who live in the Bahamas showing people fleeing to

higher ground. In these videos, people prayed for God to have mercy. I heard parents and children cry out for help. Homes were flooded and buildings collapsed. When I saw the bodies of the dead, I knew I had to do something to help my people in the Bahamas.

A \$10,000 mission

After much prayer and talking with my wife and a trusted friend, I formulated a plan for the Central States Conference to raise \$10,000 to help those in the Bahamas who were affected. We exceeded that goal, and for that I want to thank the pastors and members of the Central States Conference as well as those in the Mid-America Union.

My next plan was to deliver the \$10,000 to the North Bahamas Conference located on the island of Freeport, Grand Bahama. I knew traveling to that island would be challenging due to the airport being destroyed. Nevertheless, we serve a God who always provides and opens doors.

Pastor Roger Wade (Mid-America Union Church Ministries director), **Pastor Prince Lewis** (Southeastern Conference youth director) and I came up with a plan to do a mission trip. We prayed, we organized, and we solicited volunteers to join us on a seven-day mission trip. On Sunday, Oct. 27, a total of 20 missionary volunteers set sail

A seven-day mission trip was organized to Freeport, Grand Bahama, after Hurricane Dorian ravaged the islands. Twenty missionary volunteers traveled to the Bahamas, volunteered at the Adventist Community Services Center, and delivered a \$10,000 check to the North Bahamas Conference.

Photos Courtesy Central States Conference



Farewell from Kory Douglas

Courtesy Kory Douglas



I praise God for the Central States Conference who took a shot on me years ago. From the moment I set foot in the territory, I have been shown nothing but love.

Thank you to my administrators for allowing me to be me, for supporting my ideas and for giving me the mentorship that allowed me to grow. Thank you to my fellow pastors for the camaraderie, laughs and even difficult talks. Thank you to my youth and young adults for the great moments, for helping me grow and for forcing me to push the envelope each year. I believe there is nowhere in the Adventist Church like Central States—where we are truly family.

I also want to thank the Mid-America Union Conference for their support. Not only was I supported as a pastor, but also in my role as youth director. I want to especially thank **Elder Gil Webb** for the words of wisdom and **Elder Roger Wade**, who in a short time was a great resource and support for youth ministry. To all of my fellow youth directors, I will miss working with you, but I am confident you will do great things together.

This is a bittersweet moment,

as my family loves and will miss our CSC and MAUC family. But we look forward to seeing what God has in store for us moving forward.

Continue to pray for us as we continue to pray for you. God Bless.

Kory Douglas is former youth director for the Central States Conference. He is transitioning to serve at Oakwood University as senior associate chaplain.

for Freeport, Grand Bahama, from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Incredible miracles and a long road ahead

We traveled to the NBC grounds where we helped at the Adventist Community Services Center. At this center, hundreds of people from the community came to receive hot meals, water, clothes, food and cleaning supplies. For the next two days, we volunteered at a disaster distribution center that provided 144 churches with supplies to distribute daily to the people in their community.

We wanted to do more for the people, so we packed over 200 boxes with food and household products and delivered them to those living in a local community. That evening we led out in a prayer and worship service at the Freeport Adventist Church. The church was filled with

worshippers, many of whom survived the storm but had lost everything. It was incredible to hear the miraculous stories, the songs of rejoicing, the prayers of hope and the words of life.

Before leaving the service that evening, the Central States Conference Community Services Department was able to give the NBC president **Eric D. Clarke** the check for \$10,000. In the weeks afterward, the conference received an additional \$2,500.

The residents of the Bahamas would like to thank everyone who is praying for the recovery work, those who have donated supplies and those who have financially supported the relief efforts. The people living on the islands of Abaco and Freeport still have a long recovery road ahead. My prayer is we continue to do what we can to support

our brothers and sisters on these islands.

Claval Hunter is pastor of Tabernacle of Praise Church in St. Louis, Missouri, and director of Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response for Central States Conference.



If you would like to financially support the Bahamas mission, visit www.central-states.org, click the online giving tab and put your donations in "Bahamas Disaster Relief."

Cashapp option: \$CSC3301 (state that it is for the Bahamas Disaster Relief).

Thank you!

A big thank you to the following for making the mission to the Bahamas possible:

- Central States Conference
- Mid-America Union Church Ministries department for the funding
- Southeastern Conference Youth and Young Adult department for their funding and allowing Central States Conference to be a part of this amazing mission
- Central States Conference members, pastors and administration for raising \$12,500 for the Bahamas

Mark and Judy Weir Join Dakota Conference

Photos: Jacquie Biloff



Elder Mark Weir has been elected vice president and education superintendent for the Dakota Conference. Weir replaces **Elder Loren Nelson III** and **Sue Nelson** who have transferred to the

Wisconsin Conference.

Weir graduated from Union College in 1983, married his Maplewood Academy sweetheart **Judy Kraft** from Colorado, and began ministry in the Minnesota Conference. He has served in the Washington Conference and the last nine years in the Upper Columbia Conference as pastor and ministerial director since 2015. Weir also taught at Auburn Adventist Academy for 10 years as chaplain and sophomore Bible teacher. While in that

capacity, he directed local and overseas mission projects involving his students as part of the Bible curriculum, exemplifying service at home and abroad.

In 2017 he led a reformation history tour to Germany, Austria and Italy, which included the site where John Huss stood for his faith, many Martin Luther sites, the alps where the Waldensians lived and the Vatican.

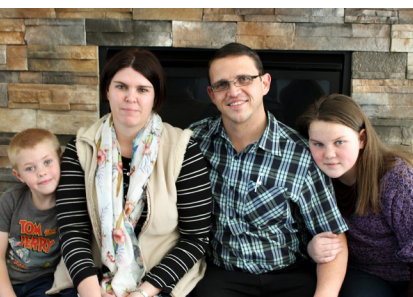
He enjoys history, travel, bird watching, collecting old Adventist books (of which he

has some first editions) and most outdoor activities.

The Weirs celebrated 37 years of marriage this summer. Judy is a paralegal and enjoys art, music, gardening and antiques. They have three grown children: **Natalie** is a physical therapist in Spokane, Washington; **Alexandra** is a nurse in Bismarck, North Dakota; and **Bryce** is a pilot in Portland, Oregon.

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

Dakota Welcomes the du Plessis Family to America



(l-r) Kean, Cindy, Casper and Ané du Plessis

2004 and was baptized in November," he explains.

He found it a challenge to keep Sabbath and maintain his business, though. In 2005, Casper and Cindy traveled to the UK on a working holiday visa doing general farm work. Afterward, Casper returned to work at his father's dairy shop in Pretoria selling milk, cheese and bread until he began doing colporteur work. Eventually, he joined Rapid Mobile, which built military communication systems.

"I finally answered God's call in 2014," says Casper. He did his theological studies at Helderberg College at Somerset in the Western Cape, graduating in 2017.

He was employed by the Northern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Middelburg Mpumalanga, SA, serving two congregations and a group. In January of 2019, he was transferred to Pretoria in Gauteng, SA, serving two congregations before coming to the Dakota Conference last October.

Casper acknowledges that moving to a different country, with its different ways of doing things, is challenging. He and Cindy have two elementary aged children, **Ané**, 12, and **Kean**, 7. Cindy plans to continue her studies in cosmetology in the United States.

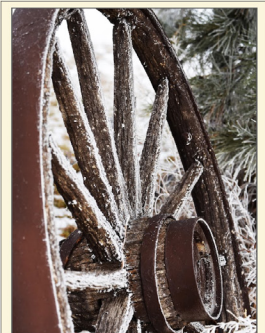
"We are looking forward to continuing our ministry here in the Dakotas," says Casper. "We want to thank everyone who we have already met for their warm,

friendly welcome. We are looking forward to meeting many more new brothers and sisters in Christ."

Dakota Conference
25th Annual Men's Retreat
dakotaadventist.org

Men of Issachar: Those Who Understand the Times

MARCH 13 - 15, 2020



ROUGH RIDER HOTEL
301 3RD AVENUE
MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA

FEATURED SPEAKER:
DR. CONRAD VINE
ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS

Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez Share Their Vision for Their New Roles

Zach Davis Photography



Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez have accepted Children Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Adventurer and Pathfinder Ministries, and the position of youth camp directors in the Dakota Conference. Following is an interview with them by communication director **Jacquie Biloff**.

Jacquie: Tell me a little about yourselves.

Ricky: In short, I was born in Mexico, raised in Colorado, schooled in theology at Union College and have been in the Dakota Conference for five years. We did campus ministries for four of those years and have pastored a couple of churches.

Brooke: I grew up in Dickinson, North Dakota, and went to college in Jamestown, graduating with religion and philosophy, cross-cultural communications and Christian ministry. During my last year of college, I joined the Adventist Church.

Amazingly, I was hired after college four years ago and we started Just Jesus. Adventist Campus Ministries on North Dakota State University.

Jacquie: Was children's ministries, youth, young adults and being camp directors in your five-year plan?

Ricky: I never thought we were going to do this—never in a million years! But we are super excited. We have a passion for young adults. We look forward to providing a structure or means for young people to find their identity in Christ, to establish something greater for our conference so young people can grow and find themselves and their calling in Him.

Brooke: I did not grow up going to camp. I went to a couple of different camps when I was young but hated it because camp doesn't tend to be a venue for introverts. Part of why I am really excited to do this now is to provide a more positive

experience for those who are introverted—so they can meet other kids, be in nature and hear about Jesus and His love for them.

Jacquie: In a small conference a person wears many hats. How do you plan to balance all of them?

Ricky: We do have a wide range of ages we will be working with, but we are excited about what we have to do. We will vision together and see what can be, not just for us but for our peers and young families. We plan to do things really well and help them find Jesus.

Brooke: It is nice to be able to incorporate what we have been doing for the last five years into what we are doing now. Campus Ministries prepared us to do this. We developed a structure to meet kids on college campuses. This is bigger than that. The limitations we felt before we now have the ability to do something about. If we start

with young kids and streamline the whole process, until we work with them as college kids, and plug them into things after they leave college, that is sustainable.

Jacquie: Do you see challenges?

Ricky: We have Children's Ministries, Pathfinders and Adventurers, camps, youth and young adults—ages 0 to 40. We see possibilities. We hope to help young people understand their worth and freedom in Christ before they start making those definitive life decisions. Kids know Adventism but have not met Jesus. Trying to lead them back when they are older requires a lot of undoing.

Preparing something at an organizational level to reach them for Christ will make it easier down the road. To have really grounded and God-loving people who have internalized the message of the gospel and encouraging them to react to it at an earlier age in their lives is our goal.

Brooke: God will bless this process. Our desire is to lead the young and older of the conference to Him and back to Him, however He wants.

Pastors Arellano and Sizemore Say Goodbye to Iowa-Missouri

Photos Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference



Joe Arellano

Joe and Ingrid Arellano recently accepted a call to minister in Navy chaplaincy. They have served in

Iowa-Missouri since September 2008, ministering during that time in the Poplar Bluff, Doniphan, Campbell, Burlington, Fort Madison, Kahoka and Cedar Rapids churches.

Joe has a strong passion for evangelism and helping churches become active in their respective communities. He is known for working with and ministering as a team with local church elders. Joe's ministry will be greatly missed, and we wish him and Ingrid well in their new role of ministering to military families.



Phillip Sizemore

Phillip and Laura Sizemore recently accepted a call to serve in the Texas Conference. They came to Iowa-

Missouri from Florida in June 2012 and during their time here served in the Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Fredricktown, Farmington and Springfield churches.

Evangelism has been the focus of Phillip's ministry. He has a passion for conducting evangelistic meetings, was involved in media and TV ministry and led numerous Bible studies. We wish Phillip and Laura well in their new ministry in Texas.

Lee Rochholz is ministerial director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Six Iowa-Missouri Schools Receive Maximum Accreditation Renewal



Melissa Morris

Six Iowa-Missouri Conference schools recently completed an accreditation process and received a six-year renewal—the maximum term available. The schools are College Park Christian Preschool in Columbia, Missouri; Hillcrest School in St.

A student at Hillcrest School receives one-on-one instruction from grades K-2 teacher Kori Cook as other students work on assignments or engage in group activities.

Louis, Missouri; Nevada School in Nevada, Iowa; Prescott School in St. Joseph, Missouri; Rolla School in Rolla, Missouri; and Summit View School in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

“The accreditation process helps our schools develop an improvement strategy,” said **Dr. Joe Allison**, education superintendent for the conference. “Parents and constituents can have confidence that we are one of the best faith-based

school systems in the United States and have a well-designed process of accountability that encourages schools to continue on the journey to excellence.”

The Adventist Church has a well-developed accreditation process for its K-12 education system. Accreditrac is a web-based instrument schools use to complete a self-study. A visiting committee consisting of the superintendent and two or three teachers then reviews the

self-study and recommends a term of accreditation. The committee's recommendation goes on to the local conference K-12 Board of Education, which votes on the recommendation and sends it on to the North American Division Commission on Accreditation for a final vote.



Learn more about these and other Iowa-Missouri schools at imsda.org/schools.

Jefferson City Leaders Honor ACS Volunteers for Service to City

Adventist Community Services volunteers were recently recognized for their selfless service to Jefferson City, Missouri, following a tornado last May that tore through the heart of the city, demolishing homes, apartment buildings, a school and the decommissioned state penitentiary.

A Multi-Agency Resource Center was immediately opened for those most affected. ACS volunteers served as ambassadors, ushering each family through the various stations, making sure all their needs were met and questions answered. They were recently recognized for their service by Jefferson City mayor **Carrie Tergin** and city council members in a special ceremony.

ACS volunteers first

became involved with MARCs in Missouri following severe flooding in 2015. Organizers were so impressed by their thoughtfulness, loving care and efficiency that they requested ACS volunteers be present as ambassadors at every MARC going forward.

Regional ACS coordinators **Bob and Nancy Tarasenko** and **Chuck and Edna Horner** were among those who responded to Jefferson City, helping with the MARC alongside other ACS volunteers, state and local agencies, private partners and other faith-based charities and organizations.

After the MARC closed, Cole County and Jefferson City leaders requested that a distribution center continue serving the impacted

residents. The Tarasenkos and the Horners took the lead. Nancy commuted two hours every day to manage the center for over a month, working more than 12 hours per day handling setup, operations and overseeing volunteers. The Horners served as assistant managers during that time and took over management of the center from July through August, staying in Jefferson City during the week and returning home only on weekends.

Working closely with the Capital West Christian Church of Jefferson City and the United Way of Central Missouri, the distribution center was able to receive, process and distribute \$750,000 worth of material donations for residents of Cole and Miller counties.

Both couples were recognized as Volunteers of the Year by SEMA at the 2019 Show-Me Partnership Symposium in October.

Rachel Ashworth is a member of Peace Point Chapel in Sikeston, Missouri, and a blogger for OUTLOOK magazine.

ACS volunteers are recognized for their service by Jefferson City leaders. Pictured in addition to mayor Carrie Tergin (center front) and city council members (back) are (l-r) Missouri ACS coordinator Jody Dickhaut, Nancy Tarasenko, Edna Horner, Chuck Horner and Brian Schwering.

Rachel Ashworth



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:

- **City Administrator Speaks** to Rolla Students During Career Week
- **Prescott Students Share** Love of Jesus with Community Through Weekly Service Projects
- **Woodland Hills Church Plant Sponsors** Disaster Survival Seminar
- **Reports from GC Annual Council**, NAD Year-End Meetings
- **Oak Grove Church Feeds** Public High School Football Players
- **Lee's Summit Church Hosts** Financial Peace University
- **Zach the Donkey Teaches** Peacemaking at Des Moines Adventist School
- **Iowa-Missouri Women's Retreat and ADRA Partner** to Provide Relief to the Bahamas



For more information or to support or volunteer for disaster relief efforts in Iowa or Missouri, visit imsda.org/acsdrr.

Three Pastors Ordained to Ministry

Sandro Sandoval

Sandro Sandoval was born and raised in Peru, the son of church workers. He witnessed firsthand the dedication required of every member of the family when the father is called to pastoral ministry. Sandoval went to Peruvian Union University in Lima and studied theology. He served the church in ministry in Peru and Ecuador before coming to the United States to complete his studies. He graduated from Union College in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in religion and pastoral care.

While a student at Union he met and married his wife, **Sarah**. Together, they have two children, **Stella** and **Sebastian**.

Sandoval was invited to

serve as student pastor at the Grand Island Hispanic Church by **Pastor Alejandro Dovald**. He continued to serve as Pastor Dovald's assistant until 2013 when the conference invited him to be pastor of the Grand Island and Lexington Hispanic churches, as well as the Community Church in Fairfield, Nebraska.

In 2017 Sandoval completed his master of divinity degree at Andrews University and returned to Kansas-Nebraska Conference with his family to serve as pastor of the Columbus, Neligh and Norfolk district.

Sandoval has expressed his philosophy of ministry as "Glory to God and service to man." He is interested in intercultural ministry

and children's spirituality. His family enjoys spending time together in ministry and in recreation. Stella and Sebastian love to travel, and Sandoval enjoys finding creative ways of using technology to reach people with the good news of Jesus' imminent return.

Sandoval was ordained on Sept. 28, 2019, in Columbus, Nebraska.

Mark Magnusson

While attending Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in business administration to become a PGA golf club professional, **Mark Magnusson** discovered the Adventist Church. Responding to a flyer for a Bible prophecy series, he

and a friend showed up at the Mount Pleasant Church. Convicted by what he learned, Mark was baptized in 1996.

After graduating from college, he had more time for deeper Bible study and a more serious commitment. He was rebaptized in 1998. During those years God planted a desire for pastoral ministry in his heart, but for 14 years he pushed this calling aside.

While in Florida Mark met pastors **Phil** and **Brenda Johnson** through a small group Bible study and playing golf. Phil recognized Mark's heart for pastoring and encouraged him. About the same time a friend from church told Mark she wanted

Melanie Sanchez

(bottom left) Sandro Sandoval pastors the Grand Island and Lexington Hispanic Churches as well as the Community Church in Fairfield, Nebraska. He was ordained Sept. 28, 2019 in Columbus, Nebraska.

(bottom right) Mark Magnusson pastors the Chadron, Crawford and Hemingford district in Nebraska. He was ordained Oct. 5, 2019 at the Chadron Church.

(right) Mark Tamaleaa serves as an associate pastor at the New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Tamaleaa was ordained Oct. 21, 2019 at the New Haven Church.



Stephanie Gottfried Darin Gottfried



to introduce him to his “wife” **Claudia**. After an inauspicious first meeting, Mark and Claudia became good friends, and were married in February 2014.

Soon after, Mark and Claudia left Florida because he accepted a Bible worker position with the Iowa-Missouri Conference. In March 2015, Mark was invited to the Kansas-Nebraska Conference to become the pastor for the Chadron, Crawford and Hemingford district.

They accepted the call and have found pastoral ministry rewarding. Magnusson recently completed his Master of Arts in pastoral ministry degree as well. He says, “I may have a ministry degree, but I

have lots more to learn and experience being a pastor.”

Magnusson was ordained on Oct. 5 at the Chadron Church in Nebraska.

Mark Tamaleaa

Mark Tamaleaa was born and raised in American Samoa. His parents wanted him to experience life in an Adventist boarding academy, so they sent him to Thunderbird Academy in Arizona.

While an academy student, the local youth director—**Hubert Cisneros**—hired him to work at the youth camp. His gifts and talents were first engaged to introduce young people to Christ that summer.

He earned a BS in education from Southwestern Adventist

University and has a master’s degree in educational administration and Master Guide status in Pathfinders.

In 22 years of denominational service he has served as a youth pastor, teacher, chaplain, dean, principal and conference youth director.

Mark and **Mindy** were married in December of 1996, and every summer since have served at youth camps. They have four children and are passionate about ministry.

Pastor Mark serves as an associate pastor at the New Haven Church. Each Sabbath you will find him in the lobby welcoming guests and members. During the week he often works in the church’s food pantry serving the community.

He is leading the effort to restart the church’s Pathfinder Club, and their home is always open for one-on-one spiritual counsel as well as weekly spiritual and social gatherings of young adults.

“I have a burden to let others know they are loved and accepted, especially young adults who are trying to find a place and make their voice heard in this world,” says Magnusson. “I tell them Jesus is building your forever home right now and He longs to welcome you home.”

Mark was ordained Oct. 21 at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas.

Edited by John Sweigart, VP of administration for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Kindness Rocks

College View Academy students spread cheer through rocks

It was a crisp clear day near the end of October last year when approximately 80 students from College View Academy started walking to nearby Holmes Lake. They took with them a few tokens of love and affirmation.

Weeks before, teachers in grades 1-4 had been searching for a way to tell the nearby neighborhood that God cares for them, and so do the students from CVA. A heavy supply of rocks was purchased, cleaned and painted with a base coat of pretty colors. Then messages of hope and faith were printed with permanent

marker. The rocks were sprayed with shellac for their final presentation.

Many people walk the trail around Holmes Lake to exercise. There are also people who walk the trails feeling alone and discouraged. On this bright October day students left their rocks on trees, fence posts, benches and simply beside the path.

CVA students spread cheer by leaving rocks painted with messages around the Holmes Lake walking path in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Even before the students made a complete circuit around the lake they were being stopped by excited walkers who thanked the children for the messages. Social media posts soon began springing up as well, thanking those who made the effort to

make life a bit happier.

Jesus is the Rock of Salvation, and we hope CVA students helped spread a message of love and kindness with rocks of their own!

Kirk Powell teaches fourth grade at College View Academy.



Photos: Amy Finch

Hinckley Adventist Church Starts Prison Ministry

I was in prison and you came to me

Photos Courtesy Bob Mead



(l-r) Mike Bonn, Bob Mead and Robert Fast-Horse were impressed to create a prison ministry for their church. They now average 20-30 in attendance at their meetings.

It began with a routine but productive board meeting. In the months that preceded the meeting, I had a recurring thought. I call them yo-yo thoughts—they come into your head and shortly after that, you throw them out. But before you know it, they come speeding right back to you. And at times these yo-yo thoughts may be the Holy Spirit trying to tell you something.

At the end of the board meeting, **Pastor Karen Lewis** asked if there were any other items to be addressed, so I decided to

share. I told the board I would like to start a prison ministry as a representative of the Hinckley Adventist Church.

No sooner had I said the words when **Robert Fast-Horse**, a friend of mine, looked at me with a surprised look. “You’re kidding!” he said. He explained that the same thought had been in his mind for some time. So the Hinckley Adventist Church prison ministry was born, with three of us representing it: **Mike Bonn**, Robert Fast-Horse, and myself.

Meeting the men behind the walls

To prepare, I signed up for the first Church Leadership Summit hosted by the Minnesota Conference and attended a class on prison ministry presented by an ex-convict. I also signed up with Minnesota Adventist Prison Ministry and met the director, who educated me on how the ministry works.

Fast-Horse, Bonn and I then contacted the chaplain at Moose Lake Correctional Institution, which is a state prison, and signed up to take their orientation classes. The state prison system runs you through a gamut of forms, questions and background checks. When these are complete, you can go into the prison and meet the men behind the walls.

The first time was nerve wracking. I checked in, walked down the hallway and heard the iron doors slam shut behind me. When I walked into the room, there were eight men—some sitting and others standing—waiting for us to start the church service.

On my first visit to MLCI there was no singing, so I decided I would bring my guitar on my next

visit. After inspecting the guitar with a fine tooth comb, the prison workers allowed me to bring it in.

You are not allowed to take electronic devices into the facility, so I printed song sheets and we sang. The men love to sing. They put their hearts and souls into singing, and it was a joy to listen to the voices ascending to heaven in worship. The men even formed a band with two guitars, a bass guitar, a keyboard and electronic drums.

It is a challenge to do a sermon without any visual aids because of the no electronic device rule. On one visit, though, I noticed an overhead projector sitting in the corner. It is not the type of overhead projector we see in churches today. It is an old projector that requires clear plastic film overhead sheets. I asked the chaplain if we were allowed to use it and he said we could, but that it hadn’t been used for some time.

I went home and put together a sermon on PowerPoint. Then I printed the sermon on the old clear plastic film overhead sheets and used it the on the next visit. The response from the offenders was worth the extra effort. We have increased from eight offenders to

averaging 20 to 30, and the group is still growing.

The tithe-paying man

It had been about three months since the Hinckley Church started its prison ministry at Moose Lake when we received a letter from a man who was incarcerated at the federal prison in Sandstone, Minnesota. Not only did he send a letter asking for Bible studies and a Bible with Ellen G. White commentary, he sent money because he wanted to pay tithe to our church. When I read the letter, I remember thinking, *A man who pays tithe from prison needs to be visited and befriended.*

There is a difference between a state prison and a federal prison, though, and I didn't know how to go about getting a ministry started at a federal prison. I asked God if it was possible to meet this tithe-paying man who lives in a federal prison.

A short time later a thought came into my mind: *Call the federal prison and ask for the chaplain.* I called the prison and reached the chaplain. I explained about the letter we received and told him I was interested in coming to meet with this offender.

I told the chaplain I was a member of the Adventist Church in Hinckley and would visit as a representative of my church. After going through the same scrutiny the state prison system put me through, I

was able to make my first visit to the Sandstone Federal Correctional Institution.

I went there to meet the tithe-paying man, but found myself in the prison's library with eight men who were eagerly waiting to meet me and hear what I had to say. I was nervous—I was in a new prison with offenders I didn't know, and this was my first solo visit to a prison.

The tithe-paying man was younger than I expected, and humble. He had invited his friends to the meeting, and we had a wonderful study about the gospel. When I left the federal prison, I thanked God for the blessing and joy in my heart once again.

The men in the federal prison aren't any different than the men in the state prison—they all love to sing. So I took my guitar in and we sang.

It has been a good challenge at the federal prison. We are in the process of doing Karen Lewis' *Lifting*

Up Jesus Bible studies. I have been at the prison 12 times since we started the studies, and we just finished lesson number one. We are going slowly, but we are not leaving any stone unturned.

The blessing of service

It has been an honor and blessing to be a part of the prison ministry. Some may think prison ministry is a lot of commitment and extra work—and it is. But I believe God has set up a system. When you align yourself with God in partnership to a mission, you are the one who receives the blessing.

It never fails. When I walk out of those metal doors and they slam shut behind me, I always thank God for a wonderful time and for the blessing of joy in my heart.

Bob Mead is a member of the Hinckley Church in Hinckley, Minnesota.

When you align yourself with God in partnership to a mission, you are the one who receives the blessing.

(left) Minnesota Correctional Facility at Moose Lake, Minnesota

(right) Federal Correctional Institution at Sandstone, Minnesota



Lifestyle Center Coming to Denver

Following a presentation and approval by the Rocky Mountain Conference Executive Committee, the Lifestyle Center is set to open in February 2020 utilizing office space that became available after the closure of the Denver Adventist Book Center. RMC Health Ministry director **Rick Mautz** shares his vision for the center in the following interview.

What will be the main objectives of this project?

There is a growing interest in prevention. People want to get to the cause of their health issues. This center will not only provide information through various resources and programs, but will provide ongoing support through volunteer health partners and certified health coaches. The health partners will use coaching skills to provide the support that participants need to make

the lifestyle changes that will bring the desired health we all want but often fail to achieve on our own.

Who will provide services at the center?

The center will be manned by dedicated and skilled volunteers who will provide the needed services with minimal impact on the RMC budget. Our goal is to be self-sustainable through volunteers, donations and program fees. We are actively putting together a team of health professionals and dedicated volunteers who will rotate through the center providing the needed skills to make the center a respected resource

RMC Health Ministries director Rick Mautz will be coordinating the new center.

for our community and our church members.

What programs, services and materials will be available?

The center will carry a limited selection of health books, health ministry supplies and some hard-to-find basics for making dietary changes. Various health programs will be offered on a rotating basis, including such subjects as depression, diabetes prevention and reversal, hypertension, Alzheimer's, heart disease, smoking cessation, and more. Also, cooking and

exercise classes will be offered on an ongoing basis.

Will the services be directed to benefit the community in addition to church members?

This is a perfect opportunity for any church health directors to improve their ability to provide health outreach for their local community. We also anticipate that local church members will take advantage of this to help them improve their health and pick up resources to help their friends and neighbors gain better health as well.



Rajmund Dabrowski



To volunteer or donate to the Lifestyle Center, contact Rick Mautz at 303.909.8274.

Holocaust Survivor Shares with Cody Audiences

The Cody Church in Wyoming was privileged to hear **Simone Salen** tell the story of her family's desperate attempts—and ultimate success by God's grace—to escape Vienna, Austria, during the Holocaust. Salen was a small child at the time of the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Austria. Her father, Israel Goldhirsch, put her and her mother into hiding until they ultimately fled to England, where she and her mother were protected.

Her father only escaped

after multiple failed attempts, beatings and near-death experiences. His compelling story is now published in the book *My Father's Lost Diary*.

"Simone has felt called to share her family's story with all ages in order to continue to educate the public about the horrors of the Holocaust and the anti-Semitism that is still taking place today all over the world, including the United States, and even here in Wyoming," said **Samantha Nelson**, who organized Salen's visit to Cody.

Prior to speaking at the Cody Church, Salen spoke at the Cody High School assembly to a group of 200 students, and to the students at SonShine Academy in Worland, Wyoming.

"We are greatly indebted

to Salen and other Holocaust survivors for bravely sharing their stories so the past will not be forgotten—or repeated," commented Nelson.

RMCNews



Samantha Nelson

Chaplain Turk Receives ACI Board Certification

Chaplain Carol Turk was recognized Sept. 17 as a Board Certified Chaplain by Adventist Chaplaincy Institute. “This milestone recognizes your achievements and competency as a professional chaplain. We are grateful for your ministry as a chaplain, and your service to the wider church, and pray for God’s continued blessings,” wrote **William J. Cork**, assistant director of the North American Division Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

A member of the Champion Church and a commissioned

minister, Turk was a member of the RMC Executive Committee for many years, and was recently voted RMC representative on the NAD Executive Committee. She also represents the Mid-American Union Conference on AdventHealth’s corporate board and is board-certified with the Association of Professional Chaplains. She currently serves as a chaplain at Denver Health Medical Center.

Commenting on her road to this newest recognition, Turk said, “This achievement could not have been made

without **Dick Stenbakken** [former director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries] mentoring me and cheering me on. He has gone to bat for me several times and flattened several barriers in my path. I am forever grateful for his help and the help which **Larry Roth** [retired chaplain and field representative for ACM] and **Bill Cork** have given me. In addition, the Rocky Mountain Conference has supported me in several different ways. Thank you to all of you and to ACM for the chance to serve in the way



Courtesy/Carol Turk

God has called me.”

.....
RMCNews

New Lay Pastors Trained to Have Fresh Focus in Church Ministry

Twenty-two local church leaders signed up for training to become lay pastors and met at the Rocky Mountain Conference office Sept. 20-22, 2019.

“Equipping men and women to serve alongside their pastor will be a tremendous blessing to the local church,” commented **Mickey Mallory**, RMC ministerial director. “It will allow more ministry to take place, which

will translate into more people’s lives impacted for Christ.”

Nate Skaife, lead pastor at the Grand Junction Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, was the instructor for this first training event. He started teaching lay pastors in 2012 while ministering in a church in Wisconsin. **Wilton Helm**, from Aspen Park Church in Conifer, Colorado, said Pastor Skaife’s training exemplified good teaching

and coaching techniques.

Each participant must complete six training classes before they receive certification. Outside of class time, there are assignments to be completed as well before a candidate receives a completion of training diploma.

Bill Oxenford from True Life Community congregation in Littleton, Colorado, said he enjoyed the training. “It was wonderful to be engaged with so many like-minded church workers who love Jesus and are so willing to serve Him and seek those who are looking for truth,” he added.

Emmanuel Jean from Agape Haitian Church in Aurora, Colorado, said his biggest takeaway from the

training was the discussion and interaction among peers. “This training will help me be the brighter light in the lives of my church members and the people of my community who could be facing darkness in their spiritual lives,” he said.

Commenting on the reason to become a trained lay pastor, **Mark Royer** from Trinidad Church in Trinidad, Colorado, concluded with a question: “If I am not motivated and dedicated, how can I expect my church to be?”

The next training session is planned for Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2020 in Denver.

.....
Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Mickey Mallory is ministerial director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Mickey Mallory

Restoring Rees Hall

Volunteers give time and money to make over old rooms

It all started with a call home. **Marquelle Woods**, a junior nursing major, shared with her mom plans the college had announced to renovate classrooms and other areas of campus. Marquelle felt strongly the college would be better off focusing on rooms in the residence halls if Union was going to attract more students.

As she listened, **Susan Woods**, Marquelle's mom, recalled helping her daughter move in to Rees Hall for the first time. "The drawer was falling apart. The glides had fallen off, and it was difficult to push in. It was hard to miss that it's an older building," she said.

With move-in memories and her daughter's well-reasoned arguments fresh in her mind, Susan summarized their conversation in an email sent through the contact form on Union's website. She didn't know who would see it or if she would ever hear back. Then, just a couple of days later, she got a reply from the president of the college.

Vinita Sauder had seen the @maranatha.org email address and asked if Susan thought Maranatha would be interested in helping on exactly the project her daughter had been wishing for. Susan replied immediately. "I happen to be sitting next to the North American projects director: my husband," she wrote. "I think we can work something out." That kicked off a series of meetings, a site visit, and several rounds of budgeting.

With Susan and **David**

Woods coordinating the project for Maranatha, and Union's Advancement team kicking off a fast-paced fundraising initiative, the project came together. Maranatha volunteers and Union's Plant Services worked together to renovate 34 rooms in Rees Hall in the three weeks from June 21 to July 13, 2019, with a budget of \$5,000 per room. It was an ambitious project, and the greatest challenge was finding skilled volunteers.

"Up until the day before the project started, we had people canceling who had previously committed and had the skills we needed," Susan said. "David and I were a little bit nervous, but we've come to trust God always works things out."

Susan said that people started coming in from the community who they hadn't expected, and often they were exactly the volunteers needed: someone to lay the floors or someone to lead out in painting.

Roger Stearns was one of those who decided to help. Beloved at Union as Warriors athletics' number one fan, the former owner of Stearns Painting brought his lifetime of experience in professional painting as well as training and managing workers.

Mick Ray, president of Empire Electric, was another local professional who showed up to volunteer. In addition to giving his own time, he encouraged his employees to help out and paid for their time as if it were

Esther Pervis



More than 100 Maranatha volunteers helped renovate 34 rooms in Rees Hall, Union College's women's residence hall, last summer. Opened in the late 1950s, most of the residential rooms in the building had not been updated in 60 years.

any other contract. "I was blown away by Mick's generosity," said **LuAnn Davis**, vice president for Advancement at Union College.

According to David Woods, as the initial volunteers' time ended, there were always new faces eager to keep the project on track. "God's been a huge part of this thing," David said, "and He's a good partner."

Many hands, one purpose

With stories as diverse as the 16 states and two countries they came from, all of the 118 volunteers shared the goal of glorifying God through service. Nearly half of the workers had little or no previous connection to Union College. Two such volunteers were **Theolene** and **Nyah Johnson** from Florida. They kicked off their mother/

daughter vacation with a week of manual labor in Nebraska.

"I've done Maranatha mission trips before, but this is the first one where I could bring my daughter along," Theolene shared as she painted. "I told her mission work is God's work, and God's work is not just about preaching, but also physical work. Look at Jesus. His life was ministry. He started working when he was 12. He didn't start preaching until he was 30."

The other half of the volunteer team was comprised of current and former Union College employees, alumni, parents, and members of the local Adventist community—most of whom have areas of expertise that do not include construction and carpentry.

The Woods admired the spirit of the less skilled volunteers who were living examples

of Maranatha's mission to build people through construction. "There were a lot of people trying new things," Susan said. "David enjoys teaching people, and he spent a lot of time teaching volunteers who had never been in a wood-working shop before to route, sand and assemble cabinets. I was impressed seeing how they wanted to do things well and paid attention to quality. That's what we like to see on a Maranatha project, because everything we do is for God."

One of the most labor-intensive parts of the renovation was replacing the drawers, cabinets and bookshelves. Under the supervision of David Woods and Union's Plant Services team, volunteers built all of the new woodwork by hand, saving the college thousands of dollars and making the project financially possible. "Everything we made is solid oak," said **Bruce McArthur**, a volunteer from Florida and

parent of a former Rees Hall resident. "Hopefully it will last until Jesus comes."

Sylvia Quimby was among the alumni for whom the project was a kind of homecoming. Now living in Florida, she responded to the call for volunteers in *CORD* magazine and returned to Rees Hall for the first time since she graduated in 1984. The trip brought back many memories of late nights studying and laughing with friends.

Quimby was happy to help in any way she could. "I believe no job is too small for anybody," she said as she taped a room in preparation for painting. "To be a leader, you must be a servant."

.....
Scott Cushman is the director of digital communication at Union College.

In order to save costs, Maranatha volunteers built all the cabinetry for the Rees Hall renovation project in Union's wood shop. Expert woodworkers set up an assembly line that allowed people of all skill levels to participate and produce quality, properly fitted pieces.



Steve Nazario



Rees Roommates Pool Funds to Make Over Their Old Room in 2020

When **Ene Beattie Gaines** saw Maranatha's call for volunteers to renovate rooms in Rees Hall, she immediately flashed back to her own four years in Union's residence hall.

"My roommate **Shannon [Stegmaier Oien]** and I were best friends since we were young," Gaines remembers. "We roomed together at Campion and then all four years at Union."

For the final three years at Union, the two inhabited room 269. When she discovered Union is raising money to host Maranatha to do another series of rooms in 2020, she wanted to help.

"The rooms haven't really changed since we were there, so I thought it would be fun to help renovate one with Shannon," said the 1989 institutional development graduate.

Even though they live 1,000 miles apart, the two former roommates remain close friends and see each other at least once per year. "I called her and asked if she wanted to split a room and it was done," said Gaines.

The two shared the \$6,000 cost to renovate good old room 269 this summer—an amount they were able to pay in installments over several months.

How you can help

Maranatha will return to campus in May 2020 to help renovate more rooms in Rees Hall, and there are two ways you can help Union students have an even better learning and living experience.

Fund a room (or two or three)! We need to raise **\$5,000 to renovate** each room and **\$1,000 to furnish** them with new furniture such as chairs and beds, so every gift matters.

Learn more about how you can help

www.ucollege.edu/LearningAndLiving

Volunteer!

Maranatha needs volunteers of all skill levels **May 10-31, 2020**. Learn more and register at www.ucollege.edu/maranatha2020.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission Holds Spiritual Leadership Retreat

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission held its annual Spiritual Leadership Retreat in the Tower Club East meeting room at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City last October. The event was attended by 113 healthcare leaders from AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, including managers, directors and executives.

“It’s a time when we encourage our leaders to take a day away from business as usual and devote some time to being inspired and refreshed,” says **Mark Stoddart**, administrative director of Spiritual Wellness at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission started the Spiritual Leadership Retreat in 2016 to fulfill the hospital’s mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. “It’s intended to communicate to our leaders that they are valued and loved,” says Stoddart.

The focus for the day was on the CREATION Life principles of Interpersonal Relationships and Outlook. The “I” in CREATION stands for the interpersonal relationships with family, friends and others that are important to your well-being. The “O” stands for outlook, including your view of life and hope

for the future. Each of these principles is important to our whole-person health—mind, body and spirit.

The lens of love

During the retreat, the leaders learned about how to support other people in their day-to-day relationships. The day began with local gospel artist **Piaget Long** who sang inspirational songs like *Ain’t No Mountain High Enough* and *I Still Believe*.

Todd Williams, leadership development expert and inspirational speaker, was the keynote presenter. He challenged the group to be intentional about working together in their relationships, personal and professional. He spoke about looking through the “lens of love” the way God sees us and remembering to see each other’s value and worth.

“It was a good reminder about perspective and how it’s up to us to choose what lens we live each day through,” says **Ashley McDonald**, campus administrator at AdventHealth South Overland Park. “It also encouraged us to think about how much we have to be grateful for in our lives. I feel blessed to work for an organization that provides this opportunity to reset and recharge.”

That afternoon, most of the group took advantage of a guided tour of Arrowhead Stadium. **Tiffany Chappell**,

accompanied by an improv troupe, provided a comedic interlude over lunch.

The group also spent some time helping the community by putting together care packages for Project Uplift, a local charity supporting the homeless in downtown Kansas City. Attendees donated and prepared care packages that included 400 pairs of socks, more than 900 bottles of water, 780 razors and over 4,000 pieces of candy. AdventHealth donated an additional \$2,000, which will fund the purchase of 60 zero-degree sleeping bags, which could be lifesaving during the brutal Kansas City winter.

“The service project focused attention on what we can do to help people who are homeless to feel like they’re not alone,” says Stoddart. “We hope that this small act of kindness will help them feel a sense of hopefulness.”

Ann Muder is a freelance writer and editor for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.

Leaders from AdventHealth Shawnee Mission recently presented a \$2,000 check to Kathy Dean, president of Project Uplift.

(l-r) Mark Stoddart, administrative director of Spiritual Wellness; Michael Knecht, senior vice president and chief operating officer; Kathy Dean; Monica Powers, assistant chief nursing officer; and Sam Huenergardt, president and chief executive officer.

Daniel Anderson



For more information about AdventHealth Shawnee Mission and its community outreach programs, visit AdventHealthKC.com.

Centura Health Team Uses Fresh Air to Help Patient Recover

Sometimes a dose of nature can help finish what medicine begins.

Kathy Ingle had a severe anaphylactic reaction to contrast dye from a cancer screening, and she ended up at the ICU at Centura Health-Littleton Adventist Hospital in Littleton, Colorado. She spent nine days intubated, and at first her condition wasn't improving.

"It was discouraging and terrifying for us, but especially for her," said Ingle's daughter, **Pamela Butcher**, who works for Centura Health as a patient account trainer. "I spoke to her nurse **CeCe [Alvarez]** three or four days into the experience and told her I thought my mother was losing hope."

But Ingle's care team had an idea. Alvarez and several others, including Ingle's therapists, took her for a walk in the sunshine—ventilator and all.

"We decided to take her outside. We've taken patients outside before, but it's not as common to walk them with a ventilator," said Alvarez. "It takes a team to make sure it goes well."

It went well. Ingle was strong enough to walk with assistance, and over three days she took three walks outside. Her care team quickly noticed an improvement. On the fourth day, she was extubated and was finally able to go home.

"It saved my mom and



Photos Courtesy Centura Health

Kathy Ingle's care team took her on daily walks in the sunshine—ventilator and all.

I cannot say enough how grateful we all are," said Butcher. "That is only one example of many decisions that allowed my mother to come home and be grandma to her 14 grandchildren."

Traveling, loving and inspiring

Many of the nurses, respiratory therapists and physical therapists who cared for Ingle gathered in the Littleton Adventist Hospital lobby

recently to remember Ingle's experience and take a look at a photo of how she's doing. Ingle was even able to take a vacation to Mexico not long ago.

"She is baking and loving on all of us again," said Butcher. "I believe her story could be a huge inspiration for other patients and staff."

Submitted by Wendy Forbes, director of media relations and public relations for Centura Health.

Kathy's care team (l-r): Shawn Root, RN, ICU; Cara Palermo, RN, ICU; Meredith Morris, physical therapist; Ashley Garcia, physical therapist; Cece Alvarez, RN, ICU, pre-op, PACU; Tim South, respiratory therapist; Kelsey Campagnola, respiratory therapist; Tim Doyle, assistant nurse manager, ICU; Chris Miller, director of Emergency and Critical Care



MID-AMERICA UNION 2019 YEAR-END REPORTS

Mission

Strengthening local conferences and institutions

Vision

Providing a steady flow of leadership, communication, mentoring, and training

Values

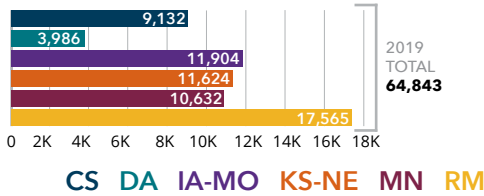


CHURCH MINISTRIES

1,888 Campers who attended 2019 summer camp programs
820 Campers who made a decision for Christ last summer

SECRETARIAT

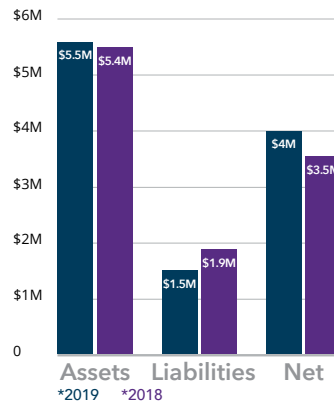
2019 Membership (Q3)



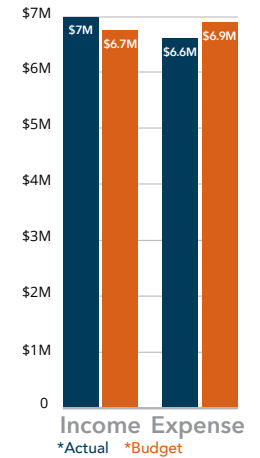
TREASURY

(through Sept.)

Balance Sheet



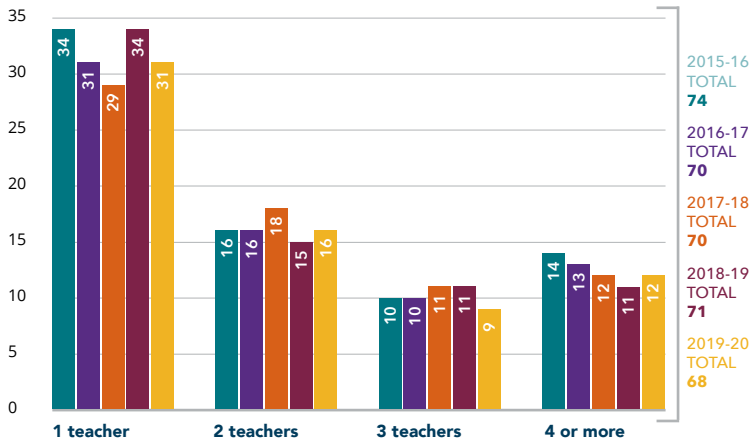
2019 Income Statement



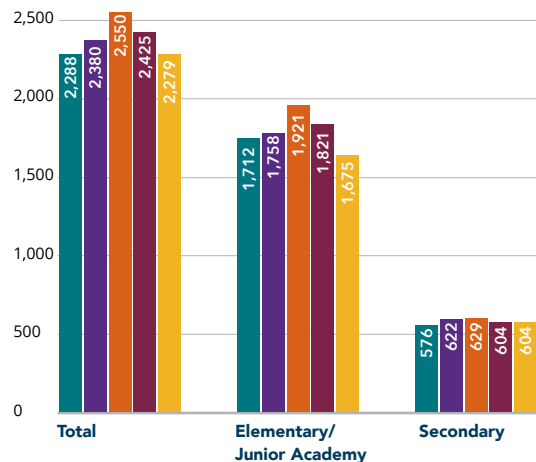
EDUCATION

Early Childhood Enrollment
165 2017-18
141 2018-19
186 2019-20

PK-12 Schools by Size



PK-12 Enrollment



2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20

Coggins, Sharon Lee, b. June 15, 1951 in Rapid City, SD. d. July 3, 2019 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Preceded in death by daughter Danielle; Survivors include husband Earl; children Twyla Anderson, Anthony, and Dario.

Edwards, Ruth A. (Giem), b. Sept. 24, 1923 in Hot Springs, MT. d. Sept. 1, 2019 in Oak Harbor, WA. Member of Oak Harbor Church. Preceded in death by first husband Ross Nye, Jr.; second husband Clayton; sons Johnnie Giem and David Giem; 7 siblings. Survivors include 1 sister; sons Paul, James, and Ross Nye III; 14 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Eitel, Irene Jantzen, b. April 10, 1922 near Kismet, KS. d. Sept. 28, 2019 in Merriam, KS. Preceded in death by husband Jonas; 3 brothers; 3 sisters; 1 grandchild. Survivors include sons Gary, Vernon, and Milton; daughters Sandra Kraig-Kraft and Betty Minkler; 16 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Gibbar, Michael L., b. July 29, 1952 in Cape Girardeau, MO. d. June 14, 2019 in Gallatin, MO. Member of Three Angels (MO) Church. Survivors include wife Majiel.

Holden, Mark S., b. July 8, 1965 in Valley City, ND. d. June 12, 2019 in Valley City, ND. Member of Jamestown (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include 1 sister.

Johnston, Harry Lester, b. April 24, 1931 in Scottsbluff, NE. d. Aug. 1, 2019 in Broken Bow, NE. Member of Springview (NE) Church. Preceded in death by wife Naomi; infant son Kody; 3 brothers; 4 sisters. Survivors include son Ken; daughters Karen Fay and Kay Schenck; 10 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Keyser, Jeannette, b. Dec. 31, 1932. d. Sept. 25, 2019. Member of Holland (NE) Church.

Kirwin, Mary Lou, b. April 12, 1925 in Topeka, KS. d. Jan. 6, 2019 in Auburn, KS. Member of Enterprise (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Emile Lahti; 2 sons. Survivors include daughter Cheri Marie Real-Hurt; 3 granddaughters; 9 great-grandchildren.

Krogstad, Virgil Leroy, b. Nov. 12, 1926 in Murray County, MN. d. Oct. 26, 2019 in Detroit Lakes, MN. Longtime member of Detroit Lakes Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Gertrude; children Joan Russell, Linda Earley, Allan, and Connie Hendry; 2 siblings; many grandchildren and step-grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Lane, Beverly Lewis, b. Feb. 8, 1922 in Minnesota. d. Sept. 15, 2017 in Templeton, CA. Preceded in death by wife Loretta; son Steven. Survivors include children Bryan, Lannette Heghesan, Park, Craig, Bevin, and Robert Sible.

Letterman, Dennis W., b. Nov. 29, 1957 in Springfield, MO. d. May 12, 2019 in Lebanon, MO. Member of Mountain Grove (MO) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Michelle Bates; son Alan; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Marine Corps.

Meyer, Joyce, b. Oct. 30, 1934 in New York Mills, MN. d. Oct. 11, 2019 in Fargo, ND. Member of Red River (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Vernon; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include son Danny Lee Hagan; 1 sister.

Morris, Helen Marie, b. Jan. 4, 1926 in Fredonia, KS. d. Oct. 11, 2019 in Fredonia,

KS. Member of Fredonia Church. Preceded in death by husband Everett; 1 brother; 4 sisters. Survivors include son Terry; daughter Peggy Ogle; 1 brother; 1 sister; 7 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Morton, James Vernon, b. June 26, 1932 in Oberlin, KS. d. Aug. 29, 2019 in Montrose, CO. Member of Cedaredge (CO) Church. Preceded in death by sons David and John. Survivors include wife Perla; son Dennis; daughter Vicki.

O'Brien, Pauline Evelyn Reynolds, b. July 5, 1938 in Walsenburg, CO. d. Aug. 2, 2019 in Colorado Springs, CO. Member of Colorado Springs South Church. Preceded in death by husband Michael. Survivors include daughters Arlene Cody, Debbie Robertson, Tonya Gilpin, and Kathleen; sons J.R., Steven, Michael, and George.

Oya-Regalado, Annett Taf, b. Nov. 14, 1967 in Pueblo, CO. d. Oct. 11, 2019 in Pueblo, CO. Survivors include daughters April Josefa-Rubio, Kieralinn Serrano-Flores, and Kimberly Rubio-Archuleta; 2 sisters; mother.

Pierson, Ethelyn Irene, b. Oct. 20, 1924 in Briggsdale, CO. d. Oct. 13, 2019 in Powell, WY. Member of Torrington (WY) Church. Preceded in death by husband Walter; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Twila, Wanda Webb, and Carol Grow; 7 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Prusia, Norman, b. Jan. 29, 1926 in Tekamah, NE. d. Oct. 17, 2019 in Mission, KS. Member of Denver South (CO) Church. Preceded in death by wife Lois. Survivors include sons Duane, Ron, and Janis; 3 sisters; 3 grandsons; 2 step-granddaughters; 2 great-grandchildren. Veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Schlup, Raymond, b. Aug. 3, 1927 in Cleveland, OH. d. Oct. 31, 2019 in Colorado Springs, CO. Member of Colorado Springs South Church. Survivors include wife Doris Arlene.

Spidell, Clyde A., b. Nov. 15, 1932. d. Sept. 25, 2019 in Dubuque, IA. Member of Dubuque Church. Preceded in death by daughter Jennifer; 3 brothers. Survivors include wife Arlene; son Clyde, Jr.; 1 sister. Served in U.S. Army during Korean War.

Thompson, Juanita M., b. Nov. 18, 1946 in Clovis, NM. d. Oct. 7, 2019 in Belle, MO. Member of Rolla (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Lenard; son Keith; 1 sister. Survivors include daughters Darla Schneider and Karen; son Joseph; 3 sisters; 4 grandchildren.

Truax-Amundson, Ruth Rivinius, b. Sept. 27, 1926 in Ridgeview, SD. d. Sept. 28, 2019 in Selby, SD. Member of Mobridge (SD) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Melvin Truax; second husband Wally Amundson; 5 siblings. Survivors include children Roxanne Cummings, Jacque Linville, and Max Truax; 2 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Weisz, Robert, b. March 31, 1925 in Hurdsfield, ND. d. Oct. 20, 2019 in Harvey, ND. Member of Goodrich (ND) Church. Preceded in death by wife Bernice; 2 sisters. Survivors include children Renee Hills, Rita, Rayleen Hansen, and Robin; 4 sisters; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Wynn, Yvonne A., b. Feb. 29, 1932 in Brevard, NC. d. Nov. 2, 2019 in Brevard, NC. Member of Willow Springs (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Bill Bishop. Survivors include son Anthony Bishop.

SERVICES

Are your health challenges interfering with your life goals? Worried that you won't be there to walk your daughter down the aisle? If your bucket list has been reduced to getting up in the morning, why not come to the quiet, healing beauty of the Black Hills Health & Education Center and discover the Pathway to Wellness. We'd love to help you expand your list! 605.255.4101. www.bhhec.org.

ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, North Carolina. Spacious apartments available NOW. Ask about our limited rental units and villa homes. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet when you tour. Call Lisa Metcalf at 1.800.249.2882 or 828.209.6935 or visit www.fletcherparkinn.com.

Have you considered a career/ministry in Massage Therapy? Black Hills School of Massage offers a 600-hour scriptural and evidence-based program. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the MBLEx examination to qualify for state licensure. Next program begins March 30, 2020. Call 423.710.4873 or 605.255.4101 now! Check Facebook or www.bhhec.org.

Move with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for all your relocation needs! Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Contact Marcy Danté at 800.766.1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at www.apexmoving.com/Adventist.

Summit Ridge Retirement Village: An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes

or apartments and caring neighbors with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities, and transportation as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: www.summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

TEACH Services: Helping AUTHORS make their book a reality. Call 800.367.1844 or 706.504.9185 for your free manuscript evaluation. We publish all book formats and provide worldwide distribution. View NEW SDA BOOKS at www.TEACHServices.com or ask your local ABC, and USED SDA BOOKS at www.LNFbooks.com.

Walla Walla University offers master's degrees in biology; cinema, religion, and worldview; education (including special education); and social work. Flexible completion times and in-person, hybrid, and fully online formats may be available. Financial aid may be available. For more information call 509.527.2290 or visit walla-walla.edu/grad-studies.

FOR SALE

Health Ministry Coordinators and Personal Ministry Directors. Beautiful inexpensive witnessing supplies: Magazines, Brochures, Tracts and Books. Free catalog and sample. Call 800.777.2848 or visit www.FamilyHeritage-Books.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Andrews University seeks faculty—maintenance: The aviation maintenance instructor is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing, and operating within an FAA-approved Part 147 program, designed to prepare students for the Aviation Maintenance Technician career and related aerospace

and technical fields. He/she will work under the supervision of the Department Chair, with the other instructors in the program carrying out functions related to the position. www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_1

Andrews University seeks Faculty—Music full-time tenure track position: Requires 24 teaching credits per year, and entails teaching music classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, being responsible for the orchestral studies area, and preparing and conducting the concerts of the AU Symphony Orchestra. www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6

Andrews University seeks faculty—social work: Teaching areas are primarily in graduate-level clinical practice, with particular expertise in treatment of children and families, school social work, trauma-informed care, and treatment of adult mental disorders. Other responsibilities include coordination of the Dual Degree programs with the Adventist Theological Seminary, coordination of the School Social Work certification, and academic advising and service to the department, university, and the surrounding community. www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12

Fletcher Academy, Inc., seeks experienced Director of Information Technology, responsible for all IT functions enterprise-wide. At least a bachelor's in relevant field, plus technical and leadership experience required. Must be comfortable leading a team from a highly visible position, a member of the Adventist Church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Position is salaried exempt with full

benefits package. Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO, at gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com.

The La Sierra University Provost Search Committee is seeking a distinguished scholar and administrator to guide the university's academic programs, services, and activities with vision and vigor. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierracareers.silkroad.com. Position open until filled.

Live-in Caregiver Needed. I am in need of a female live-in caregiver for my aged mother at Thompsonville, IL. Call Pam Turner at 618.218.4326.

Pennsylvania Conference seeks to fill several part-time Bible Instructor positions. One-year contract in local church district, includes some benefits and two weeks

GET YOUR FAVORITES DELIVERED!
ORDER ONLINE!

USE COUPON CODE
SAVE10 TO GET \$10 OFF YOUR PURCHASE.



vegefood.com

We provide a wide variety of delicious vegetarian and vegan meat alternatives. Sign up for monthly promotions. Shop online today!

vegefood.com

paid vacation; personalized training and mentoring will be provided. Some experience preferred but not mandatory. Go to paconference.org/evangelism for application and forms or email ltorres@paconference.org.

Union College invites applicants for an Accounting teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will be committed members of the Adventist Church and have a master's/doctorate degree or significant experience and willingness to pursue a master's degree. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu.

WANTED—bright, young, mission-minded professionals to help expand a Michigan-based natural foods business with tremen-

dous growth potential. Do you want the challenge and satisfaction of successfully competing with cutting-edge technology companies in a growth market, and doing it to advance the Kingdom of God's Grace? Contact John LaVanture at john@clnf.org.

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

EVENTS

Farmers & Gardeners (AdAgrA's) 6th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference (Jan. 14-18) High Springs, Florida. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden.

Registration and info: www.adventistag.org.

NOTICES

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEGREES: Feed the world with Agribusiness. Beautify the world with Environmental Landscape Design. Care for the creatures that share our world with Animal Science. Change the world with International Agriculture Development. See our new Agriculture Education Center at www.andrews.edu/agriculture; email: agriculture@andrews.edu; 269.471.6006.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Jan 20
MAUC Day of Service

Feb 15
MAUC Pathfinder Bible Experience | Lincoln, NE

March 21
Global Youth/Young Adult Day

April 17-18
NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience | Centralia, WA

June 25-July 4
General Conference Session | Indianapolis, IN

SUNSET CALENDAR

JANUARY 2020

COLORADO	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 17	JAN 24	JAN 31
Denver	4:47	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:18
Grand Junction	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33
Pueblo	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:11	5:19
IOWA					
Davenport	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:07	5:16
Des Moines	4:56	5:03	5:11	5:19	5:28
Sioux City	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:28	5:37
KANSAS					
Dodge City	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02
Goodland	4:35	4:42	4:49	4:57	5:05
Topeka	5:12	5:18	5:26	5:34	5:42
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	4:32	4:40	4:49	4:59	5:09
International Falls	4:30	4:38	4:48	4:58	5:09
Minneapolis	4:43	4:51	4:59	5:09	5:19
MISSOURI					
Columbia	4:59	5:05	5:13	5:20	5:28
Kansas City	5:07	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:37
St. Louis	4:51	4:58	5:05	5:13	5:21
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	5:11	5:17	5:25	5:33	5:42
North Platte	5:26	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:58
Scottsbluff	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:59	5:08
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	5:07	5:14	5:23	5:33	5:44
Fargo	4:50	4:58	5:07	5:17	5:28
Williston	5:13	5:21	5:30	5:41	5:52
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	5:14	5:21	5:30	5:39	5:48
Rapid City	4:26	4:34	4:42	4:51	5:01
Sioux Falls	5:02	5:09	5:17	5:26	5:36
WYOMING					
Casper	4:43	4:50	4:58	5:07	5:16
Cheyenne	4:42	4:49	4:57	5:05	5:14
Sheridan	4:39	4:46	4:55	5:04	5:14

OUTLOOK www.outlookmag.org

LIBERTY IMAGINE YOUR WORLD WITHOUT IT WWW.LIBERTYMAGAZINE.ORG

WITNESS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING **JANUARY 25 2020**

OUTLOOK

PO Box 6128
Lincoln, NE
68506-0128

PERIODICALS

MID-AMERICA UNION
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION 2020

**COME
TO ME**

FEBRUARY 28-29, 2020
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



Register at adventsource.org/events
For more information call 402.484.3000 or visit
midamericaadventist.org/ministries