

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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SPECIAL
FOCUS:
STATE OF
THE UNION
UPDATES



Virus yields
Blessings
in disguise
p. 6

SEPT 2020



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“Through COVID-19, lockdowns, social distancing and masks, I have seen that God’s promises are as powerful today as they ever were.” —p. 7



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Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness
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It's Not All on You
outlookmag.org/help-for-the-responsible-ones

DIFFERENT, BUT THE SAME

COVID-19 has disrupted pretty much everything. And it is also changing the world forever. While we don't know yet what all those changes will be, we do know that 2020 will go down in history as a pivot point for civilization.

The way we greet people is different now, new ways to communicate have emerged, education and healthcare have shifted, even new patterns of daily life have evolved for mundane things like grocery shopping and getting a haircut.

And how we “do” church is different now too. Our worship, our community outreach, our evangelism—all have been impacted by this invisible yet powerful virus.

So let's not spend time preparing to return to a world that no longer exists. Let's find and be thankful for fresh and novel opportunities. And let's remember that we are still—always—called to fulfill the same mission of sharing God's love to those around us.



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

Stephen Moe Tha Po is a Karen refugee and pastor of the Karen Company in Des Moines, Iowa.

More on p. 6
Photo by Pawmoo Po

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STATE OF THE UNION UPDATE

Dear Mid-America Church Family,

The last time I wrote, the pandemic was just getting started and we were all wondering what was going to happen next. The one thing we knew for sure was that life would change during this strange and stressful time.

Where are we now as a union family and what are our plans moving forward? We realize we may have to make future adjustments, but the good news is that the Lord knows the future and He will be with us. Here is a brief update on what I know is happening around our union.

HOW ARE OUR MEMBERS DOING?

A number have contracted the coronavirus. Most have recovered, others have been scarred deeply by this unrelenting organism, while a few others have passed away. What a huge loss to our churches this has been! What has been even tougher is we have literally not been able to put our arms around those who have lost loved ones to comfort them. Let's continue to pray for those who are hurting.

I want to give a huge shout-out here to our AdventHealth hospitals, both in the Kansas City area and the Denver

metro area. They are on the front lines of this battle every day, giving incredible care to the communities they serve.

ARE CHURCHES MEETING?

Many of our 453 churches have reopened with safety measures in place. I just had the privilege of preaching in Alamosa, Colorado, and enjoyed my time there very much. We couldn't greet each other the way we normally would or enjoy a great fellowship meal together, and everyone's smile was covered with a mask. Yet this did not negate the pure joy it was to worship together. Thank you, Pastor McAlpine, for the invitation.

A number of camp meetings were canceled, but some of our six conferences offered virtual camp meetings, and Central States Conference offered both their camp meeting and VBS program virtually at the same time. The Dakota Conference was able to have their camp meeting in person later in the summer, which was a blessing.

WHAT ABOUT ACS?

The North American Division has provided extra funding so our local community service volunteers can cover the shortages in our food distribution programs. Our New

Haven Church in Kansas City was featured in the local press as a group who were making a tangible impact during this pandemic through their food bank. All our community service leaders have done so much to not only help those currently in need but also prepare for what will come next as we continue to fight this virus together.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Only two of our nine summer camps were able to bring in campers this year. However, many conferences still connected with our young people through virtual camp fires and other activities. Most camps still hired a few staff to work on special projects that are getting our camping facilities in great shape for next year.

The NAD also worked with local youth leaders and turned the VBS program into a virtual edition for our kids. It is amazing the response received from this outreach.

WHAT ABOUT ADVENTIST SCHOOLS?

At this point, all of our 78 schools are planning on opening in-person on time. Some of our boarding schools are actually going to start early and finish their first semester by Thanksgiving to avoid

extra back-and-forth travel for students. This is the schedule Union College is adopting. All our schools have put excellent safety measures in place and are prepared if there is an outbreak of the virus.

HOW'S THE BUDGET LOOKING?

As you might expect, our finances have been affected by this pandemic as well. As of the end of June, our tithe was down 4.28 percent compared with the same time period last year. Even though it is down, this number speaks volumes to the heart and graciousness of our members, who although they were unable to attend church, supported the church through their tithes and offerings.

From where I sit, all I can do is say "Thank you!" for your love and faithfulness for your Savior, your church and its mission. I pray soon we will be able to fellowship freely together without restrictions. Until then, please stay safe and do all you can to protect others as well. **U**

GARY THURBER

is president of the Mid-America Union.



Seeking an Understanding

A few years ago, I reached a place of exasperation in ministry. It wasn't that I didn't enjoy being a pastor, or that I had a challenging church. No, my frustration came from watching people—whom I knew to be good people—behave so poorly toward each other on social media. More than that, old friends and family behaved wildly as well.

The source of the conflict could be any number of issues: political candidates, second amendment rights, the LGBTQ+ community, racism, social justice, etc. Since the pandemic and murder of George Floyd, I have seen these conversations intensify.

Now, these are good conversations to have. Avoiding issues is a strategy that never works out well. But, how do we do this?

As a pastor, I puzzled over this. I could preach generic messages full of platitudes, but that didn't seem to strike at the heart of what people spent most of their week passionately invested in. Certainly, I could



directly strike various issues since the Bible speaks to them. The problem with that approach is everyone starts from a different spot on a given issue, so it would probably lead to more confusion, misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

It's a process

Eventually I decided to address the issues ... but slowly. To begin my sermon series, I walked all the issues back to the war in heaven and progressed over a period of weeks gradually building the blocks of understanding. The goal wasn't to find a solution, or even to get everyone to agree, but to seek an understanding. While I was growing up, one of my pastors who was partial to the KJV loved to quote: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Prov. 4:7).

Get understanding

Most of us seem to like getting debate points, likes and follows, or getting even. Getting understanding is harder, slower work. People interested in building their partisan platforms don't want understanding; they want



controversy. People needing to be right don't want understanding, so they resort to insults and condescending tones. People who seek to have their opinions and biases confirmed don't want understanding; they want an echo chamber without any kind of diversity challenging them.

This series of sermons turned out well, but certainly it didn't discuss every issue or fix all the problems. Understanding is a lifelong process, not a few messages. Our blind spots are ingrained and hard to identify and root out.

Three strategies

So, how do we do this work of understanding? First, make peace with the fact that you have to hold your peace. The apostle James writes: "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). We need to listen—not listen to respond, but listen to voices different than ours.

Second, we need to be courteous and graciously listen to the best representation of a position instead of holding up its worst examples.

Finally, slow down. The

media milieu we find ourselves in values speed over accuracy. Combine that with the fight or flight sensation we feel when a valued position or person of ours is under fire and we are primed to create a steaming pile of chaos.

Instead, search out the books informing other perspectives from people you trust. And get this—actually read them! Audiobooks work too. Then have a private discussion. You may not agree, but at least you will find understanding.

We live in a world that profits from our gullibility and outrage. Making a commitment to seeking an understanding, especially with those different from us, fights back against the forces trying to divide us and can, by God's grace, help heal our toxic communication habits and open the way for Christ-centered solutions to our issues. **0**



Read Dr. Pierce's new book titled *Seeking an Understanding* available in late October from adventsource.org and amazon.com.

DR. SETH PIERCE

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

Never Look Back

Virus yields **B**lessings in disguise

Doctors had talked to me about my mother's critical condition

and I knew the next call from the hospital would be a nightmare. My cell phone rang at 11 pm on May 25. The doctor said, "Stephen, your mom has breathed her last breath peacefully at 10:39 pm and we're sorry for your loss." A gigantic emptiness swept into my heart and all my future seemed to vanish.

My poor widow mother had raised me and paid for my seminary education. She had prayed for me for 31 years to become a pastor. She was beaming with joy on my ordination day (June 9, 2018) during camp meeting at Sunnysdale Adventist Academy. I would not be where I am today if not for her prayers and sacrifices.

But the devil tried to get me at the lowest point of my life. He tried to plant seeds of doubt and discouragement. The devil said, "Come back to me. Both of your parents are gone now. Just toss your faith and enjoy life."

However, I've tasted and seen that the Lord is good; I can't look back. Having received the greatest gift of God, His begotten son Jesus Christ, I can't trade Jesus for anything. I've been washed in the tsunami of the blood of Jesus and baptized in the tsunami of His grace.

True believers never die

The coronavirus hit us hard, yet I saw many blessings in disguise. While my pregnant wife and I were sick with the virus, our 3-year-old daughter, Sofia, was all over us. But miraculously, she was not infected. Our unborn son, Andrew, is doing fine as well. By God's grace, both my wife and I recovered after two weeks.

Sadly, my mother didn't. She was very sick on her 69th birthday

Stephen Moe Tha Po is from Burma (Myanmar), a country devastated by civil war over seven decades. In search of true rest and safety, he and his mother fled to a Thailand refugee camp in 2005 and resettled in the U.S. in 2008. He is still seeking that true rest and marching to the eternal city built by God's own hand where he will meet his dear mother and his Lord and King Jesus.

"For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God," Heb. 11:10.

and she fell asleep in Jesus 14 days after her birthday. We were initially concerned for my mother's funeral expenses, but it was all paid for by our relatives, church members and friends.

True believers never die. My dear mother is sleeping in Jesus. She will soon wake up to go home and live eternally with Jesus when He comes. What a blessed hope we have as God's children!

This year is really difficult for my family and our church family. In spite of the coronavirus and many other challenges, we have purchased a church building, and the Lord is providing for the mortgage monthly.

We've sowed with tears but God gave us the harvest of five new souls coming to the Lord through baptism and profession of faith on July 25. Though my mother was not able to see the five new members and the arrival of her grandson (due Sept. 6), she knew these blessings were on the way. I still remember the smile and words from my mom when I told her that her second grandchild would be a boy. She said, "We're going to have another pastor in our family."

Legacy of love

Although my mother is no longer with us, the seed of faith she planted is growing among our family, relatives, friends and church members. Her love for the Lord Jesus touched my life personally and the lives of many others. She was a humble and compassionate spiritual giant.

We've decided to carry on the legacy of her great faith and sacrifices for the gospel work. I will have many things to tell her on the resurrection day. I want to tell her how the Lord was good to our family and our church while she was sleeping in Christ.

Believers, take heart. We will see our loved ones soon when Jesus comes. For the time being, let's all prepare ourselves, our friends and families to meet our Lord Jesus. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

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Stephen Moe Tha Po pastors the Karen Seventh-day Adventist Company in Des Moines, Iowa, with his wife Pawmoo Po and their daughter Sofia.

Pawmoo Po



God's Promises SHINE During COVID-19

Dakota pastor finds peace amidst tragedy

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Like an uncontrollable wildfire, COVID-19 rapidly spread around the globe this year, causing all our lives to change. However, I quickly learned that there is power in God's promises to overcome any global catastrophe.

As Easter drew near, my mother kept me informed on the family in Canada and how all were faring.

We were particularly concerned

with the health of my grandmother, Doris Chin, and my aunt, Dianne Chin, both of whom had spent their lives practicing the love of God in easing the suffering of others. My grandmother contracted COVID-19 first, followed by my aunt, who was also my grandmother's daughter and primary caregiver.

Doctors expected my grandmother to live for only a few more days. My aunt, however, was expected to make a full recovery. The morning of April 10, Good Friday, while I was at the Mandan Church making final preparations for my online Sabbath message, I received a phone call from my mother. Nothing could have prepared me for what she said. My aunt had died overnight while home alone. I stood there in disbelief; she was supposed to have recovered!

One of my uncles hurriedly organized a Zoom meeting Sabbath afternoon for an impromptu memorial and to discuss plans for a more formal service for Dianne in the future. The shock was fresh for everyone, particularly Dianne's only daughter, who had found her in the morning. Over the course of our meeting, the mood began to positively change as people started to open up and share memories and pictures.

More surprises

The rest of the weekend progressed without incident until April 13, Easter Monday, when I received another phone call from my mother. This time it was to tell me my grandmother had died that morning. I had anticipated this call, but not so soon following Dianne's death. Later that day, my uncle contacted me to ask if I would conduct a funeral and graveside service for my grandmother via Zoom. Though we were both treading on new turf, it wasn't long before we had the plans finalized.



Dianne Chin



Doris Chin

On the day of the funeral, two family members with iPads were at the funeral home in Canada to broadcast the service to the family who connected through Zoom. We had an open casket for people to view my grandmother before the service officially began. It was odd looking at her lying there, motionless, through a computer screen. I had last spoken with her two weeks before her death.

When the time arrived for the service to start, I was queued to begin and the Lord helped me conduct my first virtual funeral and graveside service, all from the sanctuary of the Mandan Church. It was an amazing feeling to connect with everyone this way.

Over 60 people had connected to Zoom to participate in the service; people from Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. As the service ended, the mood began to lighten as family and friends shared stories and fun memories of both Doris and Dianne. They were visiting like they hadn't done in years. We each were able to see into the lives and homes of those who had connected. God used technology to draw people close during the lockdown, enabling them to heal.

A virtual funeral was definitely not the same as a traditional one, but our Savior—in His unending love—provided another way to connect during this difficult time. I could sense the Holy Spirit healing my family and friends simultaneously, in each home.

Through COVID-19, lockdowns, social distancing and masks, I have seen that God's promises are as powerful today as they ever were: "And we are conscious that all things are working together for good to those who have love for God, and have been marked out by His purpose," (Rom. 8:28 BBE).

Harold Chin pastors the Mandan, Turtle Lake, McClusky and Godrich churches in North Dakota. His wife, Shelley, assisted with this article.



Photos Courtesy: Harold Chin

Youth Rally Serves Minneapolis Residents

After the killing of George Floyd last May in Minneapolis, Minnesota, people in our country began to ask many questions. Seeing the video of his last moments caused people to feel angry, scared and confused. With the riots taking place and curfews being ordered, many Adventist youth did not have a forum to express their concerns.

To address this, our organizing team unveiled an outreach initiative and rally called *A Cry for Justice and Healing*. On June 20, over 350 youth and young adults volunteered all day through a number of community outreach projects. They also rallied at 38th Street and Chicago Avenue, the site of George Floyd's death.

Providing practical assistance

Six community outreach stations were staffed by volunteers who prayed with residents, gathered information on needed materials for future rebuilding, gave out supplies and offered 600 sack meals.

After serving at the different sites, the youth and young adults regrouped at Phelps Field Park for a peaceful march to the George Floyd memorial located at the intersection of East 38th Street and Chicago Avenue (renamed George Floyd Avenue). The group, wearing "I Can't Breathe" T-shirts, heard from their pastors and youth directors before

the march began.

As they walked up to the memorial site, they sang *We're Marching to Zion*. This great music drew the attention of individuals paying their respects at the George Floyd memorial.

Speakers at the rally included **Ezra Kenyanya**, youth pastor of Kenyan Community Church in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota; **Johnathan B. Fields**, pastor of Ebenezer Fellowship Church in Minneapolis; **Darnisha Thomas**, associate pastor of Southview Church in Minneapolis; **Victor Wilson**, pastor of Glendale Church in Minneapolis; **Dr. Abraham Henry**, Lake Region Conference youth director; **Jael Kerandi**, University of Minnesota student; **Shelina Bonjour**, Minnesota Conference youth director; **Ron Whitehead**, Lake Union youth director; and **Roger Wade**, Mid-America Union youth director.

Student leader Jael Kerandi, member of United Central Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, challenged attendees: "We can no longer stand by and allow these injustices to happen as we continue our everyday lives and say we love one another. We have to make sure we stand up to these injustices happening. Don't wait for it to be somebody you know. Don't wait for it to be your brother ... sister ...



Photos: Roger Wade

cousin ... or son."

One of the moving moments of the rally was the 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence observed to mark the time the knee of the police officer was on the neck of George Floyd. Everyone at the site joined the youth and young adults in staying silent. Many remarked later that the length of time being silent helped them feel the injustice George Floyd endured.

A collaborative effort

This special day was organized by a group of Twin Cities youth and young adults, facilitated by Pastor Kenyanya. For several weeks the team participated in Zoom meetings to pray and plan. At each meeting an inspirational devotional thought was given by invited youth leaders, such as **Dr. Carlton Byrd**, **Karsten Rogers**, **Ron Pickell**, **Vandeon Griffin**, **Shelina Bonjour**, **Akeem James** and

James L. Black.

The opportunity to share with the city of Minneapolis was spearheaded by **Tiffany Nyamao**, a youth from Kenyan Community Church. She articulated what the group wanted to do, and the Twin Cities youth and young adult group was supported in achieving their goals.

This collaboration included Mid-America Union, Lake Union, Central States Conference, Lake Region Conference, and Minnesota Conference, along with the North American Division Youth Ministries.

We thank each entity for their support and continued prayers as this youth group continues to provide opportunities to serve the residents of Minneapolis.

Roger R. Wade is church ministries director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Garrett Holmes Voted New MAUC Associate Treasurer

Garrett Holmes accepted the invitation of the Mid-America Union Conference Executive Committee to serve as associate treasurer for the MAUC beginning July 1, 2020. He fills the position left vacant last December when former MAUC associate treasurer **Gwen Speak** joined the Gulf States Conference as their treasurer.

Holmes, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from Andrews University, has passed the CPA exam and has been employed by the General Conference Auditing Service for the last five years, where he worked his way from an internship to holding the title of Audit Senior and serving the Adventist Church not only in Mid-America territory but also on both east and west coasts, Canada and Italy.

"Garrett brings to the MAUC Treasury staff the GCAS connection that I think is vital to our mission statement of helping our conferences in a collaborative way," said Mid-America Union treasurer **Troy Peoples**. "Having auditor experience will be a help to our local conferences if they have questions about how to account for something, as well as making sure the day-to-day work in the Treasury Department of the union runs smoothly."



Hugh Davis

Experienced, skilled and dedicated

During his time at Andrews University, Holmes worked in Financial Records in their Accounts Payable department. Between his junior and senior year at Andrews, he worked as a task force intern at the Hawaii Conference for 10 months where he started learning how the Adventist Church's accounting departments operate.

"I'm looking forward to being able to serve the Adventist Church in a new capacity," said Holmes. "Having five years of auditing

experience, I'm looking forward to being a resource to the members and organizations of the Mid-America Union. Over the last several months, I have felt that God was trying to tell me it was time to transition to a new role. When MAUC president **Gary Thurber** came to my office and stated that the officers of the Mid-America Union would really like to see me on their team, I felt God was telling me that this was my next step."

Reflecting on Holmes' transition, Thurber said, "It's a beautiful thing when you are able to find someone to join your team who is totally

After five years serving as a General Conference auditor, Garrett Holmes has transitioned to a role where he will become a training and accounting resource for Mid-America members and organizations.

committed to the Lord and our church's mission who also has such outstanding skills. We are so blessed in MAUC that this is the case with Garrett."

Holmes also recently began taking courses through Colorado State University—Global Campus, an online school, to earn a master's in accounting with an emphasis in fraud investigations and forensic accounting.

In addition to his work and studies, Holmes enjoys going on adventures, traveling and creating memories with his family and friends.

Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Alex Bryant Elected NAD President

Credits God's leading and his Mid-America roots

Dr. G. Alexander Bryant was elected on July 9, 2020 to serve as the fifth president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Bryant follows **Daniel R. Jackson**, who retired July 1.

Because all division executive officers also serve as officers of the General Conference, Bryant's nomination and election by the NAD Executive Committee earlier in the week was officially approved by the General Conference Executive Committee in a vote of 153 to 5. All meetings were held virtually via Zoom with a previously used voting process.

Gil F. Webb, executive secretary for the Mid-America Union, served on both the Nominating Committee and the NAD Executive Committee during this election process. "I will cite five reasons I am supportive of the election of Dr. G. Alexander Bryant to serve as NAD president," said Webb. "I know of his desire, I know of his discipline, I know of his dedication, I know of his

determination and I know of his diligence."

Gary Thurber, president of the Mid-America Union, said, "As you look at the experience and qualifications for a North American Division leader, you would be hard pressed to find anyone more qualified than Alex. Additionally, he loves the Lord, the church and has a servant's heart. And his ministry roots are right here in Mid-America!"

From dropout to leader

In an email statement to *OUTLOOK*, Bryant noted that the Mid-America Union territory has had "an indelible impression" on his life and ministry. As a teenager living in St. Louis, Missouri, he was introduced to the three angel's messages and the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the efforts of members of the Northside Church.

"Since my family at that time was not in the church, the Northside Church nurtured me, poured into me and strongly encouraged me

to go to Oakwood College to continue my education," said Bryant. "Prior to this, I had no thought, no desire and certainly no plans for college. Actually, I had dropped out of high school, but the church members encouraged me to get back in and finish my senior year. Not only that, they literally helped me fill out the college application, grant application and all the other necessary paperwork for admission."

After graduating from Oakwood College (now University) in 1981 with degrees in theology and business administration, Bryant returned to the Central States Conference to begin his ministry. "Once again, there were people who cared enough to pour into me and nurture me," recalled Bryant. "This time, it was the senior pastors and conference

administration who helped me develop and hone skills to be effective in ministry. God used the people of the Midwest, their caring hearts and values, to shape me, to mold me and to grow me to be a minister in the cause of God today."

Experienced, prepared, grateful

Glenward Alexander ("Alex") Bryant most recently served as executive secretary of the NAD and associate secretary of the GC, positions he has held since October 2008. Previously, Bryant served for 11 years as president of the Central States Conference headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas.

In 1986 Bryant was ordained, and he continued his education by earning a Master of Divinity degree from

Following his election on July 9, Alex Bryant expressed gratitude to God for His guiding hand along the journey and deep appreciation for the values, work ethic and practical mentoring he received in Mid-America.



Courtesy North American Division Communication Department

Inter-Faith Multi-Conference “Virtual Freedom Ride” Champions Prayer and Activism

Miles to Minneapolis elevates role of faith in activism

Andrews University in 1988. Bryant also holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

In 1990 the Central States Conference called Bryant to serve as director of Youth/Pathfinders/National Service Organization and Temperance, along with being superintendent of education. He was voted president of the Central States Conference in the spring of 1997.

“There’s something about the Mid-America Union territory—its values, its hard work ethic and down-to-earth grooming—that seems to be fertile ground in preparing leaders for God’s cause. I owe God and them a debt of gratitude,” concluded Bryant.

Bryant is married to the former **Desiree Wimbish**, who served as superintendent of education for the Central States Conference, as well as principal of the V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist School in Kansas City. Currently, she is assistant director and projects coordinator for Adventist education in the NAD.

The Bryants have three adult sons, a daughter-in-law and three granddaughters.

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Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Faith leaders, government officials and activists advocated for prayer, social justice and community empowerment in response to the national outcry over the death of George Floyd by law enforcement through a “virtual freedom ride.”

From June 14 to 21, Miles to Minneapolis took viewers on Facebook and YouTube on the virtual journey from the East Coast to the Midwest. The “stops” included Columbia, Maryland; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the ride ended—and where Floyd was killed.

Leaders from the Potomac Conference, Allegheny East Conference, Allegheny West Conference, Lake Region Conference, Central States Conference, Minnesota Conference, Mid-America and Lake union conferences, and the North American Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments collaborated to find speakers for the campaign.

Every stop featured representatives of different faiths, including Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Ministers of various Protestant denominations



Courtesy Victor Willson

also participated along with Adventist Church leaders.

“Miles to Minneapolis is more than an event. It’s a movement to effect positive change in our communities. Experiencing the enthusiasm of inter-faith leaders coming together, united in purpose to work toward creating a society that embraces each person’s God-given right to enjoy an existence where they feel safe and valued, was truly wonderful,” said **Debra Anderson**, communication director for the Potomac Conference, who also served as the communication director for Miles to Minneapolis.

While Miles to Minneapolis was centered on prayer and faith, another instrumental component was encouraging community engagement. This led to the creation of a pledge that

leaders at every location were encouraged to share with their viewers. Participants pledged five actions: engage in public service; vote and get counted (through the U.S. Census 2020); become culturally informed; learn a new trade and/or support black businesses; and take charge of one’s health.

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This article excerpt by Mylon Medley is reprinted with permission from the North American Division *NewsPoints*.

A longer version of this article also appears in the September 2020 *Adventist Journey* magazine.

The Lost “Black” Sheep

How should Adventists relate to the Black Lives Matter movement?

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.” Luke 15:4-5

As we continue to experience the realities of a pandemic and racial tensions simultaneously, many have wondered how we as Christians should relate to the group that Jesus in Matthew 25 refers to as “the least of these.” That passage speaks for itself, and clearly shows that as the King, the Son of Man separates the sheep from the goats. The separation is not based on knowledge of doctrines and intellectual theology, but on how they responded to those who needed help in a real and tangible way.

Many debate the politics of the Black Lives Matter movement, and have asked if we as Adventist Christians should

be for or against it.

I humbly submit that the biblical passage which came to my mind in helping us understand why this concept should be so important to Christians was the scripture quoted above. In this parable Jesus gives us a glimpse of the compassion God has for those who are spiritually lost. It also creates a window into God’s mind and how He persistently seeks to save the lost—not only spiritually but physically as well.

In this text, it is not that the 99 sheep did not matter to the Shepherd. However, they were not the ones who were lost or in danger. I remember reading *The Bible Story* books by Arthur S. Maxwell and seeing the picture of the Shepherd clinging to the rocks of the cliff with one hand while cradling the lost sheep in His other hand.

Endangered lives

Regardless of our political or personal persuasions, the Christ-like character of God is always concerned for those who are “lost” and in danger. American historians and sociologists have documented that from the birth of this nation all men were indeed not created equal, since blacks were considered 3/5 of a man.

Slavery and subsequently the remnants of slavery—Jim Crow laws, redlining, housing discrimination, mass incarceration, police brutality,

financial discrimination—have been the reality for the “black” sheep, the black and brown people in our nation.

The black sheep have not only been lost in America after being brought here against their will, but have also been in real danger. Thus, there is a spiritual and moral responsibility for us as Christians to realize the need to leave the 99 who are safe and secure (and who still indeed matter to the Shepherd) and search for, care for and protect the one who constantly lives an endangered life.

Our Adventist heritage

It is a blessing to know that our very own Adventist pioneers were strict abolitionists. Ellen G. White, Joseph Bates and others wrote letters and articles condemning slavery and racism. They even sternly addressed Adventist churches and leaders who endeavored to continue racist practices and traditions.

In addition, they were supportive of joining and connecting on moral issues with other groups who were not members of our denomination. Here’s a word of instruction from our prophetess:

Light has been given me that there are those with most precious talents and capabilities in the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). Much time and money have been absorbed among us in ways that bring no returns.

Instead of this, some of our best talent should be set at work for the W.C.T.U., not as evangelists, but as those who fully appreciate the good that has been done by this body. We should seek to gain the confidence of the workers in the W.C.T.U. by harmonizing with them, as far as possible (Review and Herald, June 18, 1908).

What a beautiful sentiment! As far as possible, Ellen White proposed that we should work together for the good of humanity, even if we have disagreements in other points. Her message appears to echo Jesus’ ministry statement of Luke 4:18, which was to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus makes the appeal repeatedly to the people and religious leaders to recalibrate their minds on who really is our neighbor and what should be our primary focus as Christians.

My prayer for us today is simply that we may see that one “black” sheep, and do all we can to demonstrate that it matters as much to us as it matters to God.

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Cryston Josiah is VP of administration for the Central States Conference. He also serves as Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director.

Courtesy Central States Conference



What Black Lives Matter Means to Me

Priscilla Josiah, member of Beacon Light Church, speaks out

What does Black Lives Matter mean? There have been many assumptions that it means black lives matter more, or black lives matter above other lives—no, that is not what this means. It means that black lives should matter and be valued at the same level as any other life. Our opinions, thoughts and pain should be taken seriously.

Why must we continue to say this, and why is this the boldest statement of our movement? The black struggle has many times been overlooked, and it is hard for us to be seen and heard.

America's reality is that many black generations have gone through so many struggles, and right now we have so much pain and anger that we're just trying to get it out. That's why I have gotten involved in this movement.

Ever since I was a little girl I've had a burden for my people's climate of racism. That is why I continue to use social media as a key factor for letting people know what is really going on in our society.

I can only do so much on my platform, but the church needs to be involved in this

movement for so many reasons. And one way to do this is through illustration.

There are many analogies in the Bible, and one that comes to mind when I think about Black Lives Matter is *Love thy neighbor*. That is a command, and it should be revered as much as the Ten Commandments. It's not a conditional command of love thy neighbor if they have the same view as you or the same political party as you. It's love thy neighbor no matter what. You can't pick and choose.

We are the remnant church and we are supposed to be reflecting God in everything we do. Love thy neighbor should be looked at by congregations as Black Lives Matter also. Love thy neighbor should be looked at with the same reverence as any other commandment God has given.

This is a part of what is going on right now. My message to the NAD administrators, conferences and pastors is to not be afraid to discuss racism within the church. This is not a political issue. It is a right or wrong issue—a good and

evil issue. We need to get out of the mindset of keeping congregations comfortable and make our congregations feel uncomfortable, just as Jesus' ministry made people uncomfortable. We need to be making people understand what is really going on.

Standing for what's right

I would like to also address my youth, Gen Z. Let your voice be heard. Don't be afraid to stand up for what is right. You should never be scared of losing followers. You need to be the change you want to see around you. You can't stand behind a screen and act like nothing is going on or sweep it under the rug. You must stand for what is right.

Finally, Jesus is coming soon. He's taking those who are standing for what is right with Him. If you're my age, you are the future. If you're standing on the wrong side of history, you need to realize you are the ones who can make a change in society. What you do affects everyone, so if everyone is on board with this movement, this country



Courtesy Cryston Josiah

can move forward.

I advise everyone, especially my Gen Z, to be part of this movement and push it. If you stand with Jesus and are a part of God's fellowship, don't be afraid of being ridiculed or brutalized. Jesus was brutalized for the things He believed. We all know what Jesus believed and what He stands for. If you are a disciple of His and are a part of God's fellowship, this is a movement you should be standing behind.

Priscilla Josiah is a recent graduate of Midland Adventist Academy who currently attends Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

CSC Constituency Session Moved to 2021

The Central States Conference Executive Committee has voted to postpone the CSC Constituency Session scheduled for Sept. 20, 2020 to April 18, 2021. New dates will be chosen for the Organizing Committee to meet next year and restart the process of preparing for this session.

Questions may be directed to **Elder Cryston Josiah**, VP of administration for the Central States Conference: 913.371.1071.

It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...”

—Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

What the future holds, no one knows. But the church will push through. The church structure is being challenged and will be challenged more, but God’s church—His people—can have confidence in the Lord.

As we look around the world, Dickens’ statement is as real today as it was when it was written in 1859.

The Dakota Conference has not experienced the inner-city pain some conferences have, but we are well aware of the times in which we live. In the last 15 years, we have experienced the best of years and, more recently, the worst of years.

The best of times

The good times with an increase in tithes and offerings allowed for new ministries, updating of building infrastructure, starting of new elementary schools and assembling of an amazing team of people who love Jesus.

The worst of times

During the worst of times, most recently 2019, the conference realized a downturn

in tithes and offerings as floods destroyed Dakota’s harvests. While we were hoping 2020 would be a more normal year, COVID-19 and a divided nation with protests and riots brought a realization that mission and ministry may never be the same.

By God’s amazing grace and the support of dedicated Adventist members in the Dakota territory, we move forward in the call of Matthew 28 to spread the Gospel.

Is it easy? Not at all. Reductions include employee numbers in every area of the conference and trimmed travel budgets. It is a time of prayer and seeking God’s leading.

Dakota Conference, with its agrarian landscape, has allowed for natural personal distancing, open church services, baptisms, on-site youth camps and a delayed but in-person camp meeting. Dakota Adventist Academy—allowed to

remain open by the governor—will start school again this fall on schedule.

What the future holds, no one exactly knows. But the church will push through. The church structure is being challenged and will be challenged more, but God’s church—His people—can have confidence in their Lord and Savior.

Neil Biloff is retiring as president of the Dakota Conference in September.



Courtesy/Dakota Conference

Join the (Re)volution

Dakota summer camps offer a safe experience in the midst of abnormal times

On May 7, the Dakota Conference decided that summer camps would move forward as planned. Making this difficult decision in the middle of a pandemic was worrisome, but knowing this decision was guided by God and His Spirit provided peace. This decision was verified by changed lives, multiple baptisms and re-baptisms and the introduction of a (Re)volution, which was the theme for Dakota's summer camps.

Initially, the process of planning summer camps was focused on virtual camping. An official announcement and statement were released to parents and campers that this was the only option this summer. A team of 10 staff were needed to do something revolutionary: "virtual camp." Though an exciting prospect, how do you recreate camp to be virtual?

The landscape of COVID-19 in the Dakotas turned, though, allowing the conference to reconsider its initial decision. Looking at projections, studying and surveying people, and with a lot of

prayer, a decision was made to hold summer camp at 65 percent capacity.

But how do you run camps in the middle of a pandemic? Socially distancing and wearing masks is not camping. Campers needed to have the most normal experience in the middle of the most abnormal time of their lives. It meant taking extraordinary measures to make sure camp would be the safest place the campers could be.

Health screenings were sent out before campers arrived to ensure they were safe and staying safe. A health screening was done upon arrival to make sure no campers were bringing anything into camp, and health screenings continued morning and evening every day to monitor the health of each camper.

Drastic sanitation measures were also taken in order for surfaces to be kept clean and as safe as possible. A sanitation team was formed from the 20 staff hired in order to make sure everything was kept continually clean.

The sanitation team

cleaned surfaces, bathrooms, floors and the kitchen three times a day, leading to transition day, Sunday, as the next batch of campers arrived. The entire staff dedicated the morning and afternoon to clean and sanitize the camp, including bathrooms, bathhouses, showers and beds. This system, in addition to the incredible work of the entire staff, led to a safe and successful summer. It opened the door to begin a revolution.

Yes, running summer camps during a pandemic was revolutionary in and of itself, but the staff never felt that was the end goal nor the call. The world is full of hatred, divisiveness, racism and disunity. The world needs a revolution, a dethroning of worldly systems for a heavenly one.

This revolution consists of bringing love instead of hate, forgiveness instead of anger, justice instead of injustice, joy instead of sadness, life instead of death, peace instead of

war, heaven instead of hell. Dakota campers accepted the call to be revolutionaries for Jesus, dedicating their lives to the expansion of God's eternal kingdom.

Ricky Melendez is co-director with his wife, Brooke Melendez, of Youth and Young Adults.



Photos: Caleb Haakenson

Health screenings were sent out before campers arrived, a health screening was conducted upon arrival, and health screenings continued morning and evening to ensure the safety of campers at the Dakota camps.

Summer 2020 Marked by 10 Pastoral Changes

Several pastoral changes have occurred in the Iowa-Missouri Conference this summer, with three new pastors, five pastors who have moved from one district to another and two pastors who have accepted calls to other fields. Ministerial director **Lee Rochholz** shares the details below.

New pastors

Jeremy Clark

Jeremy and his wife, **Torrie**, recently began serving the Albia, Centerville, Fairfield and Ottumwa churches in Iowa. After completing training with SALT, It Is Written's school of evangelism, Jeremy had been serving as an It Is Written Bible worker for the past year and a half.

Before that they were active members in the Houston (MO) Church, where they gave Bible studies, preached and were heavily involved with the Pathfinder program. Jeremy and Torrie have four children: **Christopher, Shelby, Samuel and Isabella**.

Essam Habib

Essam recently began serving the Clinton, Dubuque and Waukon churches in Iowa. He previously served as an associate pastor of the Buchriech Church in Beirut, Lebanon, with former Iowa-Missouri pastor **Jared Miller**.

Essam and his family came to the U.S. in 2017. He was hired by the Iowa-Missouri Conference in January 2018 and has spent the past two years at Andrews Theological Seminary.

Ric Meyerpeter

After 26 years of serving as a Bible teacher and chaplain for Sunnydale Academy, Ric recently transitioned back

into pastoral ministry and will be serving the Mexico (MO) district. Before serving at Sunnydale, Ric and his wife, **Tammy**, pastored the Sunnydale Church from 1990-92. They had served in several districts within the Iowa-Missouri Conference before that.

Ric, a veteran, also served in the U.S. Air Force. Tammy is a registered nurse. They have six grown children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Pastors changing districts

Kolby Beem

Kolby and his wife, **Sierra**, recently began serving the Campbell, Doniphan and Poplar Bluff churches in Missouri. They previously served the Clinton, Dubuque and Waukon churches in Iowa.

Bryan Gallant

Bryan and his wife, **Penny**, recently began serving the Bourbon, Rolla and Sullivan churches in Missouri. They previously served the Kirksville and Macon churches. Bryan also serves as the conference's Refugee Ministries coordinator.

Abel Hagan

Abel and his wife, **Tammy**, recently began serving the Springfield Church in Missouri. They previously

served the Bolivar, Lamar, and Nevada churches.

Rodney Osborne, Jr.

Rodney and his wife, **Monique**, recently began serving the Ankeny and Nevada churches in Iowa. They previously served the Bourbon, Rolla and Sullivan churches in Missouri. They are expecting their first child, a girl named **Madison**, in September.

Darren Robinson

Darren and his wife, **Lizz**, recently began serving the St. Louis Southside and St. Louis West County churches. They previously served the Charles City, Hampton and Mason City churches in Iowa.

Departing pastors

Makenzy Jean

Makenzy is headed to California. For the past few years, he has been serving in collegiate ministry on the campuses of Drake University in Des Moines and Iowa State University in Ames. He was also working closely with the Ames and Des Moines churches. We're thankful for his service in our field and pray God will continue to use him in the lives of young people during this next chapter of his ministry.

Jeremiah Smart

Jeremiah and his wife, **Wendi**, have been serving



Photos Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference

(l-r, top-bottom):
Jeremy Clark,
Essam Habib,
Ric Meyerpeter,
Kolby Beem, Bryan
Gallant, Abel
Hagan, Rodney
Osborne Jr.,
Darren Robinson,
Makenzy Jean,
Jeremiah Smart

the Des Moines and Jordan Crossing churches in Iowa since 2014. They recently accepted a call to the Upper Columbia Conference, where they will serve the Coeur d'Alene Church. May God bless them in their new field and as they make this transition.

Adventist Book Centers Operated by Iowa-Missouri Conference Permanently Close

It is with great reluctance that we announce all Adventist Book Centers operated by the Iowa-Missouri Conference are closing permanently. Locations impacted include the main store at the conference office in West Des Moines, as well as stores at Sunnydale Academy and the Minnesota Conference office.

Declining sales (even before COVID-19) and rising operating costs are among the reasons for the closure.

“This is not a decision that was made lightly,” said **Dean Coridan**, Iowa-Missouri Conference president. “We know church members in both conferences rely on the ABC for books, devotionals,

sharing materials, food products and much more. But there just aren’t enough funds available to keep it going.”

The ABC has been serving members of the Iowa-Missouri Conference for 40 years, following the merger of the Iowa and Missouri conferences in 1980, and for many years before that in the Iowa Conference. The Iowa-Missouri Conference had been operating the Minnesota location since March 2014, when Pacific Press stopped managing ABC stores.

“As our culture shifts more and more online, ABCs all over North America are closing,” said Coridan. “We are grateful to **Debbie [Quigley,**

ABC manager] for her many years of faithful service. She has been an outstanding manager, and she kept these stores going much longer than they would have without her.”

By the time this issue of OUTLOOK is delivered, final closeout sales will have been held at all three locations. However, Iowa-Missouri members can still receive ABC products going forward thanks to an agreement

between the Iowa-Missouri Conference and the Kansas-Nebraska ABC. The agreement includes, but is not limited to, the following services: ongoing facilitation of Sabbath school and periodical orders for churches; annual virtual book fairs and ongoing periodical orders for schools; and processing and shipping orders of food, books and other ABC merchandise for members throughout the conference.

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Randy Harmdierks is communication director for Iowa-Missouri Conference.



For more information visit imsda.org/bookstore.

Conference Executive Committee Statement on Injustice

Following a regularly scheduled Zoom meeting on June 16, the Iowa-Missouri Conference executive committee issued the following statement on injustice (published on the conference website on June 25):

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). This and “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... [and] love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37, 39) summarize the basic requirements of the Christian life.

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) further clarifies that all human beings are neighbors in Christ. We are called to love all without prejudice and show compassion toward anyone in need.

In that spirit, we acknowledge the pain that recent events such as the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others have caused people across this nation and beyond. We weep with and pray for the grieving families and all who have been affected, which we know includes many brothers and sisters in our own conference—fellow church members, colleagues, family, friends, and neighbors in our communities. Each of you is of immeasurable value in the eyes of Christ and in ours.

We condemn the evils of racism, violence, oppression and other such injustices, in all their forms. And we encourage every Iowa-Missouri Conference church, school and member to cultivate multi-ethnic relationships that build connection, understanding and mutual respect. Share together. Pray together. Grow together. And may the love of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, help us live out Paul’s words in Gal. 3:28, that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Courage in a Crisis

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Jesus was clear that He would not leave us alone. We have His Spirit to encourage us and provide strength and grace. We also have the wonderful promise that Jesus will return someday.

Who would have ever dreamed that 2020 would turn out this way? We have all experienced so much disruption and change over the past months, including in church.

We had to quit meeting together in March. Many of our congregations are still not physically meeting. Members lost their jobs. Many Adventists across our conference were infected by COVID-19. One of our local church elders lost his life to the virus in July. We canceled camp meeting, summer camp and many other events. But the good news is God has seen us through.

Adventists across Kansas and Nebraska have been resilient and faithful! Here are just a few ways that has been shown.

Evangelism

Virgil Covell, Kansas-Nebraska Conference ministerial and evangelism director, shares that “over 40 congregations across our conference became part of It Is Written’s virtual outreach. Hundreds of guests across our territory learned from John Bradshaw online. They responded using texting and email. Many are still working with pastors and members.”

Even though churches weren’t meeting, more than 12 people were baptized during March, April and May. “That number is low for a normal quarter,” explains Covell, “but 12

baptisms shows me that our churches and pastors were still working.”

Adventist education

“We can be so proud of our teachers,” says Jeff Bovee, Kansas-Nebraska Conference education director. “We had to close our classrooms and meet online for nearly two months to finish up last school year. This has never happened before, but our teachers rose to the task and did what they had to, and our students finished the school year well.”

Bovee continues, “Our teachers are prepared for anything this year as we figure out how to begin and serve our students. I am confident that no matter what the future may hold this school year, our teachers’ dedication to excellence will provide quality Adventist education.”

Tithes and offerings

“Giving has been better than I projected and has shown that our members believe God has a clear path forward,” says Darin Gottfried, Kansas-Nebraska Conference VP of finance.

“I’m grateful our conference was already on a good financial footing before COVID-19 hit,” Gottfried continues. “This makes it possible to weather some tough times. We have only seen a slight drop in tithe compared to last year. That is miraculous when you consider how this pandemic has

hurt our economy.”

Gottfried explains that the church treasurers have done an amazing job of signing up for online giving and continuing their work without their churches meeting. “Because of their hard work, we are forging forward with the goal of doing as much as we can to share the love of Jesus with the tithes and offerings that are given. Thank you for your faithfulness,” says Gottfried.

Forward in faith

We are not out of the woods yet. We long to get back to normal. Having a facemask with us whenever we go out is becoming the norm. Yet, as followers of Jesus we have been taught that the future is uncertain and will get more fragile and disrupted as this world wears out.

Jesus was clear that He would not leave us alone. We have His Spirit to encourage us and provide strength and grace. We also have the wonderful promise that Jesus will return someday. May we not allow the fear, anger and panic of this world to enter our lives. May we be found faithful no matter what the future holds.

“I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken” (Psalm 16:8).

Ron Carlson is president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

*Kansas-Nebraska
Conference Presents:*

**FIGHT, LIVE,
WALK & PRAY
LIKE A WOMAN**

Women's Retreat

**OCTOBER 30 -
NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

Junction City, KS

Speaker:

**Dr. Heather
Thompson
Day**



Welcoming Ages 14-114

A Better Way

Exploring the “color line” solution

I’ve been struck by some of Ellen White’s statements in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, in relation to race antagonism. For example, she says on p. 205, “... the Seventh-day Adventist Church has failed to act its part.”

The recent events in Minneapolis forced me to look at the question of race relations in Minnesota—and America—afew. It was comforting to hear conference, union and division presidents express solidarity against racism and injustice in the wake of the death of George Floyd. I stand with them. In my evolution over the question of race I’ve reached the conclusion that racism is a sin based on ignorance and deeply ingrained prejudices.

I am not making a sweeping indictment of the American culture; I am looking at the church within the framework of present history. As I look at the church’s reaction (or lack thereof) to the race issue, I’ve come to believe that the historic indifference and silence in our ranks has

been seen as collusion.

In 2020 we cannot be silent on the issues of injustice and systemic racism! In dealing with race we must follow Ellen White’s counsel: “We must meet the situation as it is and deal with it wisely and intelligently” (p. 204).¹

Ellen White believed in the equality of races. In 1891, she said to General Conference leaders, “There has been much perplexity as to how our laborers in the South shall deal with the ‘color line.’ ... The Lord has given us light concerning all such matters. There are principles laid down in His Word that should guide us in dealing with these perplexing questions. The Lord Jesus came to our world to save men and women of all nationalities. He died just as much for the colored people as for the white race.”²

With a statement as powerful as that, it is sad that racism has penetrated our Adventist policies and culture. We’ve seen it in church structure, in hiring practices and in leadership representation. The church has over-emphasized some of Ellen White’s counsel at the expense of other counsels. Our parallel structure in the church is testimony that the church has failed to act its part.

Segregation as a way of policy and practice in the South, which is suggested in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, sec. 6, was given for the benefit of the work. These counsels must be seen as time-sensitive, and therefore read in light of

White’s statement “. this plan is to be followed until the Lord shows us a better way” (p. 207).

White’s guidance on race relations leaves room for the church to re-examine our commitment to the equality of all people, whatever their race, as stated in Fundamental Belief number 14: “The church is one body with many members ... distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us.”³

My reading on the issue of race and Ellen White has led me to believe that the racial climate of the 1890s shaped her response to this issue, especially after the Williams vs. Mississippi case, when the Supreme Court upheld the discriminatory Mississippi law that required literacy tests, poll tax and other forms of voter discrimination. The result of that decision was that other southern states created new constitutions modeled after Mississippi’s.⁴

I believe the pragmatic approach to the race issue in Ellen White’s writings that began to appear in the early 1900s was influenced by reports of looting and destruction of property in the South. This was during the time her son Edson White was working in the South.

The current circumstances—the protests, the looting, the destruction of property and the question of race relationship—require us to again look at our

policies and practices on race issues. Now is the time to study the Word of God to find that “better way.”

We the people need to work to heal racial discord. Whites and blacks in the Adventist Church need to come to the table together. It is not enough to *know* what the Law of God says. The church must also *do* what His Word says. We must give evidence that we believe “All men are created equal.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, sec. 6, was temporary counsel necessary under the circumstances created by the evils of racism in the 1800s. In 2020, whites and blacks need to look at our history and make the necessary changes to move toward that “better way.”

I can hear Ellen White pleading with us, “Brethren, unify; draw close together, laying aside every human invention and following closely in the footsteps of Jesus, your great Example.”⁵

Brian K. Mungandi is VP of administration for the Minnesota Conference.

Sources

1. White, Ellen G. *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9. Pacific Press Assn. 1948.
2. “The Southern Work” Review and Herald Publishing Assn. 1901. p. 9.
3. www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental-beliefs/
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Williams_v._Mississippi
5. *Testimonies*, Vol. 9. p. 198.



Courtesy Minnesota Conference

State of the Conference Update

Read this article in its entirety online at outlookmag.org/minnesota-2020-state-of-the-conference-update.

2020 has been a year of both disruption and unforeseen opportunities. Our EYES motif continues to guide our priorities as we look to Jesus and eternity.

E = Evangelism

Most of the evangelistic plans of 2020 were canceled or postponed due to COVID-19. However, new plans for virtual evangelistic meetings were implemented. Bible studies went online. Many pastors and churches now have an international media ministry. VBS was also virtual.

Still, because of social distancing and restrictions on public gatherings, there have been fewer baptisms than usual.

Y = Youth ministries

Adventurer and Pathfinder activities have gone online.

The Minnesota governor's orders made it too difficult to operate our summer camp in the usual way, so our youth director worked with a reduced staff to offer a North Star Camp experience online and also complete maintenance projects.

E = Education

COVID-19 extended spring break, giving our teachers an extra week to prepare for connected learning. Boarding students were sent home. Trips, programs and ceremonies were canceled or put online.

We now have principals, teachers and staff in place, ready for our students no matter the mode of instructional delivery this school year.

S = Spirituality, service and stewardship

Most churches put Sabbath school and worship services online. One of the surprises of online ministry was the reported increase in prayer meeting attendance.

COVID-19, the disruption to the economy and the response to the death of George Floyd have presented numerous opportunities for outreach, including food distribution, drive-by memorial services and peaceful marches for justice.

The sudden shut-down of small businesses left us with questions about the conference's financial health, but God and His people have continued in faithfulness. Through June 30, the tithe in Minnesota was up 2.6 percent over the previous year, even as tithe was down 2.79 percent across the NAD.

Still, cost controls were put into place to mitigate long-term financial distress:

- Usual cost of living adjustment for employees will not be implemented in 2020.
- Conference office travel budgets were cut in half.
- A hiring freeze was implemented for two months.
- A reduction in pastoral force and office administration was instituted,

saving the equivalent of two full-time salaries.

- August pastors and teachers meetings were held virtually.

There is much to be thankful for as we look at what the Lord is doing in Minnesota. Let's press together in unity—united in Christ, in mission and in diversity.

Our quadrennial constituency session was to be held in May, but was postponed until May 16, 2021. Until then, let us keep pressing into eternity with our EYES on Jesus!

Justin Lyons is president of the Minnesota Conference.



Courtesy: Minnesota Conference

Maplewood Academy Welcomes New Principal

Minnesota Conference welcomes our new Maplewood Academy principal, **Jeremy Everhart**, and his

family. He has been serving as principal for Taiwan Adventist International School for the past 12 years.

After graduating from a boarding academy himself, Everhart attended Andrews University where he earned a BA in history and a minor in geography. Everhart moved to Taiwan in 2004 to teach social studies and ESL before serving as principal.

Everhart hopes to make Maplewood Academy not only a place to focus on the physical and intellectual aspects of education, but also see that the school intentionally focuses on the spiritual, emotional and social growth of the individual.

As Maplewood Academy principal, Everhart intends to collaborate with the home, the church and the conference to foster growth in Maplewood.

We are excited that Jeremy, **Summer** and **Evan** are joining our team of highly qualified and dedicated teachers, staff, students and parents in the Maplewood Academy constituency. The conference administration also appreciates the constituency's continued support for the mission of Maplewood Academy.

Brian K. Mungandi is VP of administration for the Minnesota Conference.



Courtesy: Everharts

RMC Boosts Creativity and Innovation in the New Normal

Officers comment on how the church has fared in the past six months and share their hopes for the new normal

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



Ed Barnett
President

Incredible changes have taken place in our conference in the last six months. They are changes that will require us to take a new look at how we do church. From a leadership perspective, this offers an opportunity for our conference and the church itself

to carefully and prayerfully look at how we can do church better as we move forward.

In the era of “new normal,” all our congregations have engaged in embracing technology and virtual worship. Looking into the future, we expect to continue live-streaming worship services in all churches. It is amazing to see the number of hits some of our churches are getting.

In the last few months, the church mission, including our traditional evangelistic outreach, experienced a pause in many of our plans, but also received a boost with a variety of new methods.

Over the years, we have talked about innovation. Now, we cannot engage in the “tried and true,” but must

continue to update and retool using new technology and social media to reach thousands of people rather than the low numbers we were reaching in the past.

And there is more. To effectively reach our audience, we need to rethink the content of our preaching and teaching. Jesus has to be the center of our churches, homes and messages.

Meeting new needs

In recent months, we have seen an increased interaction with our neighbors as we have responded to their many needs—both physical and spiritual. It is vital that we refocus our public presence and strategize ways to best meet the needs of our

communities while sharing Jesus and His love.

Among the biggest challenges in our conference is the effect of the pandemic on our schools. There will be the required readjustment in how educational programs meet the cognitive, social and spiritual needs of our students, besides also meeting the financial obligations.

From a management perspective, we must continue to hold more virtual meetings rather than spending thousands of dollars traveling throughout our vast territory of Colorado, Wyoming and the northern part of New Mexico. Our new circumstances call us to rethink how we conduct large gatherings, including town halls and camp meetings.

Rajmund Dabrowski



Photos Courtesy: Rocky Mountain Conference



Eric Nelson
VP of Administration

Adventist churches within our conference have been challenged to accommodate the health orders of their counties and states. The goal continues to be maintaining the safety of our members while carrying on ministry.

Our churches have become creative during this time. There have been added burdens of setting up safeguards to keep distance, masks and safety protocols to ensure we have a safe environment for church members to gather, even in a limited manner.

Some have taken to worshipping outdoors since there is more space, and attendance can be increased. All of these scenarios create challenges for our churches and for their worship.

At the beginning of the outbreak, many of our pastors were conducting evangelistic or outreach services. They had to switch nimbly to an online format. In some cases, their attendance increased. In the same manner, some have seen more people attending online worship than were attending when they met in the sanctuary. We praise the

Lord for the resources of the computer and internet that provide tools that can meet this challenge.

Thankfully, restrictions did not stop a number of baptisms. New methods of mission are already being effective, such as giving Bible studies by phone or online.

Churches will continue to adjust to the restrictive health challenges. In some cases, that means offering multiple services or live-streaming. Ways beyond a short contact by computer are being explored to develop or maintain personal interaction with individuals not comfortable attending.

Several churches welcomed new pastors in Colorado and Wyoming during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, while some districts were divided and absorbed into other districts as an efficiency and cost-saving measure.

New methods, same mission

The mission of Rocky Mountain Conference has not changed during COVID-19, even though methods are new and different. Innovation and creativity are welcome, as is the flexibility shown by members and pastors. They have stepped up to this challenge in a large measure and are striving to do their utmost to carry on the mission to “Know Christ and make Him fully known” to church members and their communities.



George Crumley
VP of Finance

Who would have thought back in February that a virus spreading overseas could so quickly enter our country and completely change the way we worship, work, recreate and socialize? Because of its impact, it has left collateral damage that continues to affect the church, society and economy.

Because of current uncertainties, it is difficult for our schools to project what will happen in the fall, and thus feel comfortable with their future budgets. The result is a natural financial conservatism, which is appropriate given the circumstances. This is just one of many challenges our schools are facing.

Careful management of tithes

Within the conference, our base tithe has been down by a bit over 3 percent so far this year. Because of this, we have frozen all hiring for new positions within the conference, voted not to provide the July 1 cost-of-living pay increase for employees and are emphasizing careful management of

departmental expenditures.

We are thankful that the tithe decrease is not greater, and we are grateful to our members for being faithful even in the face of uncertainty. We also appreciate our schools for being conservatively watchful as we proceed through this year and budget in the fall for next year.

Technology: A tool for building community

Through all of this, we can be thankful. Because of technology, we have continued to worship together, learn together, work together, socialize together and return our tithes and offerings to support the mission. None of this could have been easily done just a few years ago.

We can all look forward to being back together for prayer, study, learning, working and socializing. I have been reminded through all of this of the importance of our freedoms—God-given freedoms we should never take for granted.



Read this month's Rocky Mountain Conference news stories at www.rmcsda.org.

Union Senior Uses Her Talents to Market Main Street

The summer of 2020 was a lot different than the average summer for **Judith Grey**. The Union College senior spent two months in rural Nebraska, 1,700 miles from the Fort Lauderdale area of Florida she calls home. A unique internship convinced her to swap sunny beaches for a chance to rejuvenate small-town Main Street as one of 17 student interns working to help revitalize rural communities around Nebraska through the Rural Futures Institute.

Grey and another intern were selected to work in Pierce County, Nebraska, and the towns of Pierce, Hadar, Plainview and Osmond. The project focused on marketing the county and small towns to increase awareness and retain and recruit residents.

A new kind of community service

Grey grew up in Florida and had never been to Nebraska before arriving at Union College. At first she wasn't convinced she'd stay, but her

church family had given her winter gear, and her mom encouraged her to stick it out through a semester. She started as a general studies major and transferred to the business program her sophomore year. Four years later, she's completing three online summer classes alongside her internship to close out her undergraduate experience.

One experience she credits with shaping her future was the chance to go to Union-sponsored career fairs and talk with HR professionals and company representatives. It was at a career fair where she first learned about the RFI program. "To me, it sounded like a community project," said Grey, who helped organize Union's Project Impact for two years.

Her love of giving back and the uniqueness of the RFI program kept her interested. "I stayed in contact with them," she said. "The plans they had sounded really good. I went through the whole interview process and I was chosen."

Grey and another intern were put in charge of the RFI project in Pierce County. They focused on nine aspects to market and promote the county and towns to improve and encourage awareness

of the area, increase local spending, retain residents and recruit new residents. Their tasks included brainstorming and implementing ways to digitally connect communities, create social media programs and host community events and virtual community gatherings.

"What our community needs is help staying connected and promoting retention," Grey said. "People around my age group tend to go off to different places."

During project briefings, she learned that across the U.S., younger generations aren't seeing the same average economic improvements as their parents' generation and previous cohorts had enjoyed. "It turns out there are different pockets around the state that are growing. My community is in the 3 percent of areas that are improving," Grey said. "The reason they're improving is because they have a tight-knit community where everybody cares for one another, and it's small enough that many people have the opportunity to be involved and hold leadership roles."

Her work with RFI shares this important fact—younger people who stay in or move to Pierce County may be able to improve their lives and futures. In return, those younger people can help strengthen and grow their local community.

Location is also key. Rural Nebraska may not sound like a likely place for strong growth opportunities, but

Grey adds that the team is capitalizing on the presence of two major highways that run through Pierce County to increase the towns' business potential.

The current international health crisis has impacted their work. In some cases, Grey and her partner had to modify or create community celebrations to include physically distant events and promote businesses struggling under changing restrictions.

While the pace of life in a small town is different than Lincoln or Fort Lauderdale, Grey has found a sense of community. "It's been fun," she said. "I don't mind the slower pace. It's more unique, it's catered, people are willing to reach out on a limb for you."

Grey said her experiences during the summer internship have proven to her that communication is key, both in life and business. Sitting in on council meetings has also shown her the reality of small-town life and the politics that each community deals with.

"It's good to know where you're living so you can actively be helpful," she said. "It's made me consider—if I do go back to Florida, what could I do to help out? It's good to hear the different perspectives and take the time to hear people out."

Lauren Bongard Schwarz is a Union College graduate and freelance writer in Bozeman, Montana.



Courtesy Judith Grey

Judith Grey put her business training to work this summer by marketing some small towns in Pierce County, Nebraska.

From Cornfields to Laboratories

Interdisciplinary research reaps career rewards

Seth McNeill, a computer science professor at Union College, has an infectious passion for small, unmanned aerial vehicles. And if you ever get the chance to discuss the subject with him, you're likely to catch drone fever too. In 2016, McNeill offered Union students a class in drone piloting thanks to a sponsorship from SaraniaSat, and several student pilots were ultimately hired by the company to fly drones and collect data.

But drone piloting was only half of the work for this project. While in the fields, students were also tasked with taking soil samples, and later plant tissue samples.

In 2018, McNeill recruited students **Sara Beaudoin**, **Ashley Morrow** and **Chad Vietz** to analyze and compare data to find out how different crop applications affect plant growth. **Christina Burden-Page**, one of Union's biology professors, also joined the team as a mentor and coordinator.

Burden-Page loved seeing students learn new skills and abilities in the lab. She believes giving students opportunities to answer real-world questions is much more rewarding and motivating than regular lab assignments. Beaudoin, a biomedical science and

business administration major, agrees. Her need to be competitive for medical school applications inspired her to join the research team.

Vietz, a 2020 chemistry and biomedical science graduate, also wanted to take advantage of the opportunity and joined the project. "I'd been looking for a research position since I entered college," he said. "This opportunity gave me my first taste of research and allowed me to work more independently."

Vietz worked in a laboratory dedicated solely to the project. The research he was doing—extracting and sequencing mRNA in the plant tissue samples—is reserved for graduate students at most universities.

A hands-on learner, Vietz said the best part of the research was studying by doing. The laboratory techniques and complex protocol took time and patience, but because the preparation of the sample had a clear effect on the quality of the data, Vietz could see his attention to detail mattered at every step. "Getting great results in research requires a lot of persistence," he said. "It made it all the more rewarding."

The mRNA extraction

protocol took nearly eight hours of work per sample. The students started the process by grinding up a leaf from a cornstalk, separating the contents, incubating samples, and using chemicals to extract the mRNA. They ended with sequencing the mRNA.

For an engineer like McNeill, the technology behind the sequencing was the fun part. "The sequencer is a biomembrane—basically a cell wall—attached to electronics which, in turn, attaches to a computer's USB port," said McNeill. "Life talking to circuits; it's a really cool crossover."

The data collected "provides a snapshot of what is going on in that cell at the time of the sample," explained

Burden-Page.

The research is important, but McNeill also designed the project with student outcomes in mind. "Multi-semester projects have been shown to help students' educations," McNeill said, referencing the Gallup-Purdue Index. "Also, the ability to understand and follow a complex protocol over a long period of time is important for a career in any STEM field. Whether the student goes to grad school or straight into the workforce, it guides them on to bigger and better horizons."

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Estelle Trotter is a freelance writer in Lincoln, Nebraska. Hannah Wood is a junior international rescue and relief major from Lincoln, Nebraska.



Photos: Scott Cushman/Union College

Top: Sara Beaudoin and Dr. Christina Burden-Page analyze crop samples.

Bottom: Dr. Seth McNeill created a class that taught students how to fly drones and use them to collect data about crops. Now he works with students to analyze the data and understand how different applications impact the plants.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission Works with Organizations to Provide Supplies and Testing

Communities in need are facing even more challenges and hardships during the coronavirus pandemic. To lend a hand, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission is partnering with local and state organizations to provide COVID-19 testing, cleaning supplies and food for underserved communities in the Kansas City area.

In the past year, the hospital has worked with two communities to improve access to healthcare and other resources. **Anna Coridan**, RN, a surgical nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, moved into one of these communities in Kansas City a few years ago and helped them start a youth group called New Change 4 Youth (NC4Y).

“It’s our goal to help Anna in making a difference for those communities,” says **Jeanette Metzler**, manager of Community Benefits at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. “In the past few months, we’ve focused our attention on what these neighborhoods need with the challenges of COVID-19.”

One of those challenges was getting accurate information to the residents about COVID-19, particularly with the language barrier for some refugees. In March, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission worked with NC4Y to provide a “door drop” for 400 apartments. The deliveries included COVID-19

safety information in four different languages as well as hand soap, Kleenex boxes and hand sanitizer.

“We wanted to make sure they had the educational materials they need, written in their own language, so they know how to stay safe and healthy,” explains Metzler.

Buying food is also a challenge for some families in the neighborhoods. In addition to financial reasons, many were unable to buy foods they rely on because they weren’t available in the grocery store.

“Staple foods such as lentils and rice were hard to find as people were stocking up,” says Metzler. “In May, we were able to buy and deliver 50 pounds of rice and 40 pounds of lentils to more than 100 families in the area. The team went door-to-door to deliver the food and ask what they needed.”

Metzler says they also wanted to help provide access to healthcare for families, including COVID-19 testing. On June 27, AdventHealth partnered with Mercy & Truth Medical Missions and NC4Y for a drive-through COVID-19 testing event in Kansas City. As families drove up, they were offered a box of fresh produce, a bag of cleaning supplies and a COVID-19 test. Members of NC4Y also provided translation assistance in four different languages for the families who came.

The event was the first stop

Courtesy AdventHealth Shawnee Mission



AdventHealth Shawnee Mission partnered with Mercy & Truth Medical Missions and the New Change 4 Youth program for a drive-through COVID-19 testing event. In addition to testing, community members received fresh produce and bags of cleaning supplies.

for the Kansas governor’s new COVID-19 testing van. The mobile testing unit, established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, provided COVID-19 testing at no cost. Three hundred food boxes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and 200 bags of cleaning supplies were handed out. About 225 people received the COVID-19 test.

Metzler says one of the next goals is to help make sure kids have access to healthcare and resources for the beginning of the school year. Through grants, AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission is making funding available to buy clothes and shoes for each student. Metzler says the NC4Y group has been talking with families to help

them schedule back-to-school physicals.

“We want to build on what Anna and her team are doing in making a difference in those neighborhoods,” says Metzler. “We want to hear their perspective about what their community needs, and how we can work together.”

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



Learn more about community service programs at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission by visiting AdventHealthKC.com.

It Takes a Village

Our mission during the pandemic

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

For all these reasons and more, the novel coronavirus circulating the globe has been particularly unkind to those in remote parts of Peru. And where help was once much easier to extend, travel bans have paused medical mission trips and left hospitals without much-needed support. But Centura Health is finding ways to help, and so can you.

For more than a decade, Centura Health's Global Health Initiatives has devoted its resources and medical staff to make a difference in underserved communities worldwide, including the Amazon. GHI director **Greg**

Hodgson says, "This grim side of our global connectedness now means the same battle we face against the virus here at home is simultaneously being fought in hundreds of thousands of communities around the world—but with fewer resources."

Clinica Adventista Ana Stahl is GHI's partner hospital in Peru. On May 4, the Adventist hospital campus shut down after half of its staff started having symptoms, and many became infected with COVID-19. On Facebook, leadership posted, "These are desperate times."

Centura nurse **Michelle Perkins**, who you typically find in the New Life Center at Avista Adventist Hospital, is also a GHI clinical nurse educator. Perkins teaches an evidence-based program designed to help midwives in remote settings know how to respond to dangers faced by babies at birth. Her work has led to an impressive tally of

giving over 700 toddlers, babies and newborns born along the Amazon a chance at life.

"I love traveling and helping other hospitals and nurses. I've been managing this educational program in Peru, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda," Perkins explains. COVID-19 has hit Peru particularly hard. "I know many who have died; it is heart-breaking," says Perkins. "My colleagues in these countries can't easily distance themselves from others because many people live in one small house, don't have clean water, have no soap to wash their hands properly and certainly no personal protective equipment like masks."

Perkins says she's aware of 33 doctors who have died of COVID-19, and one pediatrician who remains hospitalized. She would like to jump on a plane and help, but Perkins says, "It does not seem like I will be able to travel until after January 2021 at the earliest due to international restrictions."

Despite the inability to provide physical support, GHI has not let the pandemic stall efforts to help. As of mid-July, all service lines at Clinica Adventista Ana Stahl have reopened. On Facebook, hospital leadership shared, "We are so grateful for the amazing staff, frontline workers and supporters for helping to make this possible for the people of Iquitos!"

Personal protective equipment was critical to moving forward. Centura Health,

ADRA and the Ford Motor Company were able to partner and make that happen. Local hospital leaders shared on Facebook, "The PPE donation has officially landed in Peru after making the long journey from Denver. This gift included 1,480 reusable gowns, 1,626 face shields, 1,336 face masks, and 45,336 latex gloves. We are happy to be able to share this blessing with our staff and two other Adventist hospitals in Peru. We are so blessed and grateful for ALL who have contributed and prayed over our community in Iquitos, Peru."

Director Hodgson concludes, "We're all in this together, and whether it's providing medical care or supporting those around you, I want to thank you for the many ways you're inspiring others!"

Submitted by Wendy Forbes, director of media relations and public relations for AdventHealth Rocky Mountain/Centura.

Left: Centura Health nurse Michelle Perkins teaches an evidence-based program designed to help midwives in remote settings.

Right: Centura Health, ADRA and the Ford Motor Company partnered to donate PPE to the Adventist hospital in Peru.



Photos Courtesy AdventHealth Rocky Mountain/Centura



As soon as the opportunity to travel safely presents itself, GHI medical mission trips will resume. In the meantime, support Peru's Adventist hospital in Iquitos by making a gift to CAAS/covid emergency fund at rmahf.org/ghi.

Allee, Owen Paul, b. July 6, 1928 near Stroud, OK. d. April 3, 2020 in Colorado Springs, CO. Member of Wichita South (KS) Church. Preceded in death by wife Rosemary Ann Barber; 5 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include son Richard; daughters Phyllis Elaine McFadden and Brenda Jones; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army during Korean War.

BahnMiller, Judith Ann (Axt), b. March 30, 1945 in Goodrich, ND. d. May 29, 2020 in Isanti, MN. Member of Bismarck (ND) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Laurel Radcliff; 4 siblings. Survivors include husband Allen; daughter Michelle Luke; 3 siblings; 4 grandchildren.

Baker, Gary R., b. Sept. 6, 1940. d. July 17, 2020 in

Coffeyville, KS. Member of Coffeyville Church. Preceded in death by 5 siblings. Survivors include wife Barbara; children Kimberley Jo Jones, Charlie, and Travis; 2 grandchildren; 4 sisters.

Bringle, Thomas Alten, b. June 4, 1937. d. June 26, 2020 in Reedsport, OR. Survivors include daughters Tara Jolene Berthelsen and Julie Kaye Weber; 1 sister; 5 grandchildren.

Engquist, Lorn J., b. March 11, 1958 in Omaha, NE. d. July 7, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Omaha Memorial (NE) Church. Survivors include wife Barbara; children Nickolas and Ivybelle; 1 sister.

Falor, Mervin, b. Oct. 24, 1932 in Manton, MI. Member of Topeka Hispanic (KS) Church. Preceded in death by son Bruce; 9 siblings.

Survivors include wife Wilma; sons Brian, Barry, Brent, and Matt; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954.

Frank, Afton, b. Jan. 31, 1933. d. Oct. 16, 2019. Member of Grand Junction (CO) Church. Survivors include daughter Cynthia Barton; son Bryan; 2 granddaughters.

Gould, Susana, b. May 24, 1949. d. April 12, 2020 in Kearney, NE. Member of Grand Island (NE) Hispanic Church.

Guillen, Ella Mae, b. Jan. 6, 1945 in Frankfurt, KS. d. June 2, 2020 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include husband Ted Jr.; sons Richard Briggs Jr. and Timothy Scott Briggs; daughter Ella Louise Johnson; stepson Ted; stepdaughter Danielle; 2 brothers; 4 sisters; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Hale, Richard, C., b. June 3, 1953. d. April 1, 2020. Member of Littleton (CO) Church. Survivors include wife Freda; daughters Amanda Reifinger and Keri Applegate; son Brian; 6 grandchildren. First CEO of Littleton Adventist Hospital, as well as President of Porter Adventist Hospital.

Hamilton, Ursula S. (Polensky), b. Feb. 18, 1944 in Breslau, Silesia, Germany. d. May 17, 2020 in Glasco, KS. Member of Salina (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 2 husbands; 1 son; 1 stepson. Survivors include son Alexander; stepchildren Denise, Nathan, John, Eddie, Victoria, and Brian; 1 brother; 2 granddaughters.

Harlan, Zella Joey Anne, b. May 8, 1931 in Wenatchee, WA. d. July 17, 2020. Member of Grand Junction (CO) Church. Preceded in death

by first husband Joe Lester; second husband Wes; 1 sister. Survivors include children Solitare Ferguson, Dana Lester, Candy Lester, John, Ken, Susan Carlos, Cathy, Curt, and Theri Belleian; 2 brothers; 28 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren.

Hauck, Elsie, b. May 15, 1925 north of New Leipzig, ND. d. Dec. 21, 2019 in West Fargo, ND. Member of Dakota Conference (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Ben. Survivors include children Elayne Kretz and Roger; several grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

Hawley, Loren Wayne, b. Feb. 7, 1931 in Humboldt, KS. d. March 16, 2020 in Fredonia, KS. Member of Fredonia Church. Preceded in death by 3 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Carol Sue Purkeypile; children Brenda Coburn, Rick, Cindy, and Kathy Young; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army.

Howard, Gene Gladys, b. Aug. 31, 1925 northwest of Ekalaka, MT. d. Oct. 28, 2019 in Dickinson, ND. Member of Invitation Hill (ND) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Terry Chapman; second husband Earl Hebst; third husband Elmer; 2 sisters. Survivors include children Margaret Osborn and Mike Chapman; stepdaughter Juanita Chapman Blankenship; adopted daughter Annette Cline; 6 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren.

Jensen, Patricia Mae, b. May 3, 1934 in Faulkton, SD. d. June 19, 2020 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Survivors include husband Lee; children Jay D., Francene, Michele Kites, and Jeff; 1 sister;



10 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

Jumper, M. Edward, b. Dec. 16, 1941 in Plankinton, SD. d. July 10, 2020 in Parsons, KS. Member of Chanute (KS) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Joyce; son Jeff. Survivors include second wife Sandy Nance; daughter Lisa Bramblett; son Allan; 4 stepchildren; 5 grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 9 step-great-grandchildren.

Kincaid, Marjorie Arline, b. June 28, 1924 in Washington, KS. d. March 26, 2020 in Lawrence, KS. Member of Lawrence Church. Preceded in death by husband Clifford; 1 brother. Survivors include son Timothy; daughters Julie Fuhrmann and Laurel Volpe; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Livingston, Milton, b. March 22, 1936 in Robinson, ND. d. March 23, 2020 in Colorado. Member of LifeSoure Adventist (CO) Fellowship. Preceded in death by 8 siblings. Survivors include wife Darlene; sons Brian and Brad; 1 brother; 3 sisters; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Long, Wayne Philman, b. July 30, 1934 in Reed, CO. d. Feb. 28, 2020 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Survivors include former wife and life partner Carole; son David; daughters Joyce and Carol Ann Thurstin; step-children Frank Wisdom, Tom Wisdom, and Nancy Prosser; 5 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Murray, Barbara "Penny" J., b. Sept. 7, 1937 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. d. April 13, 2020 in Bourbon, MO. Member of Sullivan (MO) Church. Preceded in death by son Paul; 3 siblings. Survivors include husband Edward; daughters Judy Murta

and Sandy Chamness; son Randy; 3 sisters; 9 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Olson, Verna L., b. June 3, 1925 in Humboldt, IA. d. June 23, 2020 in Iowa City, IA. Member of Iowa City (IA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Stanley; 2 siblings; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughter Virginia Thompson; sons Jon, Jim, Marc, and Tim; 11 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Schroeder, Donald Lee, b. Oct. 11, 1935 in Jamestown, ND. d. May 15, 2020 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Mandan (ND) Church. Survivors include wife Patricia Ann; sons Sidney Paul and Stuart Solomon; 1 sister; 2 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Siewert, Pearl Vollmer, b. Sept. 4, 1922 in Mobridge, SD. d. May 15, 2020 in Newcastle, WY. Member of Bowdle (SD) Church. Preceded in death by husband Aaron. Survivors include children Tami Franklin and Steve; 7 grandchildren.

Sprowl, Lewis W., b. March 3, 1946 in Kansas City, KS. d. June 11, 2020 in Mountain Home, ID. Member of Brighton (CO) Church. Preceded in death by 7 siblings. Survivors include wife Bonnie G.; sons Lewis Jr. and Shawn; 2 sisters; 1 brother; grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

Sting, Patricia A., b. Jan. 28, 1921 in Fremont, MO. d. Sept. 24, 2019 in Bellevue, OH. Member of Owensville (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Ron. Survivors include daughter Cathy Cole-Connors; son Ronald; 1 brother.

Swanson, Sharon Grace, b. Oct. 20, 1944 in Sioux City, IA. d. Aug. 19, 2018 in Homer, NE. Member of Kansas-Nebraska Confer-

ence (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Roger; 1 brother. Survivors include children Dan, Keith, and Wendy; 8 grandchildren.

Tucker, Marcella "Jean," b. Sept. 22, 1944 in Urbana, MO. d. May 14, 2020 in Sullivan, MO. Member of Sullivan Church. Preceded in death by daughter Debra Uehlin; 1 sister. Survivors include husband David; son Daniel; 2 siblings; 2 grandchildren.

Waddington, Carolyn Mae, b. Dec. 30, 1944 in Mount Holly, NJ. d. July 12, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Survivors include husband John; daughter Charlene Hawkins; son Bruce; 2 sisters; 5 granddaughters.

Warner, Lloyd, b. July 25, 1937 in Alliance, NE. d. June 11, 2020 in Hot Springs, SD. Member of Hot Springs Church. Preceded

in death by wife Sharon; Survivors include children Rebecca Anderson, Frank, and Mary; 2 brothers; 3 sisters; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Warren, Leo H., b. April 24, 1928 in Sentinel, OK. d. May 3, 2020 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Survivors include wife Helen; daughter Rhonda Huscusson; son Ron; 1 twin brother; 1 sister; 2 granddaughters; 2 great-granddaughters.

Werth, Gordon, b. Sept. 1, 1931 in Lehr, ND. d. June 7, 2020 in Wisek, ND. Member of Lehr Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Durnetta; children Randal, Bill, Delray, and Brenda Stell; 6 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

SUNSET CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2020

COLORADO	SEP 4	SEP 11	SEP 18	SEP 25	
Denver	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51	
Grand Junction	7:39	7:28	7:16	7:05	
Pueblo	7:22	7:11	7:00	6:49	
IOWA	7:29	7:17	7:05	6:53	
Davenport	7:41	7:29	7:17	7:05	
Des Moines	7:53	7:41	7:28	7:16	
Sioux City	8:03	7:53	7:42	7:31	
KANSAS	7:11	7:00	6:49	6:38	
Dodge City	7:11	7:00	6:49	6:38	
Goodland	7:47	7:36	7:25	7:13	
Topeka	MINNESOTA	7:40	7:26	7:12	6:58
Duluth	7:48	7:33	7:18	7:03	
International Falls	7:43	7:30	7:17	7:03	
Minneapolis	MISSOURI	7:34	7:23	7:11	7:00
Columbia	7:43	7:32	7:20	7:09	
Kansas City	7:25	7:14	7:03	6:52	
St. Louis	NEBRASKA	7:53	7:41	7:29	7:17
Lincoln	8:09	7:57	7:46	7:34	
North Platte	7:22	7:09	6:57	6:45	
Scottsbluff	NORTH DAKOTA	8:15	8:01	7:47	7:33
Bismarck	7:59	7:45	7:31	7:17	
Fargo	8:28	8:13	7:59	7:44	
Williston	SOUTH DAKOTA	8:11	7:58	7:45	7:32
Pierre	7:22	7:09	6:56	6:43	
Rapid City	7:55	7:43	7:30	7:17	
Sioux Falls	WYOMING	7:33	7:21	7:08	6:56
Casper	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:50	
Cheyenne	7:49	7:36	7:23	7:10	
Sheridan					

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EMPLOYMENT

Optometrist position: Stallant Health, a rural health clinic in Weimar, California, is accepting applications for an optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

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

EVENTS

Indiana Academy Alumni Weekend Oct. 9-10, 2020. Alumni weekend will be conducted at the academy located in Cicero, Indiana. There will be a golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 9. For reservations, contact Bill Summitt at IAgolfclassic@gmail.com or call 317.437.8104. Sabbath services Oct. 10 will be streamed via YouTube at Indiana Academy Alumni or on the alumni website at iaalumni.org. For questions about weekend events contact Janet Schalk White at janet.white@earthlink.net.

Maplewood Academy Alumni Weekend Canceled:

Alumni weekend 2020 is postponed to Sept. 23-26, 2021. We thank you for your understanding and patience, and ask that you continue to pray for Maplewood Academy students and staff as they embark on a challenging school year. All honor classes that were to be recognized this year will be recognized at next year's event, along with next year's honor classes.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Sept. 11 and 12. Alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. The 2020 Honor Classes are: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980-83. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, IA. Plan to attend. For more information: Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368 or email: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Plainview Adventist Academy, Sheyenne River Academy, and Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend Oct. 2-3, 2020 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Honor Classes: '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11, '16. For information call 701.751.6177 x212 or visit www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

NOTICES

Mission opportunity for individuals, families or Sabbath School groups: Urgent request from Adventist Child India. There are 183 children who have lost their sponsors, and we have over 300 new applications for whom we need to find sponsors. \$35 per month provides tuition, lodging, food, books, clothing and medical for a child. For more information visit www.adventistchildindia.org.

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