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OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) February 2020, Volume 41, Number 2. 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 CFF. Free for Mid-America church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. CONTACT us by email: info@maucsda.org or phone: 402.484.3000.





"Jesus is like a double friend. You get to spend private time with Him at home, plus public time with Him at church and everywhere else." —p. 8









# ONLINE



# OUTLOOK mag.org



**#TuesdayTalk** bit.ly/galpalsandbffs



**Digital Missionary: Elizabeth McDonald**outlookmag.org/dm-jan-2020



You Are the Church outlookmag.org/you-are-the-church

# LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS

As Christians who are abiding with Jesus, we need to remind ourselves often of His many roles (including King and Lord), His names (the great I AM, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Door), and how good He is to us every single day. As you read this month's stories, I hope you'll be inspired by wonderful people like Eula (p. 6) and Disciple (p. 8) and how their love for Jesus flows out to those around them in everyday conversations.

We know that whatever our current circumstances, wherever we find ourselves in life, Jesus is—and always wants to be—with us. He wants to flow from our hearts and minds into our love-filled actions and words. So let's all talk about Jesus, more and more. It may be the most important thing we do today.



BRENDA DICKERSON editor

# ON THE COVER

Since his miracle conversion,
Disciple Rhinehart has been "doing Jesus" in amazing ways.

More on p. 8 Photo by Hugh Davis

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# Christ's Method

# in the Workplace Risky or rewarding?

his issue of OUT-LOOK focuses on sharing Christ in the workplace. There are two things most of us have in common: We work and live in communities. Much has been written about friendship evangelism—focusing on our neighbors and community, but not much has been written about the other place we spend so much time: work.

How do you share Christ at work? It can be a scary endeavor. You might wonder if it is even ethical ... or if your efforts go sour or are unwanted, will you still be able to have a productive working relationship with your coworkers?

These are good questions. The answers lie, however, in how Christ sought to connect with people. Let me illustrate this in a personal way. I might get in trouble with my family, but I want to talk about my in-laws.



Did you know Sharing Christ in the Workplace is ASI's (Adventistlaymen's Services and Industries) tag line? Learn more at ASIministries.org.

#### All about love ...

I am blessed with the best in-laws anyone could ask for. Kenneth and Ruth Wynn both have been examples of how to live a Christlike life as long as I have known them.

First, I must say, they raised a beautiful, loving daughter who has made my life a blessed one. (Thanks, Diane!) Second, they were the best example of how to share Christ in the market-place I have ever witnessed firsthand.

My father-in-law is a retired dentist. He graduated in Loma Linda's first dental class a little more than 60 years ago. My mother-in-law was the office manager, and they practiced dentistry in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for decades.

It was amazing to walk into their office. The first thing I noticed was the Christian music playing in the waiting room and operatories. All the magazines and books were also wholesome and mostly from Adventist publishers. Children loved coming to their office because they could read the My Bible Friends or The Bible Story series. Teens enjoyed Insight or Listen magazines. Adults enjoyed *Signs of the* Times or other books and magazines laid out for their

reading pleasure. Of course, if there was an evangelistic meeting, cooking school, stop smoking seminar, or other church-planned outreach event, you could find the advertisements on the registration counter as well.

Most important, however, was that their busy practice was built on excellent dentistry and being treated with love from hearts who knew Jesus. Diane's parents didn't have to say anything. People would ask, "Where can I find a copy of the music you are playing?" or "May I take this magazine home with me?"

The Wynns also visited their sick patients, took care packages, and prayed for their patients when God provided an opportunity. The sweet, caring environment created by my in-laws drew people in, and people wanted to know more about the God they love.

I don't know exactly how many people joined the church as a result of being a patient, but I do know some personally. There was one family, in particular, who I became acquainted with. They became leaders in the church. Of their three children, one is an Adventist pastor, another works in communication for the church at one of our colleges, and another married an Adventist pastor. They all have served the Lord faithfully and drawn people to Jesus.

So how did my inlaws share Christ in the workplace? They looked for an opportunity to enter someone's journey and bless them with acts of love and kindness (and excellent dental care!). Does this sound familiar? The quote from the book Ministry of Healing that we all know and love applies most appropriately in the workplace. In case you haven't read this quote lately it says, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me" (p. 143).

By following Christ's example in the workplace, you never have to worry if what you are doing is ethical or if it will jeopardize a relationship. Once you have entered people's lives with acts of love and kindness, once you have won their confidence, there is no telling where your journey will take you in sharing Christ at work. 0

**GARY THURBER** is president of the Mid-America Union.



# he" Culture

couple years ago I gave a preaching seminar at Andrews University as a part of their program on reaching Millennials. One of the challenges I spoke on was "colonization"—a term used (in this context) to denote the practice of forcing a cultural norm on another culture as though it was divinely inspired.

Afterward a Ph.D. student from Ghana came up to me and shared a testimony. He said an evangelist came to their country from the West and convinced them that appropriate Sabbath attire involved a suit and a tie. So when he showed up to a graduation wearing Ghanaian dress robes he was rebuked and told to go home and put on a shirt and tie. This man's hope was to return to his country and try to help them find a more authentic cultural expression of their faith.

Churches often have some strange ideas about

the concept of "culture." Part of the problem could be that, as one sociologist

states, "culture" is the "second most complicated word in the English language, next to 'nature."1

Another issue could be how we have interpreted Jesus' prayer in John 17. Before His trial, Jesus prays for His followers. During the prayer He says, "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world (v. 15-16, ESV).

Jesus asks that we remain in the world. Some of us would have preferred being taken out of the worldwhich is how many people interpret this.

Using verbal shorthand, we take Jesus' phrase and turn it into: "Be in the world, not of it." We further shorten it to "don't be in the world" and then sometimes substitute "culture" for "world." So we end up with phrases like: "We need to reach the culture," "Avoid the culture," "We don't follow the culture," etc.

Those phrases are problematic for two reasons. First, by saying "the" culture we fall into the trap of thinking there is only one culture, when in fact

we operate in many cultural spheres. For example, office culture is different from family culture (unless your family eats dinner in cubicles). Second, we reinforce the idea that the church is separate from culture, as if it were possible for Christians to be culture-free.

Scripture says Jesus "came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read" (Luke 4:16). Jesus was Jewish. Jesus celebrated Passover, went to synagogue, kept the Sabbath, read Hebrew and spoke Aramaic. He also crossed cultural barriers by speaking to a Samaritan woman, engaging the Roman tax system and connecting with a wide variety of cultural outcasts. Jesus operated in multiple cultural spheres, finding things to praise as well as critique, while calling His disciples to "Go make disciples of all nations..." (Matt. 28:19, emphasis added).

Our churches, expressions of faith in worship and even the foods we serve (or don't serve) are all expressions of culture. If you or anyone

you know speaks a known language on earth you are affected by culture. The belief that one can stand totally outside culture leads people to believe their cultural way of doing life is objectively right and can be forced on others. This practice of colonization, making Christians in our own cultural image (American, Millennial, rural, urban, etc.) versus trying to help cultivate unique expressions of faith among others can be seen in Babylon's approach to their Hebrew captives (see Dan. 1:3-7).

However, in Rev. 7:9, John looks and sees a great multitude that no one could number; and it says John sees that this redeemed multitude comes from every tribe, every tongue, every nation—every culture—not just one. Heaven has diversity of culture, and so does the church. Instead of speaking of culture as a singular thing, or speaking in a way that makes it seem as though we are culture free, a better question might be: What is God doing within the cultures we inhabit? And then, How can I partner with God in reaching out to those around me?  $\mathbf{0}$ 

1. Crouch, Andy. Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling (2013), p. 10.

#### **DR. SETH PIERCE**

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

# 1 The Great day on my new

When people give their lives to Jesus, they are a new creation. 2 Cor. 5:17 states, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Since my favorite conversation is talking about Jesus and how good He is to us, I share Jesus with many people,

including people at my secular workplace.

Somewhere along the way, I realized I spent a lot of my daytime hours at work, so I wanted them to be pleasant hours. I refer to the people in my workplace as my work family.

God knows how He can use us, and here are a few ways God has used me to witness for Him in the secular workplace to help others have a closer relationship with Him.

# My story

Currently, I am working part time for the State of Nebraska. I've been on this job seven months and everyone at work is aware I love God and am a Seventh-day Adventist.

In 2017, I had retired—because of an almost fatal car accident—from the Federal Government with 31 years of service, which included three years of military service. The accident took place in 2015 and the police at the accident said seven people saw a person in the car with me who later disappeared completely from the scene.

I thank God He had seven people to verify He sent an angel to save my life that day in a miraculous way. My heart had been displaced, 13 of my ribs were broken, and my pelvis was crushed. I was dying, I could barely breathe, but I did not feel any real pain.

Immediately after the accident, I couldn't talk or walk. However, I was able to return to work seven months later. I worked for eight months until I could get both a retirement check and a Social Security check at age 62. After being retired for two years, I took the part-time job so I would not have to work on Sabbath.

The first day on my new job, I was told the preference was that I would not wear jeans to work. On my jobs, most people wear casual business pants and so did I until my accident. This gave me the opportunity to tell about how God saved my life in the car accident. I explained to my supervisor I would be wearing a dress each day because dresses were more comfortable for me since I had a metal plate inside me due to my crushed pelvis. I also mentioned that I was capable of doing almost everything I was able to do before the accident occurred.

Wherever I work, I usually pray for each person on my job by name as I drive to work. I let them know I am praying for them and I tell them that I pray they do a good job at work and grow closer to God. They usually appreciate that I am praying for them.

One day a person said, "I know Eula prayed for me this morning, so everything will be okay." I was blessed by her comments that day and she was blessed because I had indeed prayed for each one of them that morning while driving to work.

# Seeds of kindness

As a Federal employee, I learned that I could talk about God in my cubicle area.



I had the Bible, *God's Answers* to Your Questions, and Steps to Christ in my office area. People would come and ask questions about the books and ask me to pray for their needs. At organizational functions, I would be asked to say the blessing for the food. The blessing could be offered voluntarily and not by a supervisor.

In 2014, I was in my own office area which had a door. People were still in cubicles, but most of the lead persons had office doors. One of my coworkers from another group did a good job at work, but she was criticizing management and causing some friction.

I was concerned for her. She called herself an atheist, so I asked her why she put her two children in a Catholic school and prayed with them. She said that was her way of controlling them. She also wanted another job and was having a hard time finding a position.

One day I saw her almost in tears, so I told her that prayer and doing a good job worked together—it takes both. Since I know prayer works, I told her I would pray for her to get a different job. Both she and management would be happy with this outcome.

She agreed for me to pray for her. I also told her she could do her phone interview in my office area since I had a door for privacy. She got the position she was seeking, and went to a Christian book store and bought me Christian thank you gifts. One even had a Scripture on it. I felt like I was her only Christian contact and God helped me plant seeds of His love for her.

# Just pray ...

In 2010 we had three people in a cubicle with one lead person to help with questions (I was that lead person). I heard that some employees were wondering how this group was going to work because there was a Christian person—me—and a person on the team who had worked there a long time who frequented adult clubs. I told that person I would pray for him that God would bless him to live for Him again.

He used to be a Sunday school teacher, but when his marriage ended in divorce he started going to adult clubs. By the time we changed groups again, he was no longer going to the clubs and he was taking his tithe to church with him. God knows how to use others to bring back those who have gone astray.

# Amazing leadership

In 2004, to get a raise to help pay for Adventist college for my children, I went to a three-month course that was equivalent to 15 hours of graduate study at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. It was known to be a tough course, and I asked God to keep me from working on the Sabbath since we worked in groups on the weekend. My group decided to work on Sunday because they preferred to shop on Saturday. Praise God! He had taken care of the Sabbath issue for me.

One of my written and oral presentations required us to pick a positive leader

for the military, whether the person was in the military or not. I picked Jesus, but the instructors tried to discourage me because I had to make Jesus fully man and could not mention any of His fully God characteristics nor any of His miracles. I was told everyone else had failed who picked Jesus.

God helped me be the first to get a good grade portraying Jesus as a leader for the military. I really did not have much of a choice because I knew Him better than I knew any other leader in history.

A leader always has followers, so I mentioned how Zacchaeus' life in the Bible was changed and he became a follower; how we still date our time by the life of Jesus, using AD and BC; how the Bible is His biography and His testimony for His followers; and how we have chaplains in the military today to help soldiers know they have a great leader in Jesus. Over

Eula Key's near-fatal car accident in 2015 serves as a conversation opener for talking about Jesus.

2,000 years have passed and Jesus still has followers, even in the military.

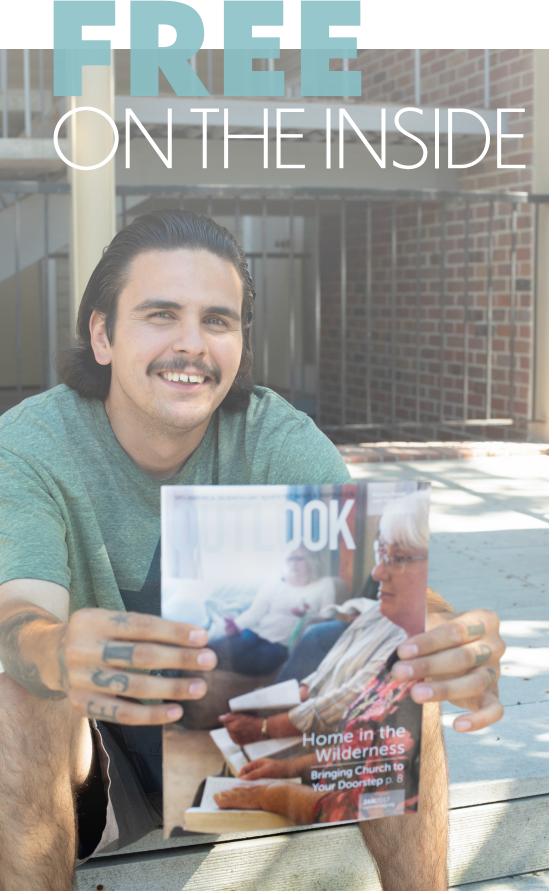
After the presentation, a person told me she had not attended church for 20 years, but had decided to go back because I did not preach to her. She said the part that touched her most was when I said, "Being a follower of Jesus does not mean you do everything right; it means you have a desire to do everything right."

God has so many people He wants to have a closer relationship with Him. I pray each of us allows ourselves to be available to be used for His purpose, even in our secular workplaces. 0

Photos Courtesy Eula Key







DISCIPLE RHINEHART (HIS REAL NAME) HAS A LONG LIFE JOURNEY ALREADY FOR A MAN SO YOUNG, OUR **OUTLOOK** TEAM VISITED DISCIPLE AT HIS APARTMENT IN NEBRASKA TO HEAR HOW THIS PASSIONATE NEW BELIEVER IS SHARING JESUS WITH OTHERS.

#### DISCIPLE, TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

I didn't know my mom or my dad growing up. My grandparents took us in and cared for us. We lived in California. They were Adventists and took us to church. We learned the little stories and had fun times, going camping and such. I lived with my grandparents for 19 years.

#### WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

I was a stubborn person and I didn't really want to do good. I just wanted to feel good and have everything. I took different jobs around the country and started running with the wrong crowds. Then I got into drugs and alcohol. I'd have a bad night of drinking and end up in jail and lose my job. I didn't care about anything except getting high.

One time when I was drunk I assaulted a police officer in a parking lot in Nebraska and got sent to prison. I didn't know anyone in Nebraska. I was very angry about being there and caused a lot of trouble. Eventually I was assigned to what they call "intensive management" where everything is taken

away from you. I was all alone, hungry and hurting.

Finally I was humbled and asked for God's help. I felt something come over me—a kind of joy— and I started reading the prison Bible called Free on the Inside, which by law I was able to have if I requested it. I read the Gospels through three times back to back. That captured my heart and I knew Jesus was speaking truth.

#### WHAT WAS THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU?

When I got out of the hole I met a man in the general prison population who gave me this magazine called OUTLOOK. I had a burning desire to read stuff about God. When I read the magazine, memories started clicking in my brain from my childhood, about how my grandparents had shepherded me and encouraged me to get an education. That magazine meant a lot to me and helped me set a course when I was released from prison.

#### WHAT SPECIFICALLY CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION?

That there was an Adventist college in Nebraska! I didn't know there was much of anything around.

Also, while I was in prison I met a Pentacostal Christian man who was really kind and we connected. He said I could stay at his mother's house when I was released. But when you live in a convict world you learn fast not to trust people. So I prayed about it a lot. And when I was released I did accept the offer to stay at their house. It was a nice house, and there was

plenty of food to eat. Having a place to stay was the backbone of things for me. It was so awesome.

Right away I started researching different religions and making phone calls. I knew about the Sabbath and what happens to a person when they die, but I wanted to learn more. One day I took a taxi with my money from working at McDonald's and went to Union College campus and just started walking around and talking to people. I met a chaplain named Byard Parks and he started giving me lessons about Jesus, written by Karen Lewis. He also took me to visit a couple of Adventist churches. At first I really struggled, hearing all the things people said in church. But after a while I felt more connected—eating with people at potlucks and talking to them and asking about Bible verses.

It was a struggle, though. I knew that being drunk or on drugs is not how you "do Jesus." I couldn't deal with my emotions in that state.

### DID YOU FIND A CHURCH WHERE YOU FELT ACCEPTED?

Yes, on June 22, 2019, I was baptized and joined the Capitol View Seventh-day Adventist Church. Baptism was something I was really looking forward to. All these doors were just flying open.

And it's an awesome thing to be there. I feel God's presence there. I know that Jesus has done everything for our salvation. There is nothing we can do to earn it. But the people there do believe in healing. And the seminars really helped

me since I still had to quit cigarettes.

#### **TELL US ABOUT YOUR** CURRENT JOB.

I had worked a lot of factory jobs. Some food service too, but mostly factories. And I didn't feel like they were doing anything for me.

After I got hurt at work and was looking for a different job, I went into the Help Center in Lincoln and told the man running the place that I felt like God told me to come in and ask for a job. I didn't know what he would think. But he said he had the same experience when he started working there!

I've worked at the men's shelter and the Help Center for six months now. The work is just genuinely caring for people, and telling them that they don't have to be ashamed; we are there to help. It's a job where you can care for the poor and talk about Jesus. Jesus is like a double friend. You get to spend private time with Him at home, plus public time with Him at church and everywhere else.

#### SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

Going to spread the gospel! I feel like I've been trying to figure out for the past three years how God wants me to share the gospel. I've prayed about it a lot. I'm 26 years old now and I'm getting ready to go to Belize for three months of training. Then I will go somewhere to work for six months. There will be 19 people in my missionary training group.

The organization I'm working through is called Move Americas. They have a pretty

cool history. A guy from North Dakota had a bunch of money and just wanted to help people be prepared to talk about Jesus. I'm looking forward to all the things out there that I can do with God.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR STORY?

I can look back now and say that I learned my lesson.We all have different paths to take. We all make mistakes but that two years was my last time in prison. I still look like this [holding up his hands], but on the inside I'm a different person. I just want to say to everyone that if God can do this for me I assure you He can do it for you. He is just waiting for you to ask Him.

There are two verses I would like everyone to read: Luke 18:1 and Rom. 8:38-39. If you read the Bible and put it in your heart, it can't be taken away from you. **0** 

WATCH THE FULL INTER-VIEW: OUTLOOKMAG.ORG/ DISCIPLE\_TESTIMONY

SINCE THIS INTERVIEW, DISCIPLE HAS COMPLETED HIS TRAINING AND IS READY TO GO WHEREVER GOD SENDS HIM. LEARN MORE ABOUT MOVE AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY TRAINING AND SHORT-TERM ASSIGNMENTS: MOVETRAINING.ORG.

# **Moments with the Master**

avannah Aulger will Onever have a picture taken with her father on her birthday. Nor at any school, graduation or wedding party.

The only picture she has with her dad is beautiful, but at the same time very sad. He is connected to oxygen hoses in the hospital. The man she would call Dad only held her in his arms for 45 minutes. He cried, smiled, and there was no doubt how much he loved her. But the day after Savannah was born her dad went into a coma.

Only a few weeks earlier, Mark had received the very good news that he had defeated cancer. But then came the discovery that eight months of chemotherapy had spoiled his lungs and left him with pulmonary fibrosis—in short, he could not breathe.

Shortly after Savannah's birth, Mark Aulger died in the hospital. He would have

been a loving father, but cancer-and then death-separated them.

#### The power of healing

Mark 1:40-45 tells the story of a man who was separated from his family because of an incurable and contagious disease called leprosy. Once diagnosed by the priests, lepers had to leave everything. Neither poor, nor rich, nor free, nor slaves—no one was safe from this terrible disease. Not even kings could escape the law. They must surrender the throne and live with other lepers.

Since the days of the prophet Elisha, no leper had been cured. But this man heard that no one who approached Jesus was rejected. And this man began to have faith in Jesus. Here are three important lessons from this story:

1. Blessings are the size of your faith. There are many blessings God gives only to those who have faith in Him. This leper believed that Jesus had the power to heal him. Arriving at the shore of Lake Galilee and seeing Jesus help others increased his faith. He told Iesus: "If you want, you can make me clean." Jesus said: "I want to; be clean." What a relief it is for us today to know that our God not only has the power to do great things, but that He wants to help us in our problems, that

He wants to bless us.

2. It is never too late to ask Jesus for help. This leper's case was serious, according to the original Greek text. He had not recently been diagnosed with the disease. How many times when we hear someone has cancer we say, "Thank God they diagnosed him in time!" But when we hear "metastasis" we start talking as if he had already died. He was so young! Poor wife! ... children so small! The Bible tells us there is not only hope for the sick, but for the seriously ill, and the Bible also tells us that there is hope even for the dead. The God of the Bible tells us that it is never too late to ask for help. Maybe you are about to sign your divorce papers, or perhaps

you are facing immigration problems. Jesus specializes in difficult cases.

3. Obeying God is for our own benefit. Jesus asks him not to say anything to anyone, but to go and show himself to the priests. Since the priests were against Jesus, if they learned that Jesus had healed him he was at risk of not being given the certificate of health to rejoin his family. Jesus asked him something that was for his own good. What God asks us is not for His benefit, but for blessings in our lives.

This moment with Iesus transformed the life of this man and that of his family. It brought healing, reunion, joy and peace. All the moments we spend with Jesus are powerful-moments that change our lives. Today is your opportunity for spending meaningful moments with the Master. 0

Roberto Correa is Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Mid-America Union.



# Momentos con el Maestro

avannah Aulger nunca ten-Odrá una imagen tomada con elher padredeher. Cumpleaños ni en ninguna escuela, graduación o boda fiesta.

La única foto que tiene con su papá es hermosa, pero al mismo tiempo muy triste. Él es conectado a las mangueras de oxígeno en el hospital. El hombre al que llamaría su padre solo la sostuvo en sus brazos durante 45 minutos. Lloró, sonrió, y no había duda de cuánto la amaba. Pero al día siguiente del nacimiento de Savannah, su padre entró en coma.

Solo unas semanas antes, Mark había recibido la muy buena noticia de que había vencido al cáncer. Pero luego se descubrió que ocho meses de quimioterapia habían estropeado sus pulmones y lo habían dejado con fibrosis pulmonar; en resumen, no podía respirar.

Poco después del nacimiento de Savannah, Mark Aulger murió en el hospital. Hubiera sido un padre amoroso, pero el cáncer,y luego la muerte, losseparó.

## El poder de curación

Marcos 1: 40-45 cuenta la historia de un hombre que fue separado de su familia a causa de unaincurable y contagious enfermedad llamada lepra. Una vez diagnosticados por los sacerdotes, los leprosos tuvieron que dejarlo todo. Ni pobres, ni ricos, ni libres, ni esclavos: nadie estaba a

salvo de esta terrible enfermedad. Ni siquiera los reyes pudieron escapar de la ley. Deben entregar el trono y en vivo con otros leprosos.

Desde los días del profeta Eliseo, ningún leproso había sido curado. Pero este hombre escuchó que nadie que se acercó a Jesús fue rechazado. Y este hombre comenzó a tener fe en Jesús. Aquí hay tres lecciones importantes de esta historia:

- 1. Las bendiciones son el tamaño de su fe. Hay muchas bendiciones que Dios da sólo a aquellos que tienen fe en él. Este leproso creía que Jesús tenía el poder de curarlo. Llegar a la orilla del lago Galilea y ver a Jesús ayudar a otros aumentó su fe. Le dijo a Jesús: "Si quieres, puedes limpiarme." Jesús dijo: "Quiero; estar limpio." Qué alivio es para nosotros hoy para saber que nuestro Dios no sólo tiene el poder de hacer grandes cosas, pero que su quiere ayudarnos en nuestros problemas, que su quiere bendecirnos.
- 2. Nunca es demasiado tarde para pedirle ayuda a Jesús. Eleste leprosocaso de era grave, según el texto griego original. No había sido diagnosticado recientemente con la enfermedad. Cuántas veces cuando escuchamos que alguien tiene cáncer decimos: "¡Gracias a Dios que lo

diagnosticaron a tiempo!" Pero cuando escuchamos "metástasis" comenzamos a hablar como si ya hubiera muerto. ¡Era muy joven! ¡Pobre esposa! ... niños tan pequeños! La Biblia nos dice que no solo hay esperanza para los enfermos, sino también para los enfermos graves, y también nos dice que hay esperanza incluso para los muertos. El Dios de la Bibliadice nosquenunca es demasiado tarde para pedir ayuda. Tal vez esté a punto de firmar sus documentos de divorcio, otal vez esté enfrentando problemas de inmigración. Jesús se especializa en casos difíciles.

3. Obedecer a Dios es para nuestro propio benefi**cio.** Jesús le pide que no le diga nada a nadie, sino que vaya y se muestre a los sacerdotes. Como los sacerdotes estaban en contra de Jesús, si supieran que Jesús lo había sanado corría el riesgo de no recibir el certificado de salud para reunirse con su familia. Jesús le preguntó algo que era por su propio bien. Lo que Dios nos pide no es por Su beneficio,

sino por bendiciones en nuestras vidas.

Este momento con Jesús transformó la vida de este hombre y la de su familia. Trajo curación, reunión, alegría y paz. Todos los momentos que pasamos con Jesús son poderosos, momentos que cambian nuestras vidas. Hoy es tu oportunidad de pasar significativos momentos con el Maestro.

La Biblia nos dice que no solo hay esperanza para los enfermos, sino también para los enfermos graves, y también nos dice que hay esperanza incluso para los muertos.

## **ROBERTO CORREA**

es el director de Ministerios Hispanic en el Mid-America Union Conference



# **Envision Puts Spark Back in**

When I lost my sight, I felt like it was the end of the world because I didn't know there were jobs for people who are blind. Once I got here, **Envision put the** spark back in me. All I could think was Wow. there is life for people like me!



Cedrick Veal is not the Same man he was seven years ago when two open heart surgeries, each of which resulted in temporary brain death, took away his eyesight. The desperation that once plagued the Louisiana native has been replaced with purpose. Any feelings of uncertainty have given way to an overwhelming desire to lead and serve others.

Veal's transformation began the moment he applied for a job at Envision, and his story reinforces the importance of National **Disability Employment** Awareness Month observed annually in October.

NDEAM raises awareness about disability employment Sedrick Veal boxes trash bags as part of his role as a bag/folder picker.

issues and celebrates the many contributions made by inclusive workforces. The 2019 theme, "The Right Talent, Right Now," emphasizes the essential role that people with disabilities play in America's economic success, especially in an era when historically low unemployment and global competition are creating a high demand for skilled talent.

From the moment he arrived in Wichita, Sedrick knew Envision was the right place for him.

"When I lost my sight, I felt like it was the end of the world because I didn't know there were jobs for people who are blind," he said. "That first year, I was completely depressed. I would just sit facing walls, eat and go to bed. Finally, I started to move around and found out about Envision. Once I got here, Envision put the spark back in me. All I could think was, Wow, there is life for people like me!"

For the past three years, Sedrick has looked forward to getting up in the morning and going to work as a bag folder/picker at Envision

Industries where he is surrounded by real, authentic people. And now as part of Envision's Upward Mobility program, he is taking typing classes to refresh his skills and open himself up to new career paths and a possible return to college to become a social worker.

The William L. Hudson BVI Workforce Innovation Center is a major source of inspiration for Sedrick. He continues to be encouraged by what he and his fellow Employee Advisory Group members learned at its 2018 opening.

"The BVI Workforce Innovation Center is an overwhelming opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired to spread their wings," he said. "The sky

> Sedrick Veal and his wife, Chiffonda, enjoy themselves at 2019's Evening with Envision gala.



# **Sedrick Veal's Life**

is the limit."

He's thankful for the opportunities he's been given to be part of a team at Envision and go about his job with integrity and enthusiasm. At the end of every day, he always asks himself, "What did I do to help someone today, and what did I say to inspire others?"

He is dedicated to letting others who share his circumstances know-whether it's his coworkers or people he encounters in the community—that being blind is not the end of life. He firmly believes that by being open to doing something different, people who are visually impaired can be a benefit to the community in ways they never could imagine.

Sedrick can't remember a time in his life when he wasn't committed to helping others. Adopted when he was four years old, he recalls being pushed into life very early. Helping out in his household just became second nature.

His innate spirit of caring made him a natural fit for the EAG. This year, he accepted the offer to become its chair.

"When I found out Envision had a whole committee dedicated to helping other people, I knew it was definitely something I wanted to be part of," he said. "The EAG is valuable

to Envision because it gives employees a voice."

A self-described "thinker," Sedrick intends to use his term as chair to share ideas and spur conversations about ways Envision employees at all levels of the organization, from hourly workers to executive team members, can be more visible in the Wichita community. His goal is for all Wichitans to know who Envision employees are and what the organization is about.

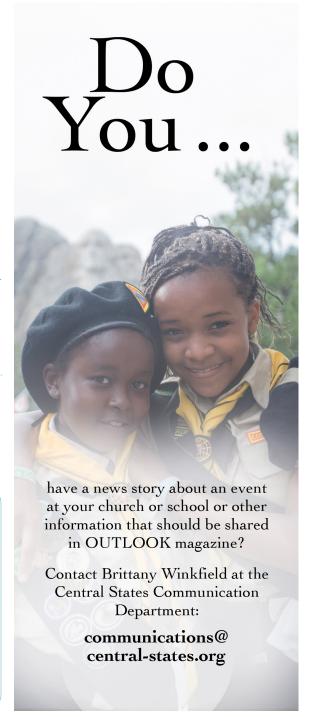
"Some people think that because you are blind, you are limited to doing just a few things," Sedrick said. "But people who are blind are just like everyone else—we have children, go to church, pay bills and have jobs."

Reprinted with permission from the October 2019 edition of EnSight, Envision's monthly employee newsletter.



Learn more about Envision at envisionus.com.

Learn more about **National Disability** Employment Awareness month at www.bitly.com/ ndeam19.



# **DAKOTA** CONFERENCE



Photos: Jacquie Biloff

# Soules Gives His Time to Serve Others

# Heaven's Helper Soup Café enlists volunteers to feed the hungry

**Greg Soules** has a unique way of initiating conversations. He hands out recipes to those he meets, then concludes the conversation by telling how good God is.

Soules is a retired schoolteacher. We have been friends for several years, although we see each other infrequently. But there is much about him I did not know.

Soules was raised on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in central Oregon. "My twin brother and I had to take summer school to catch up on reading skills," says Soules. "I wanted to be a teacher but didn't realize at that young age that I would have to read to my students—up front," he says with a grin. He became a teacher anyway.

Soules has other activities that take up his time now, though. He loves working with rocks—finding the "picture within"—and making guitar picks out of them. And he volunteers a lot.

He volunteers at Heaven's Helper Soup Café in Bismarck, North Dakota, Monday through Friday, except on Tuesdays when he volunteers at the Mandan County Courthouse. He fingerprints anyone who needs or wants the service.

But those are not the only places he volunteers. He also volunteers at Sanford Health Hospital in the dialysis unit, helps at his friend's hotdog stand (so he can have a little break now and then), and stops on his way home from volunteering to cheer on his friends who need encouragement.

Soules says Heaven's Helper Soup Café is a fun place to volunteer. "You do not need any special skills. Just be willing to work," he explains. "They train you and help you. They are fun people to work with."

# I want to work for the Lord

Heaven's Helper Soup Café started in 2008 when **Mark Meier** told his boss, "I want to work for the Lord. I don't know what He wants me to do but I am giving you my resignation."

Meier prayed for guidance, but nothing developed until his brother-in-law said to him, "You know, that empty place downtown would make a good soup kitchen."

Meier says, "When I said 'No,' the Lord checked me." Meier started the café feeding the homeless in March 2009. He has not had to shop for groceries since July of that year.

"People bring truckloads of food; one or two trucks a day," says Soules. "Sometimes stores bring excess items." People, businesses and groups have consistently donated. The café serves two meals: lunch and supper.

Soules explains that Meier makes sandwiches and soups out of whatever food is available. "There is the sandwich of the day and two soups," says Soules. "He also has a salad bar and desserts. The people get treated very, very well."

#### **Cooking from the heart**

Soules starts work between 7 and 7:30 am and works until 1 or 2 pm. "Mark [Meier] walks in and sees

# **DAKOTA** CONFERENCE

what is available, then decides what to cook. He doesn't use recipes. He cooks from the heart," Soules says.

Soules is one of 35 volunteers at the soup café, which feeds about 350 people a day.

Meier prayed for guidance, but nothing developed until his brother-inlaw said to him. "You know, that empty place downtown would make a good soup kitchen."

"It is very fun to volunteer here. Volunteers include high school kids all the way up to grandpas and grandmas."

When asked what he does at the café, Soules savs he does whatever needs to be done. "Chopping vegetables, shoveling the sidewalks, or if the floors need to be swept, that's what I do. There is room for everybody who has some kind of talent and an inclination to work. We make a lot of sandwiches and a lot of soup. We have a good time. It is very spiritual here," he explains.

"At 11 am, [Meier] has prayer and opens the door. Then the people come in to be fed," says Soules. Meier then locks the doors at 7 pm. "That is what he does day in and day out." And that is what Soules does as well, along with his many other volunteer jobs.

Many businesspeople come to the soup kitchen to eat and make a donation. "It is good food, as good as any restaurant food," says Soules. It is good for the clients to interact with a variety of people."

## All kinds of good food and good fellowship

I was able to visit the soup café for a meal and to take some photos. Meier cooked

a butternut squash soup, which Soules and I enjoyed together. Soules commented, "I don't even like squash, but this is good."

He mentioned to Meier that the soup was delicious. "And you helped," said Meier. "Remember all that garlic you chopped?" Soules smiled and said to me, "All kinds of good food and good fellowship."

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Dakota Conference 25th Annual Men's Retreat

Men of Issachar: Those Who Understand the Times

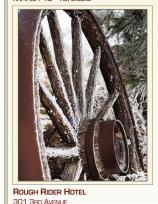
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Campmeeting June 10 - 13, 2020

# Cape Girardeau Church Sponsors Free Medical Clinic

The Cape Girardeau
Church recently partnered with Remote Area
Medical, a nonprofit organization based in Knoxville,
Tennessee, to provide free
medical, dental and vision services to Cape Girardeau and
the surrounding communities.

The free clinic was held at a local sports complex

and ran for two days, with 162 volunteers providing nearly \$190,000 in services to approximately 450 patients. Free health literature was also provided, as well as a prayer tent for those interested in free spiritual care. Some people from the community noted that it had been at least 15 years since any such

services were available in the area, and various other churches expressed interest in helping with future events.

There were several challenges that presented themselves during the planning process, including scheduling. A normal RAM clinic runs on Saturday and Sunday, averaging 300 patients for a

first area event. After fasting and praying, members felt a Sunday and Monday clinic would be more appropriate so that volunteers didn't have to work on Sabbath. Not only was the clinic a success, but it exceeded the expectations of the organizers by 150 patients!

The Cape Girardeau Church would like to thank all the volunteers and others who made this event possible. Much needed services were provided to the community, and it was a great way to build connections with people.

Nonad Coralde is a member of the Cape Girardeau Church in Missouri.



(left) Volunteers help a family register for free medical services.

(middle left) Community members receive free dental work.

(bottom left) A community member visits with a volunteer at the prayer tent.

(bottom middle) Volunteers help community members select eye glasses.

(bottom right) A volunteer visits with community members while they wait to receive services.



Learn more about the Cape Girardeau Church: capeadventist.org.

Learn more about RAM and their upcoming free clinics: ramusa.org.







# St. Louis Central Church Raises Funds for Homeless During Special Sabbath

he St. Louis Central L Church recently sponsored a special Sabbath of gratitude and praise. In addition to Sabbath school and the worship service, there was time allotted for singing praise music, reading psalms, and sharing testimonies of God's goodness and mercies. The guest speaker was conference president Dean Coridan.

A fellowship meal was served in the beautifully decorated Forsyth School gym, followed by a benefit concert that raised over \$1,700 for Brown Bags for Jesus, a ministry to the homeless sponsored by the church's women's ministries team.

The concert featured outstanding musicians Kendol Bacchus (piano) from St. Vincent, who has been featured on 3ABN: Ginnie Roa (violin) from Orlando: and local artists Bernard Morris (saxophone), Kori Cook (flute), Matthew Kim (cello), Charles Bugett (piano/ vocals), Monique Lavalas (vocals), Rhyz Wilson (piano), and Amy Ikpeama (piano). The Imani Pathfinder club, which also participates in an active homeless street ministry at the St. Louis Northside Church, collected the donations.

Brown Bags for Jesus also recently distributed over 200 care packages—including socks, blankets, food and personal care items—to homeless people in the St. Louis area. The women's ministries





(left) Musicians, along with event emcees Christine Salter (back, left) and Susan Miles (back, third from right), prepare for the benefit concert.

Pathfinders prepare to distribute food and other personal care items to the homeless of St. Louis.

team has taken to heart what Iesus said about serving the poor: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine. you did for me" (Matt. 25:40).

The special Sabbath culminated with a reception for the lead musician, Bacchus, and a silent auction of beautiful wreaths made and donated by the women's ministries team.

Christine Salter is women's ministries leader for the St. Louis Central Church in Missouri.

# **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:

- Holy Spirit Moves in Moberly During **Evangelistic Meetings**
- Following the Wounded Warrior's Example
- **Students Share** How Sunnydale Academy Has Changed Their Lives
- Sunnydale Church Hosts Financial Peace University
- Ottumwa Pathfinders and Adventurers Share Jesus Door-to-Door

# **Town Hall Meetings**

Town hall meetings are tentatively scheduled in various areas of the conference in March. All meetings at 6:30 pm. The proposed schedule is:

#### Missouri

- March 9 St. Louis West County
- March 10 Cape Girardeau
- March 11 Houston
- March 16 Nixa
- March 17 Independence

#### lowa

- March 23 Davenport
- March 24 Cedar Rapids
- March 25 Sioux City
- March 29 Ankenv

These meetings are a great opportunity to have some open dialogue about where we are headed as a conference. As the dates get closer, check your local church bulletin for confirmation and final details. Please plan to attend a meeting near you, and bring questions for our panel discussions.

# Kansas-Nebraska Conference Ministerio de la Mujer presenta: DETIDO DE DAMAC

# RETIRO DE DAMAS



Courtyard by Marriott Junction City

Atención especial para las Adolescentes de 13-19 años

# Nuestras oradoras



Leticia De Los Santos



Erica Jones

# **Erasmus Ordained to Ministry**

# From South Africa to Kansas-Nebraska

Francois Erasmus started life in South Africa and grew up in what he called a "nominal Christian" (non-Adventist) home. When Erasmus was 20 years old, he along with his parents and three younger brothers were baptized into the Adventist Church.

Even after having been told by friends and a former pastor that he was called into ministry, he waited 17 years before enrolling in college to study theology. During those years he lived in South Africa, Israel and England, but eventually returned home to work in the family's labor brokering business.

Sensing that he could no longer ignore God's call, he enrolled at Weimar College in California. He graduated in May 2013 with a bachelors' degree in theology and is presently studying for a masters' degree in pastoral ministry. He says his greatest accomplishment was getting married to the love of his life, Emily, on July 5, 2010.

#### Serving the church in Kansas and Nebraska

While visiting Emily's relatives in Lincoln, Nebraska, after his college graduation, Erasmus visited the Kansas-Nebraska Conference office to introduce himself. In January 2014, Erasmus was hired as the pastor for the

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference Congratulations

Francois Erasmus, pictured with wife Emily, was ordained Nov. 9, 2019 at the Eureka Church in Kansas.

Grand Island, Aurora and Hastings, Nebraska, district. After two years, Erasmus was transferred to the El Dorado, Eureka, Fredonia and Sedan, Kansas, district.

Erasmus and Emily enjoy serving the church and their congregations. Erasmus enjoys doing Bible studies and personal visitations. They love sharing the Lord and His love with members of the churches

and their communities.

Erasmus was ordained Nov. 9, 2019 at the Eureka Church in Kansas.

Edited by John Sweigart, vice president for administration for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

# **Upcoming Events**

#### **Kansas City** Convocation

Feb. 14-15 Speaker: Hyveth Williams

#### Wichita Convocation

Feb. 28-29 Speaker: Seth Pierce

# Children's **Ministries Training**

Feb. 28-29 Omaha, NE

#### **Pathfinder Zoo Trip**

March 22 Omaha, NE

#### **Hispanic Women's** Retreat

April 3-5 Junction City, KS

#### **Men's Retreat**

April 3-5 Broken Arrow Ranch Speaker: Karl Haffner

#### **Praver Conference**

April 10-12 Nebraska City, NE

## **Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend**

April 10-11 Enterprise, KS

## **Platte Valley Academy Alumni** Weekend: 100 Year Celebration

April 24-25 Aurora, NE

# Maplewood Government Project Teaches Students About Leadership

The Maplewood Academy seniors enjoyed a hands on experience in governing structure on Oct. 22, 2019. For a day, the students took on leadership roles at the Minnesota Conference as well as presenting reports at a mock board of trustees meeting.

Maplewood's American government class elected a conference president, vice president and a treasurer. Each of these officers was supported by an assistant. Other students took roles as department heads.

Jimme Deng was elected conference president and Shee Paw assisted the president. John Mungandi was elected vice president and was assisted by Lul Lul and Luis Gonzalez. The student treasurer was Jay Kim and he

was assisted by **Brian Ombiro** and **Korey Chaffee**.

Other students worked in Human Resources, Hispanic Ministries, Trust Services, Education, Youth, and Women's Ministries.

# Fielding questions and analyzing data

Minnesota Conference Human Resources director **Savannah Carlson** began the day with an overview of the church government structure in the Minnesota Conference, the Mid-America Union, the North American Division and the General Conference.

Students then spent an hour and a half with their officer or department heads. After enjoying a lunch together, the mock board of trustees meeting began. The student president called on reports from the different departments, and the students fielded questions from the conference staff. It was a change of pace for conference



(left) Brian Mungandi explains to the students the role of the vice president for administration.

(bottom left) HR director Savannah Carlson begins the day with an overview of the church government structure in the conference, union, division, and the General Conference.

(bottom right) President Justin Lyons shares with the students the responsibilities of the president as well as the data available to the president.





officers to see someone else on the receiving end of questions.

Student conference president Jimme Deng was impressed with the data at the president's command. "One of the most interesting things was the chart about the organization that President [Justin] Lyons shared," Deng said. "It was interesting how much tithe comes in and how they used the money to benefit the organization."

Deng was able to see that the president has a lot to digest. "He takes in all the data and tries to keep it on track," the senior said. "I think the hard thing about being president is having to take in so many things at once."

Senior Adeline Martin observed another challenge of leadership. "The president has a lot to oversee and a lot of meetings. People may not see him doing as much because a lot of what he does has to remain confidential."

Luis Gonzalez was surprised when vice president for administration Brian **Mungandi** reviewed the number of churches, companies and groups in Minnesota Conference. "There is a huge chart of all the chuches and organizations. I didn't realize how many did not have church status," Gonzalez said.

Jay Kim was impressed with the level of organization he saw in the treasury department. "I didn't know it was that

complicated," he said. "You have to be perfectly organized to keep track of every single part. When they opened their spreadsheets, I saw all the sections they were keeping track of. Their report was like 100 pages." Kim summed up his view of the biggest challenge by saying, "I think the toughest thing is when they have a lot of expenses and the money coming in doesn't match. You cannot control how much tithe is coming in."

Korey Chafee found the conference investments to be the most interesting part of the treasury department. "The hardest thing was the organization and the spreadsheets," Chaffee said.

Minnesota Conference treasurer **Dwayne Mauk** was surprised by how much the students grasped in a day. "It was not just a game to them," he said. "They asked serious questions."

He was even more impressed with the mock board of trustees meeting. "When we got to the meeting, they had listened well enough to report back to the board, and it was as though I was doing it myself," added Mauk.

The teachers at Maplewood Academy and staff of the conference office hope this becomes a part of the curriculum each year.

John Bedell is principal of Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

# **Minnesota Conference Association Constituency**

# Official Notice

Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists Notice is hereby given that the 109th Regular Session, and 3rd Quadrennial Session, of the Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, will be held at Banquets of Minnesota, 6310 Hwy 65 NE, Fridley, Minnesota 55432 on Sunday, May 17, 2020, at 10 am.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the officers and members for the Board of Trustees for said Association, as well as transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates. Delegates from the churches comprising the Minnesota Conference are on the following basis:

One (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each thirty-five (35) members (as of Dec. 31, 2019) or fractional majority thereof.

The first meeting will be called to order at 10 am on said date, at which time all duly elected delegates shall be seated.

Justin C. Lyons, President Brian K. Mungandi, Vice President for Administration Dwayne W. Mauk, Vice President for Finance

# **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

# **Greeley Adventure Church Brings Food, Prayer to** the Needy

**TWenberg** has always had a passion for helping others. Nine years ago at the Adventure Church in Greeley, Colorado, she felt inspired to start a ministry, but didn't know who would support it. Despite this challenge, she started FAITH (Feeding And Inspiring The Hungry).



With the support of the church, Wenberg found a continuous stream of volunteers, and once a month she and the group began bringing food to those in need. The ministry reaches women, children, retired veterans, and anyone who is in need of food, help

FAITH now provides up to 80 bags containing both food and essentials such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, gloves and even sleeping bags every month. It also provides people with the opportunity for a strong personal

connection with Christ. The volunteers spend the afternoon with the people they meet and pray with them. The goal is to share not only food and material necessities, but also the love Jesus gives to all.

The vision for the future is growth. Wenberg wants to reach even more people and expand the ministry to Loveland and Fort Collins. She believes one way to accomplish this is a food truck. She believes that no matter what, God will provide what is needed to fulfill His purpose.

The goal is to remember

those who are outside of our everyday life and remember they need love and compassion as well. It is a way to share God's love and be Jesus' hands and feet to the community.

Aubrey Stenbakken is a member of the Adventure Church in Greeley, Colorado.



Learn more by emailing DW Wenberg at nanatouk@ hotmail.com.

# **Pueblo Adventists Condemn Planned White Supremacist Attack on Jewish Temple**

he Pueblo First Church **⊥** joined the community in issuing a statement condemning the planned bombing of Temple Emanuel, the Jewish temple in Pueblo, and delivered it to the synagogue leadership last November.

A dozen church members and leaders also attended the Shabbat Eve Service in solidarity with the Jewish

community. Rabbi "Birdie" Becker led out during this gathering, the largest since Temple Emanuel's opening in 1900. The synagogue had standing room only with many supporters standing in the fover and outside.

"We stand in solidarity with you and the city of Pueblo in condemning the attempt to take lives and

cause a deep wound in the fabric of our city," stated Anton Kapusi, pastor of the Pueblo First Church.

Federal authorities in Colorado arrested a man accused of plotting to blow up the synagogue. The suspected bomber used several Facebook accounts to promote violence and show support for the Holocaust. He is in custody and charged with a hate crime.

The Adventist statement expressed rejection of hate and planned violence toward the Jewish community, and was addressed to the Rabbi of the Temple Emanuel and its members.

"We, at the Pueblo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ... are deeply

disturbed by the hate and planned violence this week on our fellow brothers and sisters in Pueblo's Jewish community here in Colorado."

The statement continued, "as Christians and followers of Jesus, we stand with Him in condemning white supremacist groups that spread racism, violence and fear. We pray that divine protection and peace would abide in you all, your homes and your synagogue and we pray for the day when all of God's children, of all races, would treat each other with love and respect, rejecting bias and hate."

RMCNews with Anton Kapusi



# **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

# **Canyon Fall Turns into Modern-day Miracle**





here is a location outside ■ of Aztec, New Mexico, now known as Yeager's Leap or Crash Canyon, but before Super Bowl Sunday, 2018, it was a beautiful but nondescript area. On a recent Sabbath, about 30 members of the Piñon Hills Church in Farmington, New Mexico, ventured out to see this place that they agree should be called Miracle Canyon.

Led by the miracle man himself—Jeremy Yeager—and his wife Danette, the group visited the site where Yeager fell approximately

50 feet and then rolled another 100 feet. He was biking with his friend Dr. Doug Parks when his ride came to a sudden and violent end.

Yeager saw a small ledge near the rim of the canyon, which he thought he could ride over. He remembers his pedal clipping the top of the ledge and sending him off the cliff. Parks hastily dialed 911 as he ran to the spot and Jeremy Yeager (right) recently returned to the scene of his accident and subsequent miracle along with friends, family and fellow members of the Piñon Hills Church.

watched Yeager take his last couple of rolls before stopping and lying motionless.

The rescue team arrived and found Yeager in surprisingly good condition—at least for someone who just fell and rolled the distance he did. They set up a tripod system and lowered a basket with which they were able to get him out of the canyon and on his way to the hospital.

Yeager's injuries included a broken clavicle, six broken ribs on his right side and another eight on his left, a fully collapsed right lung and partially collapsed left lung, cracked L1 vertebrae, a broken pelvis in four places, and a concussion. He also sustained a puncture

wound from a stick embedded in his chest, numerous scratches and scrapes, a badly bruised ankle, and several broken teeth.

Just under three months later, Yeager was cleared to go back to work delivering trash cans for Waste Management. Though he'd only been employed by the company a few months before the accident, they stood by him throughout his recovery.

Yeager's last recollection until several weeks after the fall was yelling, "No, no, no" while falling. He still has little recollection of the event, but he has otherwise made a full recovery. On his first visit to the scene. Yeager felt overwhelmed with the thought that he should be looking down at a memorial. Yeager, Danette, their friends and the Piñon Hills Church family are grateful to God that was not the case.

Ron Price is a member of the Piñon Hills Church in Farmington, New Mexico.

# **Veggie Meat Available in Bulk in Denver**

That the closing of the Adventist Book Center, some have wondered where they will get their bulk veggie



meat. There is good news! A new company was started Jan. 1 by Erin Houghton in Franktown, Colorado, called Rocky Mountain Veggie Meat, LLC, that will provide canned (by the case) and frozen veggie meat to the greater Denver area.

"We will have drop-off dates at Mile High Academy and the conference office every other month," explains Houghton. "For now, we will only be in the Denver area, but if there are enough orders from other areas we will deliver there in the future."

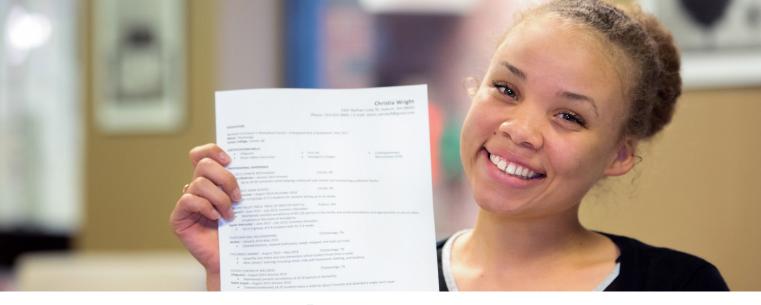
You can sign up at the website to be added to the mailing list or follow the Facebook page (facebook. com/rmveggiemeat) to keep up to date with news about ordering and drop-off times.

Dinner roast, Fri-Chik, Saucettes, Linketts and all of your favorites will still be available. Pricing will be similar to that of the ABC. Sign up for the newsletter and Rocky Mountain Veggie Meat will keep you in the loop on ordering and delivery.

**RMCNews** 



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# **A Focus on Student Success**

When international rescue and relief major Madison Kamarad started her junior year, she knew two classes—Microeconomics and International Relations—were going to be challenges for her. She also knew sometimes the answer to difficult problems is finding better tools. Tutoring made available through Union's Student Success team gave her those tools.

"I'm never usually one to ask for help, but I realized I needed to learn from people who know more," said Kamarad. "My tutors were willing to work at my pace and my level. The Student Success team is doing a phenomenal job at making sure students feel helped and encouraged to do our absolute best with what we have."

Expanded tutoring for a wide variety of courses across campus is just one way Union College's new Student Success team is radically expanding support for students so they successfully find and live out their God-given calling.

"Our goal is to make sure Union students have the personal mentorship and educational experience they need to be highly sought by employers," said **Vinita Sauder**, president of Union College. "That's why we are prioritizing a team who will help make sure our students have everything they need to be successful."

# Life coaching for every freshman

Starting in the fall of 2020, every incoming freshman will have a certified life coach. The coach will help the student line up courses, work through deciding on his or her major by using learning diagnostics such as the Focus 2 assessment, and help with the adjustment to college life—pretty much any help a student needs to be successful in their first year.

Union will have four full-time coaches in place to assist the incoming class as they transition from high school. "I want their life coach to become 'their person' and help them transition into college in whatever capacity that entails," said **Taryn Rouse**, Union's executive director for Student Success. "The coaches will

provide personalized plans for each of their students to help them focus on their needs and goals."

# **Embedded tutoring for the tough courses**

In addition to one-on-one tutoring for any course that students need help with, the college also embeds tutors in the really tough courses. "We find students who took the class before and did well," said Rouse. "Then we hire them to sit in on the course again and tutor the students who need some extra help."

The Student Success team will expand the embedded tutoring program to include 15 more first-year classes. Rouse has already seen success after starting the embedded tutoring program in Fall 2018—some courses improved pass rates by more than 15 percent.

#### **Career and calling**

"Many students don't really understand how to look for jobs, how to interview, or maybe even what to study. That's where the Career Center comes in, and it's part of our Student Success initiative," said Rouse. The Career Center has been staffed by one part-time person for several years, but the role will expand to full time allowing the center to provide more career-finding assistance—through planning career fairs, providing assessment tools such as the Clifton StrengthsFinder, and helping students learn to create resumés and perform well in interviews.

But Union will also take career prep one step further. "We believe that the practical experience and networking provided by working outside the classroom is vital to developing the skills employers crave—such as communication, problem-solving and grit," said Sauder. "Starting next school year, every student in every major will be required to complete at least one semester-long internship before graduation."

#### **Bringing it all together**

In September 2019, Union was awarded a \$2.1 million Strengthening Institutions

# UNION COLLEGE

grant to focus on student success. In addition to funding many of the new student success initiatives, "the grant will allow us to bring several services together in one location—a one-stop location for coaching, tutoring, first-year advising assistance and disability services," said Rouse.

Funded over a five year period, the grant will provide salaries for two additional life coaches, move the Career Center director to full time. allow the college to add extra focus to disability services, fund a student success coordinator, and add more student tutors. It will also fund renovating a portion of the library into a new Student Success Center where

students can take advantage of all the new services as well as those traditionally provided by the Career Center and Teaching Learning Center in one location.

The grant will also fund a variety of software systems to improve student learning and help track student success, including a new Learning Management System and a new early alert system to help the Student Success team spot students who are struggling and provide the support they need.

"Union College has always had academic support services offered by truly amazing educators, but what makes this different is the

Union will be dramatically expanding the Student Success Center in 2020 to provide even more support to students as they learn to become the person God created them to be.



scope," said Sauder. "The new Student Success initiatives are comprehensive and fully integrated, reaching every single student in an intentional and focused way. Receiving this grant funding is a gamechanger for our ability to make a difference for students."

For Rouse, Student Success is all about getting to know each student and helping them grow. "Every student has unique needs and goals,"

she said. "One of Union's greatest advantages is that we are small enough to treat each student as an individual. Our new Student Success Center will help us be that much better at connecting with every student and helping them grow into the person they were created to be."

Emily Roque Cisneros is a Union College graduate, pastor's wife, new mother and freelance writer in Cedaredge, Colorado.

# Help us renovate more **Rees Hall rooms**

Maranatha will return in May 2020

Maranatha Volunteers will return to campus in May to help us renovate another 30 sleeping 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 task chairs and beds, so every gift matters. Learn more about how you can help at ucollege.edu/LearningAndLiving.

**Volunteer**: Maranatha needs volunteers of all skill levels May 10-31. We'll provide the tools, food and lodging—you bring the Union can-do spirit. Learn more and register at ucollege.edu/maranatha2020.

Steve Nazario/Union College



# **New Foundation Leader Connects AdventHealth Shawnee Mission with Caring Community**



Tn 2019, Laurie McCormack became the new executive director of AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission. She brings over 20 years of experience in development and external relations.

McCormack says she was thrilled to join the AdventHealth Shawnee Mission team to help them in their mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ. "With philanthropy, the goal is to inspire gifts that can have the most impact," she says. "So as a development professional, I wanted to be a part of the healthcare industry, because it's something that can help change so many lives. Being at a faithbased, nonprofit hospital was particularly important to me because of its culture and level of compassionate care."

McCormack most recently was the senior vice president for individual giving for the United Way of Greater Kansas City. Prior positions include

Laurie McCormack is the executive director of AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission.

vice president for advancement at Park University and assistant vice chancellor of development at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While at Park, she served as an executive board member for Truman Medical Centers Charitable Foundation.

She says her inspiration comes from cultivating relationships in the community and seeing the impact that donations can have. "Every day, we get a chance to provide opportunities so people can make an impact," she says. "It's such an honor to see their joy in knowing that they're making a difference and helping change lives in the community."

AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission brings in support for hospital programs that serve its patients and the surrounding community. In 2019, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission opened the B.E. Smith Family Center, a more than \$25 million project funded almost entirely by generous givers in the Kansas City community. The center houses the Britain Development and Early Learning programs, providing therapy and education for children with

special needs and Christianbased childcare for team members of AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, Annual contributions also provide scholarships to the Britain Development program for families whose insurance doesn't cover the entire cost.

"Everything we do speaks to AdventHealth's mission," she says. "Our donors are helping us fund programs that serve those who are most in need."

This past year, the foundation made many grants to the hospital, including a grant of \$130,000 to buy safe furniture for the hospital's behavioral health floor and \$100,000 for a LIV Whole Intensive Lifestyle Modification program, designed to help people make healthy choices, particularly in regard to those decisions that lead to chronic conditions.

The Foundation also helps support AdventHealth team members in providing the best possible care. Every year, it provides funding for mission trips to Peru, where primary care teams serve clinics in Pucallpa and surgical teams offer cleft lip, cleft palate and general surgeries in Juliaca. It provides funding for conferences and specialized training for nurses, as well as a resiliency program when team members are struggling with difficult situations.

"Healthcare can be an

emotionally challenging field to work in," says McCormack. "While healthcare team members are helping everyone else, they may have crises in their lives, too. This resiliency program gives them the opportunity to get help through those really difficult times."

McCormack says her goal for the coming year is to continue to find ways to build relationships in the community and support the hospital's goals in providing the best possible care.

"We want to look strategically on how we can best serve the community," she says. "It's our job to bring hospital team members together with our generous givers to make a difference in people's lives."

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



For more information about programs funded by AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission, visit AdventHealthKC.com.

# **CENTURA HEALTH ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

Photos Courtesy Centura Health





(top) Coloradobased JWILL Pink Village Pillow Project has provided more than 2,500 pillows to patients in need.

(bottom) Jennifer Willard (front, center) joins the team at Avista **Adventist Hospital** as she drops off a donation of pillows.

# A Healing Gift from the Heart

ne of the cornerstones to caring for the whole person is the belief that a healthy mind, body and spirit requires more than a prescription or surgical intervention—humanity helps in ways medicine cannot. Avista Adventist Hospital CEO Isaac Sendros adds, "When we can partner with our community to deliver on that philosophy, the results are even more profound."

Former patient Jennifer Willard and her Coloradobased JWILL Pink Village Pillow Project is just one powerful example of how compassion and empathy can change outcomes for patients.

One in eight women gets diagnosed with breast cancer. Statistically speaking, we will all know somebody in our lifetime who gets the disease. However, being just 41 and with no family history of breast cancer, Willard never thought that somebody would be her. "It was breast cancer awareness month 2015 and Avista was campaigning to encourage women to get their mammograms. I'm so thankful I didn't blow it off another year," she says.

What happened next changed everything. Centura radiologist Dr. Raymond Mencini said the phrase we all fear: I see something I don't like.

"I became determined to exhaust my options and start fighting this deadly disease with the full vengeance it deserves," says Willard. Her next move happened fast. At sister facility Littleton

Adventist Hospital, Willard had a double mastectomy with immediate reconstructive surgery.

The road to recovering wasn't easy, but Willard says the love, support and kindness of others brought her through the difficult days. Particularly helpful was the gift of a small heart-shaped pillow created by hospital volunteers to provide comfort and support between her incisions and her car seatbelt.

The handwritten note of support attached to the pillow made the most significant impact. "It made an impression on my heart. It brought me not only physical but emotional comfort," says Willard. "I could feel the love that went into creating it."

Realizing the hospital where her journey began didn't have a supply of these same pillows, Willard decided to create the JWILL Pink Village Pillow Project and bring it to Avista. "I asked my friends and neighbors to help support this project, and the response has been overwhelming. Dozens showed up at sewing parties, friends donated money and supplies, and the local high school volleyball team even helped with a fundraising event. My village made it all possible," she says.

In 2017 Willard made her first delivery of 175 pillows for 175 local breast cancer patients. "I wanted each of them to know they are not alone," she adds.

What started small has

grown larger than Willard ever imagined. Today, Willard and her team of volunteers are helping breast cancer patients across Colorado heal from mastectomy surgery far beyond what doctors can do with medicine alone. To date, she's been able to provide more than 2,500 pillows to patients in need.

Antoinette Paniagua, breast health nurse navigator at Avista, said the pillows help patients in the spiritual and mental healing process. "Most of the time, when I give the patients the pillows, they tear up," Paniagua says. "Knowing someone else cares about them, they get very emotional," she adds.

"I was in their shoes, and here I am now. It still matters to me," Willard says. "There are still people getting diagnosed."

Avista CEO Isaac Sendros concludes, "Our patients are our friends and neighbors who we care about deeply. It feels amazing to see people like Jennifer Willard return to Avista and our other Centura hospitals to partner with us on our calling to extend the healing ministry of Christ."

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



Learn more about JWill Pink Village at facebook.com/ JWILLpink.

# **FARFWFII**

Camden, Michael Benton, b. Oct. 29, 1947 in Drumright, OK. d. Jan. 6, 2020 in Wichita, KS. Member of McPherson (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 great-grandson. Survivors include son William; daughter Stacey Baker; 2 sisters; 4 grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Huenergardt, Dorothy J., b. April 22, 1922 in Shelton, NE. d. July 1, 2019 in Sonora, CA. Member of Denver South (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband LaVern; 3 brothers; 1 sister. Survivors include son Darrel; daughter Cheryl Gaul; 5 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Leonhardt, Joyce LaVon, b. Dec. 17, 1927 in Aurora, NE. d. Sept. 3, 2019, in Longmont, ĈO. Member of Mountain View (CO)

Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 2 sisters.

Owens, Earl Franklin, b. Feb. 10, 1921 in Kismet, KS. d. May 20, 2019 in Liberal, KS. Member of Liberal Church. Preceded in death by first wife Eleanor Chapman; second wife Pauline Olsen Renick; third wife Rita Betham Hardy; 3 brothers; 3 sisters. Survivors include son Galen; 2 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; 7 step-children; numerous step-grandchildren; numerous step-great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army during WWII from 1943 to 1946 and during Korean War.

**Portenier, Margie**, d. Nov. 13, 2019. Member of Beaver City (KS) Church.

Rouse, Leslie W. Jr., b. Feb. 24, 1964 in Ames, IA. d. Dec. 12, 2019 in Grand Island,

NE. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include father Les Sr.; stepmother Marie; 1 stepsister; 2 stepbrothers.

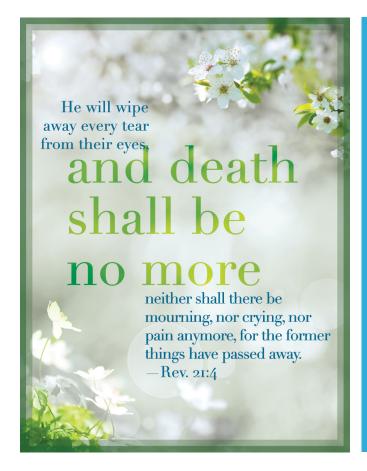
Salerno, Carol "Kitty," b. June 25, 1942 in Harvey, ND. d. Dec. 24, 2019 in Harvey, ND. Member of Manfred (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Mike; 2 brothers. Survivors include stepchildren Tammy and Michael Jr.

Seibold, Vernon, b. Sept. 21, 1924 in Sykeston, ND. d. Nov. 17, 2019 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by 5 siblings. Survivors include wife Carol; children Ken, Jerene Nelson, and Dennis; 1 sister; 7 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Snell, Loma Mae, b. June 27, 1933 in Woodside Township, MN. d. March 16, 2019 in

Maplewood, MN. Member of Andover (MN) Church. Preceded in death by husband Myron. Survivors include children Ron, Bev Leach, Julie Flaspeter, and Connie Larsen; 17 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 1 greatgreat-grandchild.

Wagner, Doris E. (Wallace), b. Feb. 3, 1938 in Denver, CO. d. Nov. 25, 2019 in Ft. Collins, CO. Member of Campion Academy (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Robert S. Sr.; son Don; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Rhonda; son Robert S. Jr.; 5 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.



FEBRUARY 2020				
COLORADO Denver Grand Junction Pueblo	<b>FEB 7</b> 5:26 5:41 5:27	<b>FEB 14</b> 5:34 5:49 5:35	<b>FEB 21</b> 5:42 5:57 5:42	<b>FEB 28</b> 5:50 6:05 5:50
IOWA Davenport Des Moines Sioux City	5:25 5:37 5:46	5:34 5:46 5:55	5:42 5:54 6:04	5:51 6:03 6:13
KANSAS Dodge City Goodland Topeka	6:09 5:13 5:50	6:17 5:22 5:58	6:25 5:30 6:06	6:32 5:37 6:13
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NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck Fargo Williston	5:55 5:38 6:03	6:05 5:49 6:14	6:16 6:00 6:25	6:26 6:10 6:36
SOUTH DAKOTA Pierre Rapid City Sioux Falls	5:58 5:10 5:45	6:08 5:20 5:55	6:18 5:30 6:04	6:27 5:39 6:13
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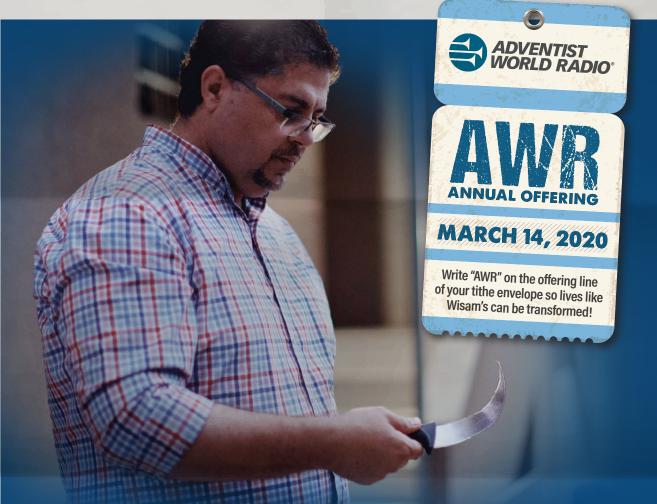
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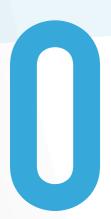
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Connie Nelson believes God
speaks to us through our
mind; therefore, our mental
health and spiritual health are
inextricably connected.



Footprints
Sabrina Riley is an independent researcher and consultant in Northern Virginia.
Her current research interests include the Adventist military experience and her family's genealogy.

**Adventist Historical** 



Home, Church, School Rachel Ashworth writes about family at home, family at church, and all the little business that goes into both. This topic is important to her as she sometimes struggles to balance home life with church life.



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outdoors, cooking and teaching
others about healthy lifestyle
and eating.



**Soul Comfort Kendra Carlson** is a minimalist, protestant (but not in a right-wingy kind of way), old house renovator, recovering perfectionist, thinker, designer, mamma, green enthusiast, believer, wife, survivor, artist.



Vida Familiar Emora Colindres es ama de casa con trés hijos mayores. Ella es casada de 28 años y disfruta escribir y la cocina multicultural, vegetariana y saludable.



Think About It
Ed Dickerson is a lay pastor,
church planter, writer and
speaker. His passion is to do
everything in his power to see
that, if the Lord tarries, there
will be an Adventist church
that his children and grandchildren want to belong to.





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