

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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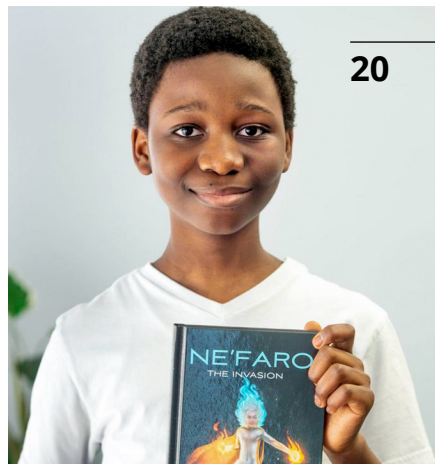


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Ken Bacon Named President/CEO for AdventHealth's Multi-state Division
bit.ly/KenBaconNamedPresident

THE ADVENTIST INFORMATION PIPELINE

We live in an age of information overload. Everywhere we turn we are drenched with messaging, much of which is trivial at best. But some information is important—in fact, it's crucial to the mission of our church.

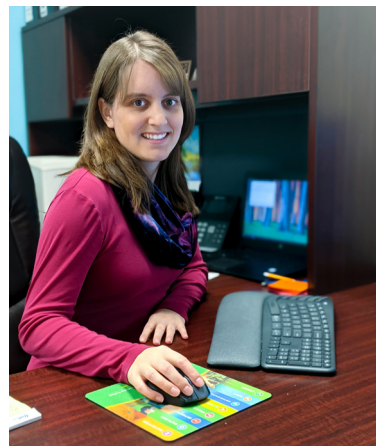
Church treasurers and clerks are some of the people who faithfully gather, store and appropriately share large amounts of information that has the potential to significantly strengthen our churches. They work diligently, usually behind the scenes, to maintain accurate records and keep things flowing.

In this issue of OUTLOOK we acknowledge the roles of these devoted individuals and thank them for their valuable work. We also want to celebrate the launch of the new Seventh-day Adventist encyclopedia, a worldwide project that contains more information than has ever before been compiled by and about Adventists (p. 10).

I pray we will each have the wisdom to discern which information is helpful, and do our part in contributing to and encouraging its management.



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

Rebekah Daum serves as associate treasurer for the Minnesota Conference.

More on p. 6

Photo by Savannah Carlson

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Thank You, Joe! (and all the others)



Church is more than a



I will never forget Joe Lake. Back in the early 1980s Joe was the treasurer for the Kent (Washington) Seventh-day Adventist Church. Joe was a retired school teacher who was brilliant at working with young people. He was called upon the whole time I was pastoring the church to substitute teach both in our church school as well as the public schools.

But Joe was also good with numbers, and he was willing to take on the role of church treasurer.

Joe was conscientious, confidential and trustworthy. A new pastor could never ask for anyone better with whom to work. He paid all our bills and subsidies on time, collected and accurately applied the funds as requested by donors, and helped us form a budget for our church to follow. What a blessing he was!

Church treasurers are truly an unsung group of volunteers in our church

who handle very delicate information for all of us. Every one of our church treasurers knows information they wish they never had to know. They also know of the truly sacrificial people in our churches who are foundational for the financial strength for our churches and schools.

Managing sacred funds

I would also like to say a word about another unsung group: our conference and union treasury staff. I believe this is the most closely audited group of people on the planet! I have watched year after year how they carefully manage the sacred funds which come their way. They are prayerful, conscientious, diligent and frugal.

I always find it a miracle how they are able to stretch a dollar so ministry is not stymied in our territory. Most of those working in

Tithe is more than an



our treasury department could be making much more money working in the business world with the skills they have. They, however, have chosen to serve the church with their talents, and what a blessing they are.

Treasurers are almost an invisible group of ministry leaders in our church. We don't think much about them or what they do. The truth is, they work hard for all of us! I thank the Lord for them and am grateful, because without them we could not organize ourselves for ministry the way we do.

Thank your church treasurer

Matt. 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." If there is one group within our church who knows your heart, it is

our treasurers. I thank the Lord for our treasurers in Mid-America!

When was the last time you thanked your church treasurer for their financial ministry? If you haven't done that recently, I would suggest finding a meaningful way to show your appreciation. Your support will go a long way. 0

GARY THURBER

is president of the Mid-America Union.



What Is the Role of the Church Treasurer?

Do you know what your local church or conference treasurer does? Here is a partial list of responsibilities and desired qualifications.

Responsibilities:

- Confidentially and faithfully care for the donations of the church members
- Pay the bills and keep the church financial records in good order
- Prepare financial reports to assist the church and board in their decisions and budget process
- Remit the tithe and conference offerings at the end of each month
- Knowledge of figures and banking
- Being willing to work behind the scenes as well as presenting financial reports to boards and others
- Ability to work within a structure/schedule
- Commitment to meeting deadlines

What experience is necessary for being a treasurer?

Ideally, some accounting or at least clerical experience or aptitude is desirable. The treasurer should be comfortable with computer programs. Budgeting experience is also very helpful.

All of the above is presented within the framework that a willing person used by God can do great things whether or not they have every qualification. Dependence on Him is

the most important thing to remember. He has it all under control. But having an aptitude for financial skills certainly is a plus.

How important is the work of a treasurer?

I have often said if the local church treasurers were to all go “on strike,” the entire world church would come to a halt. They are the most important people in the financial chain, since it all begins with the local donation to the local church. There is no other source for funding the world field.

So much work is done by treasurers behind the scenes that I don’t believe most church members realize. Treasurers spend many hours silently serving, and most on a volunteer basis. All our local church treasurers deserve a BIG thank you! 0

Personal qualities needed:

- Attention to detail
- Trustworthiness
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Impartiality

RHONDA KARR

is treasurer for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Rhonda Karr is the longest-serving treasurer in the Mid-America Union Conference. She has been treasurer of the Iowa-Missouri Conference since 1998, and has worked in their treasury department for over 50 years. Rhonda says she is a “puzzle person” and loves the challenge of keeping everything in balance and figuring out ways to make it all work. She also finds it an awesome responsibility to realize that she has a part in keeping the wheels turning in the entire church organization by caring for the funds in the local storehouse to the best of her ability.

AdventistGiving

Give. Online. Anytime.

adventistgiving.org



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of many churches, use of our Adventist Giving app has increased dramatically.

North American Division treasurer Randy Robinson stated during his year-end report last November that 60 percent of tithe is now being received through the Adventist Giving online platform, compared with approximately 22 percent pre-pandemic.

Richard Stephenson, director of Information Technology Services for the NAD, stated that over 80 percent of Adventist churches have currently enrolled with Adventist Giving and are receiving tithe dollars through the Adventist Giving app.

Between March 11, 2020 and April 17, 2020 a total of 1,350 churches in North America enrolled in Adventist Giving online. In addition, 1,500 new accounts were set up by individual church members.

Apps are available in both iOS Appstore and Android’s Google Play store. Search using keyword “AdventistGiving” to download the app to your phone or tablet.

Celebrating

Gifts of Information

Focus on church treasurers

Minnesota Conference assistant communication director Savannah Carlson interviews Rebekah Daum, Minnesota Conference associate treasurer and property, liability and workers comp insurance administrator since June 2016.

Rebekah, what do you enjoy most about your work?

I enjoy seeing growth, whether in dollars, number of churches or new members. However, right now planning and budgeting for growth in the future is sometimes a challenge as we see some

numbers going up and some numbers going down.

At the time of this interview, conferences are in the process of closing the books for 2020.

How has the church in Minnesota been impacted by the

pandemic, both corporately and at the local level?

We've had to learn much patience and flexibility. Many ways of doing things have changed to enable us to continue working. Our committees meet virtually, which presents its own set of challenges. If we can't meet virtually, the meetings most likely get postponed.

The local churches are also being flexible and coming up with new ways to evangelize. New members are still being baptized and we're thankful for the extra work the churches have done to make this happen in 2020.

How have local churches been affected financially by the pandemic?

In Minnesota we have seen a significant decrease in local church offerings, particularly the local church budget. These affect the ability of the local church to pay its normal monthly bills. Utilities, rent and mortgage payments must all be made even if members are not meeting in the church. When the offering appeal for church budget cannot be made, and we cannot pass the offering plate, the offerings go down.

Last year we saw the effects of church closure on the local offerings almost immediately. Within four weeks of the initial shut-down, there were churches

struggling to pay their monthly bills. There was a rush to get all churches connected to online giving so members can give easily and securely. This increase in online giving has helped.

The Bible tells us the world will be full of tumult in the end times. In light of the current economic environment, is there anything we could have done to plan for this financial deficit at the local level?

We never know when a crisis will come, and we never know exactly how it will impact the giving at church. But we do know crises will happen, and because we know, we should be planning.

Most financial advisors say that everyone should maintain at least 3-6 months' worth of savings in a separate bank account for emergencies. Most people would agree this is a good principle to live by, even if it is difficult to save up that much.

However, we struggle with that concept when it comes to church finances. Should the church save up and hold on to some reserves? In the Bible there are many verses reminding us to trust in God and His faithfulness, to "give and it shall be given to you" (Luke 6:38).

I also believe there are other principles in the Bible



not contradictory to these verses that show we should have some funds in reserves. In Genesis 41, we find a whole story focused on the need to store up and plan for the future after God gave Pharaoh a dream to let him know what was coming on the earth. Joseph planned, worked and stored up so much grain for a future famine that he “left numbering; for it was without number” (Gen. 41:50).

In this instance, there was a known number of years that they needed to plan for. We do not usually get such detailed instructions from the Lord. However, Luke 14:28 reminds us that if we intend to build (or do any project), we should first sit down and count the cost and make sure we have sufficient resources to finish it.

According to Matthew 6, we should not store up treasure on earth. We do not want to save hundreds of thousands of dollars just for the sake of saving. This would be unwise stewardship of the offerings given to support the spread of the gospel. On the other hand, if we cannot pay our bills, we damage our reputation and our effectiveness in ministry.

I believe a good compromise between planning and hoarding is to set a specific amount aside for reserves and then no more. This can be a certain percentage of your annual budget; it can be a dollar amount based on known expenses

per month. Whatever the amount, it should be agreed upon by the church, then worked toward until the goal is reached. Having some money in reserves should give peace of mind to the church members as well.

Tell us more about the process of receiving tithe money from the local church level.

All tithe envelopes and online giving are processed at the local church by the local treasurer first. The local treasurer keeps track of donors, sends tithe and mission offerings over to the conference, pays local bills and sends out year-end receipts. A large portion of my responsibilities are directly dependent on the local treasurers. I try to work with them very closely and provide support and help when needed. A church cannot function without its treasurer, which is sometimes not recognized until they lose their treasurer.

Just as importantly, the world church is also impacted by the local treasurer. Without the local treasurer keeping track and sending tithes and offerings over to the conference—where a portion is then sent over to the union and then the General Conference—the mission of the church could not go forward all around the world. It always amazes me to think how my tithes and offerings can affect

the mission on the other side of the world.

In recent years there has been a shift to bring younger generations into leadership roles. What are some of the challenges and opportunities of having newer leaders and more experienced leaders working together?

I have always admired and looked up to the leaders of the church for their experience. At the same time, an attitude of willingness to learn, develop, grow and change can give someone much valuable experience. The important thing is to learn to work with everyone. Certainly no one single generation has all the answers. The challenge is recognizing our need for opinions different from our own. Younger leaders as well as more experienced leaders are both needed.

What advice do you have for young people, especially young women, looking to work in some area of church ministry?

You need to be willing. The ministry is always in need of workers. Be willing to work for a “sacrificial” wage, (i.e., less than you could make in the corporate

world but still definitely livable). And be willing to start out at the bottom of the ladder, so to speak. A college degree does not guarantee you know what you’re doing. Be willing to gain experience. Strive for excellence in whatever responsibilities you’re given. It is rewarding work!

Is there anything you want to leave us with today?

While we work and plan the best we can, we are unable to anticipate every challenge or opportunity that presents itself to the church. But we can take comfort from the promises in the Bible that God will never leave or forsake us. We can stand firm, knowing that God will see us through. **O**

Savannah Carlson



Photos Courtesy Minnesota Conference

Celebrating

Gifts of Information

Focus on church clerks



The role of church clerk provides a vital and often under-appreciated service to our church family. Many members only realize there is such a ministry when they want to transfer their membership to another church. Even then, some think that is the clerk's only responsibility.

Until the early 2000s, membership records were kept on paper files and transfers took a long time to process via mail. The creation of eAdventist has changed that, and is a time saver for clerks, pastors and conference personnel. eAdventist is a digital online database of all membership records that is password protected and encrypted for security measures. Pastors and clerks are assigned an account by the local conference and are only able to see information directly related to their church.

Mailing lists for conference communication, OUTLOOK magazine and *Adventist Journey* are pulled from this source. eAdventist allows for conference personnel to provide statistics and print mailing labels

quickly and accurately.

"Using eAdventist has made the job of a church clerk so much easier and more precise. No more having to send in monthly membership records that were four-part forms and then filing those away," says one Dakota Conference clerk.

Being a clerk is an ideal church job for individuals who appreciate order and record keeping. It also provides an opportunity to interact with all members.

"What I like best about serving as a church clerk is being involved in people's lives, welcoming new people and listening to all their stories of Jesus, as well as learning about their families," states one clerk.

"Taking a head-count at

Sabbath school and church is truly a delight! I especially like going into the children's divisions and interacting with them for just a few moments while I count them. They sometimes help with the counting, which can get rather hilarious!" says another.

One clerk likes the fact that many of the responsibilities can be done at home when she has spare time. She holds numerous church offices, but clerk is the only one that is not primarily a "Sabbath at church only" job.

Informed and organized

The job does present some challenges. Of the clerks polled, many expressed frustrations when it comes to collecting information and keeping it current.

"It is so nice when people actually volunteer information and let me know address and phone changes," says one clerk. Many clerks conveyed the desire for

members to contact them with updated information regarding email address, phone number, birthdate, mailing address and additional family members.

When asked the hardest part about being a clerk, one person answered, "The thing that weighs heaviest on my heart is looking at the members still on the books but no longer attending church. It has long been a matter of prayer for me."

Having an organized and informed church clerk is a benefit to members. When families move, contact information can be promptly updated, which permits mailings to be delivered without a gap in service.

Baptism dates can be found effortlessly if they were entered into eAdventist. Proof of membership can be provided for marriages, passport documentation and other legal matters. Church board minutes can be accessed without difficulty.

"I love keeping accurate records of church meetings

Dakota Conference clerk Julie Brude (right) and Bismarck Church clerk Lauren Block work on eAdventist together.

and board members notified of pertinent information,” declares one clerk.

“I’m not a musician or able to find time to be the church cleaner—but I am able to help with the record keeping and I’m happy to work in that capacity. I like to be orderly, so being able to keep the membership straight or the records filed is something that I enjoy doing,” observes another.

“Being a church clerk is a blessing and a great privilege. As clerks we count you; we see you. You are more than just a number,” was a common theme expressed.

Though it may seem like a menial task, the position is important and deserving of recognition. Take the time this Sabbath to encourage your church clerk and thank them for their service. 0

Jodi Dossenko served as the Dakota Conference membership clerk for seven years before becoming Dakota Conference communication director.

Thank you to the following clerks who provided information and comments:

- Lauren Block**
Bismarck Church (ND)
- Connie Bousa**
Watertown Church (SD)
- Julie Brude**
Dakota Conference Clerk
- Barb Chancellor**
Rapid City Church (SD)
- Jennifer Erickson**
Grand Forks Church (ND)
- Brenda Klein**
New Home Church (ND)
- JoAnn Miller**
Hermosa Church (SD)
- Sue Schlafmann**
McClusky Church (ND)
- Leslie Soules**
Mandan Church (ND)
- Maxine White**
Bowdle Church (SD)

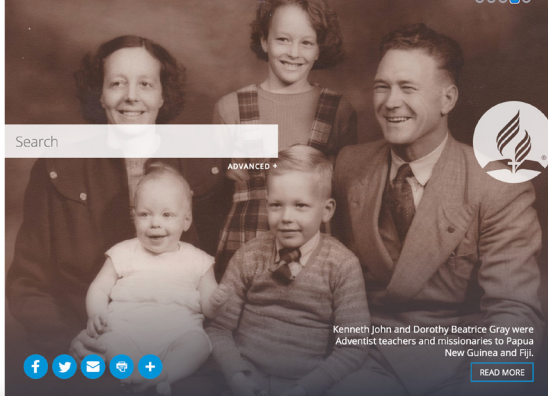
Responsibilities of the local church clerk

- **Serves** as secretary for church board and business meetings
- **Keeps** church membership updated
- **Processes** membership transfers
- **Reports** and records baptisms, deaths and births
- **Maintains** church records
- **Records** church and Sabbath school attendance
- **Compiles** lists of committees
- **Manages** church directory

Quick facts

from eAdventistnews.com

- eAdventist contains 1.2 million NAD member records (2020).
- Each conference has a designated User Administrator who creates and maintains the eAdventist accounts.
- The type of information that each user is allowed to see is determined by the “role(s)” assigned by the User Administrator.
- A church clerk or secretary can only access membership records for their church. A pastor can access membership records for each of his or her churches.
- Designated conference personnel can access records for all churches in the conference.
- Designated union personnel may have access to membership records if approved by the conference. This helps the union provide services more effectively and efficiently to the conferences and members.
- eAdventist membership data is owned by the conference. It is only provided to other parties when authorized by the conference’s administration.



Courtesy encyclopedia.adventist.org

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS LAUNCHES ONLINE

Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA) is a comprehensive tool, not only for those seeking to learn more about the church, but also for those looking to witness to others. ESDA Online, the church's first online reference work, launched on July 1, 2020. This free online resource will continue indefinitely, to be constantly updated and expanded.

Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists is a global church project which aims at completing approximately 8,000 articles with accompanying photographs, media and original documents. This project is directed by and based at the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Almost 25 years after the second revised edition of the *SDA Encyclopedia*, and more than half a century after the publication of the first edition, the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs a new reference work—one that embodies the diverse Adventist Church of the 21st century, reflects the tremendous growth in the church in the last 50 years, the shifts in global membership, and the development of Adventist historical scholarship in the last quarter century. The Adventist Church also needs an online encyclopedia that allows all the possibilities of the digital age.

ESDA GOALS

- **Supply reliable and authoritative information** on Adventist history, crucial events and themes,

organizations, entities, institutions, and people;

- **Strengthen Adventist identity** in a fast-growing worldwide movement, heightening awareness of distinctive doctrinal and prophetic beliefs;
- **Provide a reference work** for those new to the Adventist faith and not of the Adventist faith, to learn about all aspects of Adventism;
- **Bring out the role of denominational organization** in fulfilling the church's mission;
- **Highlight the missional challenges** still remaining in order to "reach the world";
- **Reflect the nature of the world church** today, both in subject matter and in those who write and edit the encyclopedia.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This [ESDA] is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first online reference work and the largest, most international, most complex work of scholarship the church has undertaken.

At the time the ESDA Online launched (July 1, 2020), there were more than 2,100 articles. Around half are biographies (though only of deceased persons: there are no biographies of living subjects); the remainder are histories of organizational units (divisions, unions, conferences and missions), institutions (colleges, schools, hospitals, media centers, publishing houses and others), journals and media ministries, and of the development of important Adventist beliefs—and more.

The 2,100 articles with which we start are just a portion of the approximately 8,000 articles which the Encyclopedia Editorial Board has scheduled for publication. And 8,000 won't be the final total; precisely because this is an online reference work, it will continue to grow. As new church organizational units are established, new institutions founded, new ministries created, and as significant figures pass away, new articles will be commissioned.

We hope that many readers will become not just consumers of the ESDA, but contributors to it, by volunteering to write articles, whether those for which we currently have no authors, or new articles. In addition, we hope that the 3,600 rare photographs on the ESDA Online, as it launched in the summer of 2020, will be greatly increased by many readers making photos, movies and video and audio recordings available for publication in the *Encyclopedia*.

In the more than five-year journey that led to the launch of the ESDA Online, a community of scholars emerged, dedicated to the common purpose of commemorating the history of God's leading in the lives of many individuals and in the corporate life of His people. We hope that many more Seventh-day Adventists will become part of that virtual community, which will continue to expand and improve the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

D. J. B. Trim, Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.
editor, *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*



Courtesy Adventist News Network

 encyclopedia.adventist.org

ADVENTIST EDUCATION

The Nicest Work



As an Adventist educator, I find myself frequently referring to the book *Education*. Written in 1903 by Ellen G. White, the book presents a model for Adventist education that is as revolutionary and relevant today as it was well over 100 years ago.

Reading *Education* can elicit a lot of responses. At times it is exciting, thinking of what can be done. At other times the seriousness of the educator's responsibility can elicit feelings of inadequacy. Sometimes it can be challenging, causing the reader to reflect on how they might better serve students and families. Some passages can lead to confusion.

One such passage can be found on page 292. Describing teaching, we read that "this work is the nicest, the most difficult, ever committed to human beings." I have spent quite a bit of time pondering this seemingly contradictory statement.

When I think of "nice" work, there are definitely parts of my work as an educator that seem less than nice, such as sitting in an office for 20 minutes while a disgruntled parent yelled at me; letting parents know that their child would not be able to return to school due

to choices the student had made; hours spent in difficult board and staff meetings; working with law enforcement and social workers in reporting abuse and neglect; being harassed by parents because their student does not have the grade they would like; days of sickness from interacting with students with colds and poor hygiene habits. The list could go on.

In my 24 years serving in the roles of classroom teacher, vice principal, principal and superintendent, there are many experiences I would not classify as nice. It could be the reason that the previously quoted sentence includes the caveat "the most difficult." We work with people, and people have issues. We bring our own issues with us. This is challenging work.

If we focused solely on these negatives, it might be hard to find a reason to continue. It is essential that we dwell on the positives: watching a student start to mature and gain control after hours of loving discipline, guidance and redirection; steering a class through a difficult subject and watching the understanding dawn on their faces; teaching alongside a former student who has chosen teaching as a career; building genuine connections

so students feel safe asking for advice; watching your students rise from the water in the baptismal tank; being invited to graduations and weddings; seeing students become successful in their careers and take on church leadership roles; watching an entire family join the Adventist Church after enrolling their children in your school.

FUTURE REWARDS

We often do not know the impact we are having *while* we are having it. I once was contacted by a former student saying he would be in town and wanted to stop by for a bit. This was a student who had made more than a few poor decisions and had ultimately been asked to withdraw from the school. When I heard he was leaving, I went to find him and let him know that regardless of his mistakes, he was still important to us and we cared about him.

Years later as he sat in my living room, he shared how that had meant a lot to him. My reaching out had made an impact and he knew I was not judging him. As we continued to visit, he shared how he had found his way back to Christ and talked about the roles he was filling at his local church.

What can be more important than the young people of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? We should make an Adventist education available to every student in our churches. And we should look beyond the church and reach out to our communities, seeking families in need of the love of Christ. **0**

James C. Davis, Jr. is superintendent of education for the Minnesota Conference.



Read the full article at outlookmag.org/the-nicest-work.

Courtesy Minnesota Conference



What's Your Story?

This month we continue our series of interviews as Mid-America Union president Gary Thurber talks with Pastor Roger Wade and Pastor Roberto Correa about their experiences.

Pastor Roger Wade: "Striving for heaven"

Pastor Wade, what is your background?

I'm an island boy from Trinidad, a third generation Seventh-day Adventist and I love this church! We migrated to the United States to "live the dream" and I was happy growing up in the West Indies atmosphere in Brooklyn, New York, in an environment I was used to. But when we moved to Washington, DC, issues came up.

Tell us more about that.

I joined an Adventist church in DC and realized that the church was African-American, not West Indian. I may have looked like them, but I wasn't like them. I joined Pathfinders and during one activity a comment was made that maybe I needed to go join

the West Indian church. That started my journey in 1984 to understand the problems between cultures.

Now that you have come to work as our Church Ministries director, how do you feel when you attend events and no one else looks like you?

It's a little jarring at first, but I thank God for the journey He has brought me on where over the years I've had the opportunity to serve on committees representing the African-American voice and to preach in many diverse churches. One of the things I realized early on is that I need to look for commonality among people groups. And one thing I have found that helps bridge the gap is food. I love to sit down to eat

and talk, whether it's greens and cornbread or roti and curried chickpeas. I live the best life because the cultures I know give me opportunities to minister in a diverse field like Mid-America Union. Learning history has taught me how to understand and connect in various cultures.

What do you see that is different with the younger generations?

They are asking good questions: *How did we get here? Why do we have different conferences? What is our church doing about racism?* They are wanting to make the gospel real for them. I'm on a new journey now of making sure I can offer accurate historical perspective, stand with them, worship with them. They are the leaders of today, not tomorrow. And if we try to hold them back we are going to end up with no church.

What can we do as a church do to help promote understanding and healing?

Having conversations like this is a start. Intergenerational cultural training also helps. We can't keep old mindsets or stay in our silos. We need to talk about differences, because that is what brings us together. The pandemic has given us more time to think and talk.

Every one of my African-America male friends has a story about being pulled over by the police. What do you wish I—as a white man—understood about the African-American journey?

Sometimes we don't believe that what each of us is dealing with is real. I've heard people say that racial disparity is not real and oppression of blacks isn't happening anymore. But I have to protect my son and



Photos: Hugh Davis

Pastor Roger Wade is Church Ministries director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Pastor Roberto Correa: “Everyone understands a smile”

Pastor Correa, please tell us where you were raised and how your parents influenced your life.

I was born in northern Argentina and my parents were the teachers in an Adventist school with 100 elementary students—just the two of them. My parents are very strong in their faith and commitment to the church and they had worship with us every day. They taught us that God always has to be first in your life and we are here to serve others.

What has your journey been like coming to this country?

I graduated with a theology degree in Argentina and immigrated with my wife Paula, who is a dietician, to the United States in 2001. I worked in Oregon and Montana

the young people I minister to. And I need my white brothers and sisters to believe that the struggles are real. We are all connected in some way because that is how God has ordained it. Your problem is my problem and mine is yours. I’m going to do everything in my power to deal with things here, before heaven. I appreciate your leadership in the statement you made last summer. The conversations we have shared make it easier for me to minister. I hope that our willingness to build a bridge gets us that much closer to the kingdom. 0

conferences and spent 12 years pastoring in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. Our two sons were born in Montana. The oldest is a first-year student at Union College and our younger son is 12.

What were some of the challenges to becoming acclimated?

I expected to become fluent in English in two months, so my first shock was not being able to communicate as I struggled to learn the language. Also, some cultural customs are different—the food, how Americans think and do things. But when we get to know each other we are not that different. We have the same needs, the same dreams, the same desire for the kingdom of God.

How is life different for your children than it was for you?

Like many families, we speak Spanish at home and English outside the house, so they are living in both worlds. For second generations, sometimes they feel a part of the Hispanic world and sometimes a part of the Anglo world. Sometimes they don’t feel like they fit either place. It’s an identity challenge.

Are there any churches in Mid-America that are catering to second generation worshippers?

I know there is a second service in English for the second generation at one church in

Colorado. As a pastor I tell members it doesn’t matter which language or church your children attend. I just want them to follow Jesus.

When you visit the Spanish-speaking churches across our nine-state territory, how different are they?

The language is the same, but there are many cultures and countries represented—Mexico, Puerto Rico, many countries in Central America and South America—and one of the biggest challenges is bringing together all the different cultures. But here we are under a Jesus Christ culture, not a country culture. We want to follow Bible principles and grow and build bridges for working together.

We have growing Hispanic churches in all six of our conferences. What counsel do you have

for us in continuing to support them?

Let me tell you a little story. When I was pastoring in Montana the head elder from a small church nearby in Idaho invited me to come and preach in Spanish, and they would provide someone to translate into English. After the service the elder told me he used to think whoever comes to the United States should learn the language and worship in English. Then he was sent to Europe for his work, and during his weeks there he attended church and experienced what it was like not to be able to understand anything going on around you. That was a turning point for him, and now he tries to ensure that everyone in his congregation can be fed spiritually. It is nice to know that whoever is preparing the activities thought of you and wanted you to feel welcome. Everyone understands a smile. Having a new heart will help us always treat others with respect and love. 0



Pastor Roberto Correa coordinates ministries with nearly 100 Spanish-speaking churches in the Mid-America Union, our fastest growing demographic.

Watch the full interviews with Pastor Wade and with Pastor Correa at [YouTube.com/MidAmericaOutlook](https://www.youtube.com/MidAmericaOutlook).

Northside Members Spread Holiday Cheer

Christmas caroling and Cups of Cheer sharing event was a joint venture between Northside Couples and Northside Music Ministries. However, it is noteworthy that this idea was born by **Aimee Hart**, who spearheaded this outreach in her desire to spread a little cheer and bring hope to our community in a time when so many are in despair. Our committee is

comprised of **Del and Mary Persaud, Robert Bramlett, Ernie and Lynnette Williamson, Stan Johnson, Nathan and Aimee Hart, Nazario Bell** and our pastors, **Trevor Barnes and Tatum Barnes**, who gave guidance throughout the process.

After meeting via Zoom with members of the committee, we decided that the event would be held Sabbath, Dec. 19, 2020, and would begin after Divine Worship Service at about 1:30 pm.

Two locations were chosen for the event: The

Goodstore Thrift located at 7020 W. Florissant Avenue in Jennings, Missouri; and Clip Appeal Barber Shop located at 9183 W. Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Missouri. At both locations we were blessed to serve patrons of the surrounding businesses as well as passers-by.

While carolers sang, other members of our group engaged with

onlookers. We distributed nearly 125 Cups of Cheer, which contained Glow tracts, a flyer with information about our church and some sweet treats.

The response from the community was very favorable and we look forward to engaging in this or a similar outreach annually.

Information supplied by the Northside Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Photos Courtesy Central States Conference



Last December, church members in Missouri sang carols and handed out treats to passersby and patrons at a thrift store and barbershop in the St. Louis area.

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Join the Family on the **CSConference Mobile App!**

★★★★★ Pastor J. Fields
"Great App love it!"

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TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
of the CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE
Departmental Director - Anandhan Green
green@central-states.org

Church Members, Area Pastors Support Family after Hate Messaging

We are our brother's keeper



Courtesy Ian Francis

(l-r) Ian Francis, Pastor Oshane Wynter, Pastor Jamey Houghton and Pastor Andy Nash worked together during the process of moving the Wynter family to a new home.

It was a cold and snowy Sabbath evening on Jan. 9 when **Pastor Oshane Wynter**, pastor of the New Community and Boston Street churches in the Denver area, was met with a surprise he didn't think he would experience.

As he pulled up to his residence on his way home from church, he saw that the door of his garage was spray painted with racial slurs. Visibly and emotionally shaken, he quickly checked on the safety of his wife and young daughters—one who had just turned two and the other only a few months old. “I was shocked and appalled by what I saw,” said Pastor Wynter.

Concerned for his safety and the safety of his family, his first inclination was to move. Fortunately, he already had another apartment which made the moving process easier. The main issue was the breaking of the lease; but according to Pastor Wynter the Lord took care of that entire process and he was able move without any penalty.

When the Rocky Mountain Conference pastors in the Denver area heard of this

unfortunate tragedy, they reached out to give physical, moral and spiritual support.

On the day Pastor Wynter was scheduled to move out of his apartment, pastors **Andy Nash** and **Jamey Houghton** of the Rocky Mountain Conference came with their vehicles to help with the move.

The Rocky Mountain Conference ministerial director **Pastor Mickey Mallory** and the communication team of the Rocky Mountain Conference also shared their condolences and pastoral support.

Pastor Daniel Birai of Lifesource Adventist Fellowship (also a part of the Rocky Mountain Conference) and his members **Doug** and **Sue Bolejack** provided a security camera kit for the Wynters' new home.

The elders and some members of Pastor Wynter's churches were also there to give a hand. Pastor Wynter expresses his gratitude for the warm-hearted acts of kindness shown by his fellow clergymen and brothers and sisters in Christ.

.....
Ian Francis is communication director for the New Community Church in Denver, Colorado.

Regular Quadrennial Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Central States Conference G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center **April 18, 2021 at 9 am.**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Executive Committee members, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, officers, departmental directors, review recommended constitutional changes and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this session will be appointed one for each church and one additional delegate for each twenty five (25) members or major fraction thereof.

Regular Meeting of the Members of the Central States Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Membership Meeting of the Central States conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas, will meet in connection with the Regular Quadrennial Session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center **April 18, 2021 at 9 am.**

The purpose of the call is to elect a Board of Trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the Conference Session are delegates of the Association.

Piotrowski Accepts Call to Dakota Conference

Dennis Starkey



Mark and Elbie Piotrowski with their two daughters, Cherise and Adeline.

married his wife **Elbie**. Following graduation, he served two years as an army chaplain before entering into full-time pastoral ministry. In order to further his education, the couple moved to the U.S. in 1995 so he could attend Andrews University. There Piotrowski earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

After completing his studies in 1999, he accepted an invitation to pastor in

the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. In addition to pastoral duties, Piotrowski has served the conference as Prayer Ministries coordinator for the last 13 years.

Elbie currently teaches middle school science in the public school system. She will finish the current school year before moving.

Along with their two daughters **Adeline** and **Cherise**, the Piotrowskis enjoy spending time together in the outdoors, travel, tennis, astronomy and socializing.

Jodi Dossenko is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Mark Piotrowski has accepted the position of vice president of administration and education superintendent for the Dakota Conference. Piotrowski will also serve as human resources director.

His employment officially began on Jan. 1, 2021. Piotrowski was born in Poland, then moved to Australia and then South Africa. He earned a Bachelor of Theology at Helderberg College where he met and



New Podcast Shares Blessings

May God bless you and keep you.

May the face of Jesus shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the fullness of the spirit dwell within you and give you peace.

A version of this blessing was pronounced over the people of Israel twice daily at the courts of the tabernacle. Every day, one could venture to the temple to receive a blessing of favor, grace and peace.

Blessed & Kept is a daily podcast born out of my desire to give a blessing to my wife as she drives to work each morning. Perfectly catered to short commutes, these 1-3 minute blessings offer an opportunity to start the workday acknowledging God and preparing to represent God well. Listeners receive blessings of patience, peace, strength for difficult days, love for difficult people and accepting God's love for us.

Just as the Israelites entered the temple courts to receive the daily blessing, Blessed & Kept offers the opportunity to fill the morning routine or work commute with a blessing fresh for today.

Below is a sample of the type of blessing listeners can expect from the podcast.

May you receive wisdom.

May God grant you the spirit of discernment.

May you tread softly on the path of wisdom, for it is with humility we must receive it.

May God grant you the spirit of courage.



Richard Young

Casey and Courtney Bartlett live and work in North Dakota.

May you follow the path of wisdom, even when it is unpopular.

May God grant you the spirit of grace.

May you trust that others are doing the best they can, even if their decisions are unwise to you.

May God grant you the spirit of peace.

May you rest in the knowledge of God's guidance over you.

May God grant you the spirit of self-sacrificial love.

May you follow wisdom's path in service of others, allowing God's deep love for each of them to keep you on the path.

May God grant you the spirit of patience.

May you wait on God long enough to receive the wisdom that you seek.

May God grant you the spirit of perspective.

May you experience a wider view of all the work God is doing in the world.

May the wisdom you receive lead you to join in the work in ways previously misunderstood to you.

May you see with the eyes of God.

Casey Bartlett holds degrees in theology and communication. He currently works for North Dakota State University as an adjunct professor and spends as much time as possible writing.



Listen to the Blessed & Kept podcast at anchor.fm/blessed-kept

DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS



WONDER
2021

FLAG MOUNTAIN

cub camp, ages 8-10 | June 16-20 | \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 | June 20-27 | \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 | June 27-July 4 | \$275

NORTHERN LIGHTS

cub camp, ages 8-10 | July 14-18 | \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 | July 18-25 | \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 | July 25-Aug 1 | \$275
family camp | Aug 5-8 | price varies per family

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Conference Receptionist/Clerk Retires

Leaves legacy of friendship, prayer and learning new skills



Kathy Ulrich is retiring at the end of February, following nearly 16 years of faithful service as office receptionist, membership clerk and administrative assistant for multiple departments.

After nearly 16 years of service to the Iowa-Missouri Conference, **Kathy Ulrich** (probably best known by church members as the voice on the other end of the phone at the conference office and as the helpful lady behind the registration counter every year at conference camp meetings and women's retreats) is retiring at the end of February.

Kathy—who served as conference membership clerk; office receptionist; and administrative assistant to the communication, women's ministries, and youth departments—will be most remembered by office colleagues not only as a diligent worker, but as a friend.

"I am grateful for Kathy and the 15 years she has been assisting me," said **Gail Coridan**, Women's Ministries director. "She has applied herself in learning new things and accepting challenging assignments all along the way. Kathy has proven herself to be a punctual and responsible employee and a praying friend. Praying friends are my heroes, and I love this girl."

"It has been my pleasure to work with Kathy for almost a decade," said **Denison Sager**, youth director. "She has been my righthand helper nearly the entire time I've served in Iowa-Missouri. Whether it was handling registrations for Adventurer or Pathfinder events, printing summer

camp or Pathfinder manuals, helping with events at Spring Camporee, or organizing our monthly Pathfinder newsletter, Kathy has really helped our youth programs run smoothly and efficiently!"

Sager added that he especially appreciates the relationship Kathy has with his family. "She always took the time to interact with my children when they came to the office," he said. "My family and I will all miss her and the laughs we shared together."

"It has been fun to work with Kathy and to see her genuine commitment to Christ," said **Robert Wagley**, executive secretary. "I was inspired watching her step up to preach the gospel during an overseas mission trip to Africa, and she has continued to inspire me all these years in the office. She has fearlessly taken on countless challenges, doing whatever was asked of her. She has tackled the role of membership clerk with vision and commitment, helping to train membership clerks all over the conference in using more modern technology to manage local membership records. I will miss her spirit and her desire to serve."

Kathy and her husband, **John** (already retired), are

in the process of moving to rural northern Minnesota, where they plan to enjoy a quiet life in retirement filled with fishing, hiking, spending time in nature and being part of a small-town faith community.

"I've enjoyed these many years at the conference office, working in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and serving the members of Iowa-Missouri," Kathy said. "I will miss you all."

At the time of this writing, Randy Harmdierks was communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

As the author of this news story, he didn't have an opportunity to share his appreciation of Kathy above and wishes to do so here:

Kathy, it's been great working with you these past five years. We've accomplished a lot of ministry together and had a lot of fun while doing it. It has been my pleasure watching you grow into new areas of communication, always rising to the challenge and never being afraid to challenge me.

I cherish your friendship and will miss having you around. I'm happy for you and John and pray for God's blessings on you both in this new chapter. (I can't wait to see photos of some really big fish!)

Winter Season Brings Two More Pastoral Transitions

Courtesy Steven Shafer



Pastor Steven Shafer, along with his wife Emily and family, are now serving the Charles City, Hampton and Mason City churches in Iowa. The Shafers began their pastoral ministry in the Iowa-Missouri Conference

in 2015, serving the Atlantic, Exira, Fort Dodge, Guthrie Center and Harlan churches in Iowa. For the past two years, Pastor Shafer had been attending Andrews Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Courtesy Mike Carner



Pastor Mike Carner, along with his wife Tina and family, are now serving the Bolivar and Nevada churches in Missouri. Pastor Carner has served in the Iowa-Missouri Conference since

1992, most recently serving the Gallatin, Marceline, Marshall and Trenton churches in Missouri.

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

Share Your Stories of Ministry During the Pandemic

The month of March marks a full year since the pandemic began. It's certainly been a difficult year. And while many things about life and ministry continue to be anything but normal, many churches are finding unique ways to continue safely ministering to their communities.

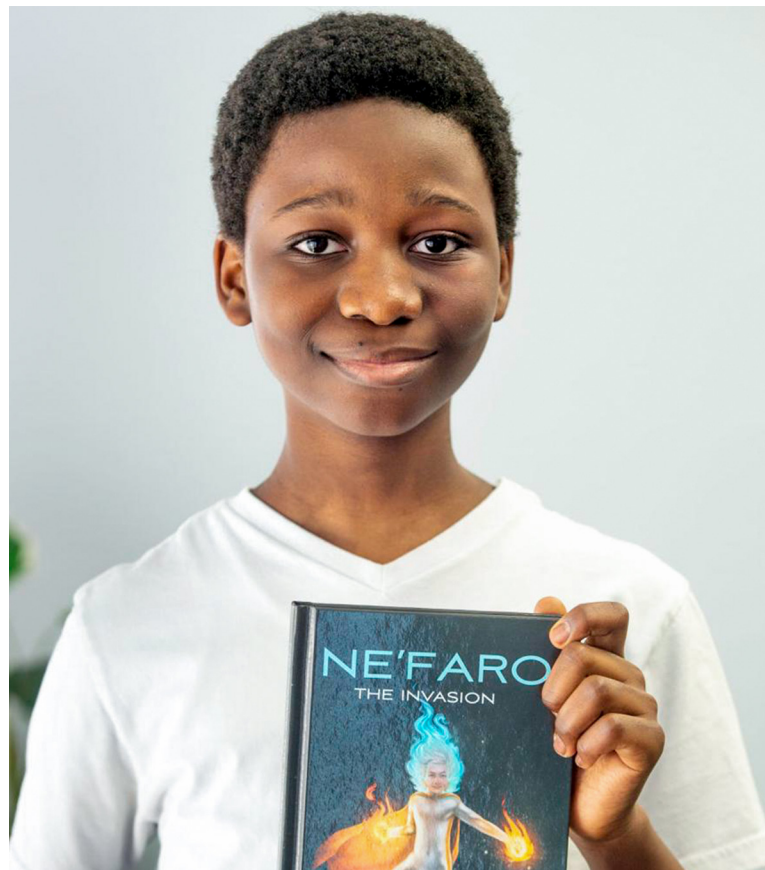
We've been inspired by stories of church families masking up together and providing food to community members in need through mobile food pantries. Or assembling care packages and showing appreciation for frontline healthcare workers. Or sending Christmas cards to people in prison. Or gathering outdoors on Sabbath afternoons to sing at the homes of fellow members and other homebound individuals who may feel alone or isolated.

What is your church doing to safely minister to your community during this time? Whether it's exploring new virtual opportunities or participating in safe in-person community-based ministry, we'd love to share your stories with the rest of our conference family. Send photos of any safe activities (masked and socially distanced), along with information about what's taking place, to newsletter@imsda.org.

And if you haven't signed up for our weekly newsletter, you may do so at imsda.org/newsletter.

Justin Wan, *Lincoln Journal Star*

Student Creates World of Kids-Turned-Superheroes in His Book



Jeffrey Ogbonnaya dedicated his book to **Dolly Parton**.

The seventh-grader at Irving Middle School loves music—he sings in the Lincoln Boys Choir, plays violin in the school orchestra and takes piano lessons—but it wasn't Dolly's crooning that he appreciated.

It was the books. So many books, delivered straight to his home from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a foundation that mails a book a month to children from birth until they start school.

They fed the young boy's hunger for the written word and the world they opened up to him.

Jeffrey was just 6 months old when he and his family moved from Nigeria to Michigan, where his dad was working on his degree in software engineering.

"We didn't have a lot of resources. He started reading the little books we had," said his dad, **Ogbonnaya Akpa**.

They heard about Parton's foundation, and every month a book would arrive in the mail. They kept that up until Jeffrey's parents got him a Kindle.

"At the rate he was reading, we couldn't keep up," Akpa said.

The family moved from Michigan to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2012 so Akpa could pursue his doctoral degree in instructional technology. Jeffrey's mom, **Amarachi Ogbonnaya-Akpa**, is a doctoral-prepared nurse practitioner who specializes in psychiatric-mental health services at her clinic YOUniq Health. Akpa runs the business side of the clinic.

Jeffrey's parents were busy with work and school, and so, at 5 years old, he started reading to his two little sisters, then making up stories once they'd read all the books. He started writing stories too.

One day, in his third grade language arts class at Sheridan Elementary School, his work was done and he had an idea.

"I was just sitting there," he said. "I was bored and wondering what I could do." He decided what he could do is write a book.

He was a fan of science fiction and fantasy even then, but it took a couple of days

Jeffrey Ogbonnaya, a member at the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, recently published his first novel, *Ne'faro: The Invasion*.

for him to flesh out the story, the beginning and the end, at least. The middle unfolded as he wrote.

The characters came easily enough—they'd be kids and they'd do something heroic. They lived on Earth in the future, when school buses are solar-powered, couches are shapeshifting and Earth averted extinction years earlier when world leaders came together on climate change and enacted laws and policies to combat it.

Because he loves fantasy, he created beings from other planets, the good guys who needed help and the bad guys taking over the world.

The bad guys are called

Ne'faro from Ne'far, one of a ring of planets deep in the Milky Way, and they're bent on destruction and galactic domination.

Four kids from Earth gain superpowers and are thrust into the battle. Others join the quest along the way. They are African American and white, Hispanic and Asian, male and female. That was important to Jeffrey.

"Growing up, I didn't see a lot of the different races and genders represented in the books I read, even the TV shows I watched," he said. "So I wanted to put that in my books, to make up for what was missing."

The name for the bad

guys—which became the title of the book—came from the word nefarious. (We did say Jeffrey is an avid reader, right?)

Dedication

He used the Chromebook the school gave him for homework, writing after school or early in the morning—his sisters would often wake up and find him on the couch, the Chromebook in front of him. When he finished his schoolwork, his teachers would let him go to the library to write.

His parents got wind of the budding author's plans, and they thought it was a fine idea, as long as it didn't get in the way of schoolwork.

He got some ideas from other books he'd read, some from TV shows, but he'd take the ideas and make them his own. The main characters, he said, are patterned after him and exhibit different parts of his own personality.

Sometimes, video games were a bigger draw than an empty page waiting to be filled, and somewhere around Chapter 9 his enthusiasm waned.

His parents stepped in, prodding Jeffrey to keep going. He'd told them his goal was to publish the book. They told him if he didn't get it done that would never happen. So they gave him an ultimatum: finish it by spring break of fourth grade or call it quits.

He didn't quit, not until he had a 173-page work of fiction.

Possibilities

There are certain themes that run through the

book: diversity, inclusion, teamwork.

"My main characters are all part of a team; they have to work together to fight off the Ne'faro," he said. "Not any single one can do it alone."

Being able to learn about and tackle such themes is one of the things that appeals to the young author.

"It allows me to kind of see different ideas and—especially with fiction—there's so much you can do with it: apply different ideas, teach people things, entertain people," he said. "It's just fascinating to me. Just the possibilities."

Once he had a draft finished, the publishing process began. With the help of his parents, he found a local publisher, then moved to Newman Springs Publishing. They ran a Kickstarter campaign, raising more than \$6,000 to help get *Ne'faro: The Invasion* published. They found an illustrator.

The book went through several rounds of editing and was supposed to be published last summer, but the pandemic delayed that. By mid-December, the first copies arrived in the mail.

As parents, Akpa said it was important that he and his wife support whatever their kids decide to do.

"We grew up in times and a society where family decided what you would do when you grew up," he said. "Somehow, we ended up not doing exactly that. ... We decided as parents, we wouldn't force them to do anything; they should be able to become whatever they want to be."

If they encourage their

son, they figure he will be encouraged to pursue whatever else he wants to do in life.

Ne'faro: The Invasion is available online—and the story's not finished. He's started on the second book of what will now be a trilogy.

Jeffrey says he likes the freedom to say what he wants, to put his thoughts down, the lessons he'd like readers to take away. It would be the same with a movie, he figures, but that's

expensive and takes so much time.

"With this, you can just sit on your couch and knock down your ideas and the words just come out," he said. "It's kind of peaceful sometimes."

.....
Margaret Reist is education reporter for the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Reprinted with permission.



Purchase *Ne'faro: The Invasion* online through Amazon, Apple iBooks Store, and Barnes and Noble.

Enterprise/Great Plains Academy

Virtual Reunion

April 9th & 10th, 2021

Join us on our new YouTube channel:
EA GPA ALUMNI

*** Homecoming Weekend will be virtual this year.**

In the hopes of keeping everyone safe, we invite all alumni to join us online. The honor classes will be years ending in 0's, 1's, 5's, & 6's.

More details can be found on the school website:
ea-gpa-alumni.com

Minnesota Welcomes New VP of Finance

Gayln Bowers starts February 1

Courtesy Minnesota Conference



The Minnesota Conference is pleased to announce that **Gayln L. Bowers**, a graduate of Union College, has accepted the position of vice president of finance. Bowers most recently served as the executive director at Cohutta Springs Conference

Center in Crandall, Georgia. He began his work in Minnesota on Feb. 1.

Bowers comes to us with vast experience and knowledge in the accounting world. He has close to 40 years of work experience with increasing responsibility in administrative, financial and human resources management in North America and the mission field.

“Mr. Bowers has an extensive background in finance and accounting. His experience in the mission field will

undoubtedly serve us well as he interacts with the diversity of our conference. I am confident in Gayln’s ability to build positive relationships across communities. He will be a welcome addition to this conference’s ministry vision,” commented **Pastor Eric Mokuu**, a member of the Minnesota Conference Personnel Committee and Board of Trustees.

Former positions Bowers has held include human resources director for Pacific Union College, where he

provided leadership, planning and counsel to their administration regarding human resource operations while managing a \$10 million budget; and vice president of finance for Bangkok Adventist Hospital in Thailand, where he was responsible for all budgeting and financial issues and reporting to the executive committee and board of directors.

Gayln is married to **Lorena (Young)** who is a hospital chaplain. We welcome the Bowers family to Minnesota.

New Hires Welcomed During Orientation

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a global protestant church community made up of diverse people groups with about 21 million members around the world, 1.2 million just in the United States, and 10,666 of these members of the Minnesota Conference. The Pew Research Center in 2014 found that the Adventist Church is the most

racially diverse religious group in the United States, and we see this heartily in the Minnesota Conference.

Because of the diverse nature of our church membership, it is important for the church as an organization to create an environment of good working relationships across the board. The Human Resources department, with

their role of helping the church deal with a fast-changing environment in the workforce, strongly believes that when workers are comfortable with each other as co-workers, a spirit of teamwork will lead to high productivity.

Consequently, last January the Human Resources department of our conference brought together four new pastors for an orientation meeting via Zoom. The HR director, **Savannah Carlson**, scheduled the meeting to help the new employees enter their ministries with a productive mindset.

We welcomed **Luis Luciano** (evangelism coordinator); **Jude V. Senatus** (pastor of the Duluth district); **Mark B. Sigue** (associate pastor of the Minnetonka Church); and **Rene Marquez** (pastor of the Iron Range

district). We also communicated to them important policies relevant to their work in hopes of helping them be as successful as possible.

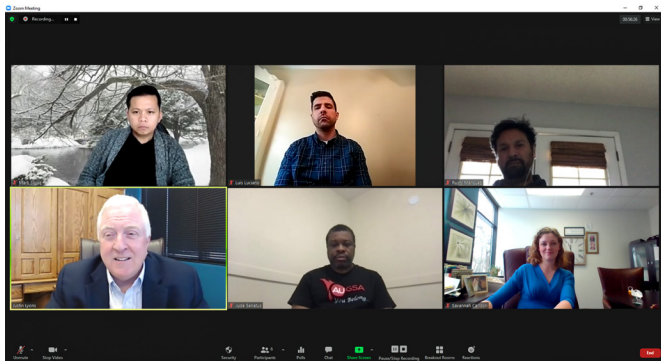
The program was meant to be a down-to-earth meeting, making sure the new workers are equipped for church work. The conference officers shared tips from personal experiences and things considered to be key to productive ministry.

We understand church work is people-centered, and as we deal with people and volunteers on the local level, it is critical that people in the workforce are people who can be trusted, who value diversity and who make it their mission to keep their eyes on eternity.

Articles on this page were written by Brian Mungandi, vice president of administration for the Minnesota Conference.

Minnesota Conference leaders meet with several new pastors during the New Hire Orientation.

Brian K. Mungandi



Swansons Retire after 57 Years at MWA

Courtesy: Maplewood Academy



During his long teaching career, Evan “Swanee” Swanson enjoyed all aspects of learning offered at Maplewood Academy, including chapel programs.

John F. Kennedy still lived in the White House when a youthful **Evan “Swanee” Swanson** taught his first history and biology classes at Maplewood Academy in 1963. Today almost six decades have come and gone, along with the Soviet Union and most of the British Empire, 11 U.S. presidents, nine Minnesota Vikings coaches (no Super Bowl victories yet!), and three generations of Maplewood students who counted Swanee as a lifelong friend and mentor.

This year, at age 80, he finally retired his dry erase markers. His 57 years of service on one campus must surely set some kind of record for Adventist academy teachers in North America.

In a world of harsh rhetoric and black-and-white reasoning, Swanee taught us to sift information, consider the source, and appreciate nuance. With an amused chuckle and that quizzical eyebrow, he questioned our teenage

assumptions until we learned to do our own thinking.

Still, Swanee’s most enduring legacy extends far beyond the classroom. He and his wife **Evie (Johnson) Swanson** made the campus a home, whether we were farm kids from northern Minnesota or international students from Ethiopia or Mexico. If you attended MWA, think of your own favorite memories—and if you’re under the age of 75, the Swansons were surely a huge part of your experience.

How many miles did they put on that station wagon taking us to Kmart for supplies? And take a look at all the trees next time you’re on campus. Swanee planted a good number of them himself and nurtured them into maturity, just as he planted seeds of curiosity and critical thinking in several thousand youthful minds over the decades. Whether growing trees or strong Christians, Swanee has always fixed his eye on the long view.

Mrs. Swanson also taught classes (family life and consumer science) after their children were grown, and marvels at how God led them to serve a lifetime at the same school where she was once a student. She says, “Truly, being on this campus, working with the wonderful staff families over the years—it’s such a family feeling. The blessing has been ours.”

Swanee has always said, “If you love your job, you never work a day in your life.” He certainly did love his job, along with his students and the unique calling of Adventist education. He admits to shedding some tears over the decision to finally retire.

The Swansons say, “As far as we’re concerned, Christian education is about the best investment we know of. It pays dividends for eternity.”

Becky (Lane) Scoggins graduated from Maplewood Academy in 1990.

Retirement Fundraiser for the Swansons

In honor of the Swansons’ years of dedicated service, we are holding a special fundraiser rather than a retirement party. We invite alumni and friends who have been touched by the Swansons’ lifetime ministry to consider donating \$57—one dollar for each year that Swanee taught here. Our goal is to raise at least \$5,700 (which will be matched dollar for dollar).

Any donation is appreciated whether large or small. Please join us in honoring this extraordinary couple!

Visit our website, maplewoodacademy.org, to see how to give online, or mail a check to:

Maplewood Academy
700 N. Main Street
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Eric Nelson Announces Retirement



In the first Rocky Mountain Conference office staff meeting of 2021, **Eric Nelson**, vice president of administration, closed the meeting with a statement that many in the office are still absorbing: “As of April 1, I will be officially retiring from service at RMC.”

Nelson has been serving RMC in ministry for the last 35 years, including many years at Campion Church and Campion Academy. Prior to his service in RMC, he was a youth pastor in Oregon.

Nelson’s lifelong friend and colleague—and former RMC pastor—**Steve Schwartz** reflected on Nelson’s ministry and work ethic, “I am so grateful for what Eric Nelson does. Since, as students, we worked together on a Campion Academy maintenance crew, until his recent years as RMC vice president of administration, his work ethic is clear. With God-inspired wisdom he has multiplied his talents through the years to become, I believe, RMC’s single greatest human resource.”

Others who have worked with Nelson for many years echoed Schwartz’s thoughts. “Eric Nelson is a man who has worked faithfully at striving to show Jesus to all who

come under his influence,” said **Lonnie Hetterle**, former RMC director of education. “He is patient, caring, compassionate and strives to see the best in everyone and in all situations. As you might guess, when an individual is in an administrative capacity there are sometimes decisions that must be made that are not easy. I can guarantee, from watching him behind the scenes, that his decisions are made only after much time in thought and prayer and with the very best intentions.”

Church members from Nelson’s ministry time in the Western Slope recalled the many who were touched. “Pastor Eric Nelson served for a period of time on the Western Slope as the assistant to the president. During that time, he and his wife **Jerene** served as the connection between the Western Slope and the conference office,” remarked **Arlene Rushold**, Grand Junction church member. She continued, “God used Eric and Jerene’s ministry to touch the lives of the Rocky Mountain Conference members in this area.”

In his statement to office staff, Nelson explained his decision. “We intend to move north out of Denver, but remain close to our family who live in Longmont. **Judah**, my nine-year-old grandson, said, ‘I wish Gramma and Grampa lived

next door and we could just walk to their house.’ We may not live next door, but close.”

RMC president **Ed Barnett** commented on the announcement: “Pastor Nelson has been a pillar in our conference for 35 years and will be greatly missed. Eric has been a good friend of mine since 1999. The last seven years we have worked side by side and I have loved working with him. He is a godly leader who has been a tremendous blessing to me and our conference. Eric and Jerene, we are glad you will be retiring in Colorado so we will see you from time to time. May God richly bless your retirement.”

Nelson’s integrity is one of the aspects many will remember. “His integrity has been built in relationship after relationship. And his faith and competency are augmented by friendliness, a sense of humor and love of fun,” Steve Schwartz commented.

Gary Thurber, former RMC president and current president of the Mid-America Union Conference, said, “Eric is one of the finest Christian men I have ever worked with. He loves the Lord, his family and his

church. Probably no one knows more about RMC—he was a joy to work with!”

Hetterle added, “Even behind closed doors, Eric embodies the challenge found in Phil. 4:8 as his thoughts and words always are ‘true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of a good report.’ Jesus Christ is our only true example, but I consider Eric Nelson a very worthy example of a true Christ follower.”

Nelson concluded his statement that day by addressing his colleagues: “Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity of working with two of the greatest fellow officers that I have served with. God has blessed us with Ed Barnett and **George Crumley**. To all of the staff, Jerene and I count you as lifelong friends and will not be far away. May God bless you all and this great conference in the future.”

The RMC Executive Committee will be meeting over the next few months to choose an interim vice president for administration to fulfill Nelson’s remaining term.

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Jon Roberts is assistant communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

RMC’s vice president of administration is set to retire April 1 after serving the territory for 35 years.



Photos Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Colorado Springs Central Church Ends 2020 with 44 Baptisms



Courtesy Colorado Springs Central Church

The Central Adventist Church in Colorado Springs ended 2020 with a Sabbath afternoon celebration of five baptisms, including a community member baptized into the local Baptist church.

How does an Adventist pastor get the opportunity to baptize an individual who attends the Baptist church? By being active in the community and fostering fraternal relationships with fellow clergy.

Mike Maldonado, pastor of Colorado Springs Central Church, has spent the last three years building a relationship with **John Harris**, the local Baptist pastor. The friends visit and worship in each other's churches.

When Harris learned that Maldonado would be baptizing four individuals on Dec. 26, he asked Maldonado to baptize one his congregants, as the pastor's age and frail health made it difficult for

him to do so.

On Sabbath afternoon, Dec. 26, the Baptist church attendee stood alongside four other individuals who were publicly declaring their love for Jesus Christ. Some 30 individuals joined in the celebration held at Central Church, including many from the Baptist church.

Harris took part in the service by offering prayer and remarks prior to the baptisms, saying, "This is one of the most meaningful and beautiful baptismal services I have ever attended!"

The baptisms conclude a year of blessing for the congregation, but one that was also very tiring and stressful for many members. It also caps a year in which Central

Church had the opportunity to celebrate 44 decisions for baptism—people who declared Jesus as their Savior.

"It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year for all of us," said Pastor Maldonado. "Yet, despite the pandemic and other disruptions, 2020 proved to be one of the most fruitful years for growth at Central Church. The Holy Spirit blessed Central Church with 44 baptisms, each representing a precious person won for the kingdom of God."

Information provided by Mike Maldonado, pastor of the Central Adventist Church in Colorado Springs.

Grand Junction Church Offers Painting Classes

SAGE, the senior ministry of the Grand Junction Church, is building relationships in the community by offering watercolor painting

classes. The small classes of 12 individuals have provided a safe way to gather during the pandemic.

Classes began in March 2020 and are offered in four-week sessions. Many fill to capacity, and there is often a waiting list of individuals wanting to learn how to paint with watercolors. The first class of 2021 has begun, and the February session is already maxed out with many on a waiting list.

Watercolor painting is popular among all generations. "We were so glad the

watercolor class was offered. It is both a social gathering where we are making new friends, and a way to challenge my brain in a new way," remarked **Tina Ruf**, who recently moved to Grand Junction.

The classes are taught by local artist and church member **Sandy Carolsella**. Students of various skill levels learn the basics of watercolor artistry, and each student completes several paintings. During some sessions, all students paint the same picture to learn a specific technique,

but in most classes they choose their own picture and receive individual assistance.

The current class has three community members not affiliated with the church attending the Monday sessions being held at the Grand Junction Church.

Sandi Adcox is senior ministry leader for Grand Junction Church.



Photos Courtesy Grand Junction Church

Hannah Roberts: "Union Is Worth the Money"

Photos: Scott Cushman/Union College



For senior Hannah Roberts, the community and mentorship she found at Union College made it worth the money.

Students choose to attend Union because they know the personal mentorship, career preparation and spiritual community will set them up to succeed in life. And for many, hard work and a little help from the alumni family make the Union experience possible.

Just ask **Hannah Roberts**, a senior business major from Kentucky. With the help of scholarship funds and the Emergency Relief Grant funded by donors and the federal government, she's been able to find her calling through her Union College education.

Roberts didn't even bother applying to other colleges. She knew Union was the place for her. It was a family tradition and she liked the idea of a smaller school that offered more individualized attention. When she visited for Preview Days, she was officially hooked. "I fell in love with

the family feel of campus," she says. "One of the big things for me was a connection with God, so family worship drew me in, and afterglow was one of the coolest things I'd ever been part of."

Knowing where she wanted to go was one thing, but paying for college was another. Fortunately, Roberts enrolled at just the right time. She qualified for a new four-year recurring scholarship that paid most of her tuition, and her work ethic made it possible for her to earn the rest of her expenses.

When her academic scholarship ran out after her fourth year, generous donors paid on her bill and she qualified for a business program scholarship that helped cover the shortfall.

That financial help allowed her to follow her dreams and find her ideal future. In fall 2019, Roberts registered for a personal finance class. She had

been an education major for four years and graduation was in sight, but that class showed her a glimpse of a different future—and she liked what she saw.

"I've always been interested in finances, and I've always liked to budget," she said. "But that class? I was honestly amazed. It made me switch my entire life track to be a business major."

Now she's looking forward to graduating in August 2021, and she hopes her business degree with an emphasis in small business management will land her a job with an organization she believes in.

Roberts credits professor **Dave Rickard** and her interactions with the business program staff for changing the way she sees herself. "I've gained a lot of skills, and leadership is one of them," she says. "I've always considered myself a shy leader. But I learned I can jump in and go for it. I used to be quiet, but now I'm fierce."

Perseverance is another skill she's honed—especially lately. When the pandemic hit last March, most of Union's students headed home to finish the spring semester. But Roberts recognized that she needed to stay. "I knew that if I was going to be here this year, I needed to work and apply as much money as possible to my school bill," she says.

Then, CARES Act funds appropriated by Congress and donations from

Union supporters through the #UnionStrong campaign added further relief. The funds were distributed among students, applied to wherever they'd be most beneficial.

Roberts says that it's especially meaningful to her that Union's alumni and friends are so willing to give back to help current students because giving is something she values, too. "I'm a giver, and I love helping others," she says. "I will help them before I help myself. Giving is in my blood; it's my love language."

Because of that, she says Project Impact days are some of her favorite memories at Union, and she is grateful for the experiences of gathering with her peers to serve the community. On a smaller scale, she says her dual loves of giving and budgeting combine to empower her to do random acts of kindness.

And it's kindness she sees in the generous donations from Union College's supporters. "In my personal experience and hearing friends' experiences, if it weren't for scholarships and donations, many of us wouldn't be able to attend an Adventist institution," she says. "There's something different about Adventist schools, and I'd be so devastated if I couldn't stay here. Adventist education is going to get me somewhere in life."

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

Alex Finds a Calling as an Occupational Therapy Assistant

Alex Ulrich began college as a kinesiology major. She intended to practice physical therapy with her degree, but when a physical therapist visited her class to help the students understand more about what is involved in the position, Ulrich found herself disappointed.

She asked the physical therapist about how much of his time was spent with the patients. “He said that most of his time was spent doing paperwork and making sure the equipment was functioning properly,” says Ulrich. “I didn’t like that answer because my whole idea of coming to college was to have one-on-one time with patients. He explained to me that the assistants were the ones who spent the most time with patients.” This left Ulrich confused because she didn’t know if she wanted to be an assistant in anything.

Ulrich decided to take some time away from school to reassess her goals. “I went to Italy with Adventist Colleges Abroad, which was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I got a lot of time to learn about who I am.” She arrived home with a renewed ability to focus on her interests and assess her goals, and this newfound focus led Ulrich to Union College.

While doing research on colleges and their programs, Ulrich came across Union’s Occupational Therapy Assistant program. She thought back to when she’d been told that assistants were the ones who really dealt

with clients face-to-face. While looking through other Adventist college programs, she hadn’t found any like Union’s. “When I saw that Union had an OTA program, that it was two years and that I could get my associate’s and start working after I passed my boards, I thought that was really convenient,” she explains.

Mentorship beyond academics

Ulrich was excited about entering Union’s OTA program. What she didn’t realize is that Union’s program is unique in more than just Adventist schools. Union’s program was built and designed around mentorship.

Emily Rumery, assistant director of Union’s OTA program, explains, “Mentorship is a component that is included directly into our program mission statement, as it is our goal to mentor our students and engage them actively in their own learning process.”

Each student is assigned to an academic advisor, who not only helps students with academic questions, but can also be a mentor for helping students achieve their own goals and professional development.

Ulrich experienced this mentorship firsthand. “I was going through a lot this past semester,” she explains, “and there was a day where my teacher **Laurel [Radley]** could tell I was not having a good day.” Radley sat Ulrich down and asked her what was wrong. “She offered me help where she



Alex Ulrich wasn’t sure about being an “assistant,” but discovered that as an OTA, she could spend most of her time directly helping people return to their lives after injury or illness and less time on administrative work.

could. I really appreciated that. If students utilize communication with the professors in the OTA program, they’ll be set.”

Pinpointing your purpose

When Ulrich first began college, her goal was to help people one-on-one, but she wasn’t sure in what format she would accomplish that.

“I actually want to be a traveling occupational therapist now, which is something I didn’t know existed before I entered the program,” says Ulrich. While in the program, she learned about the ability to be paid to travel the country and work in different clinics for limited periods of time.

Rumery adds that Union places value on community, mentorship and helping guide students toward their individual goals. “This is directly implemented within the program through our efforts in one-on-one mentorship,” she explains.

In addition, Union offers numerous resources and forms of support for students in the program. Some

of these include the Student Success Center, life coaches, counseling, spiritual care and academic accommodations. Faculty are able to assist students by accessing these resources in order to help support a student’s goals.

Accepting help

Ulrich is nearing completion of her OTA degree, and looking back on her path she is able to see the guidance and support she received. But she says the most helpful piece of advice she was given while in the program was simply to accept help when it is offered. She concludes, “Laurel Radley once told me, ‘You have a lot on your plate and you’re just pushing through it. But someday you’re going to get burnt out. There are resources so you don’t have to just push through everything. Accept help, because you can’t help others if you’re burnt out.’”

Brennan Hallock is a Union College graduate and freelance writer and graphic designer in Lincoln, Nebraska. See more of his work at brennanhallock.com.

Wise Leads Nursing Team at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

When **Stephanie Wise** accepted the position as chief nursing officer at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, her first priority was to help lighten the workload of the nurses and learn how to best support them.

Wise was brought on as vice president and chief nursing officer in April 2020 during the first months of the pandemic. She started her career working as a nurse in pediatric hematology/oncology at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, and later worked in critical care and emergency medicine for more than 10 years. She was most recently division vice president of nursing operations for HealthONE, overseeing nine hospitals in Denver and Wichita.

When Wise arrived at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, she met with nurses and other team members and worked alongside them on the frontline. She said it helped her learn more about the culture of the organization.

"I wanted to support them in any way I could," she says. "It's been a wonderful experience to put scrubs on and work with them. It was an opportunity to see the challenges they have and find out how we can support them, since I'm their advocate on

the executive team."

COVID-19 has presented challenges they haven't seen before, Wise adds. She was particularly impressed by how the nurses support each other across the different departments. Departments in tower 3 often reach out to towers 1 and 2 to find out how they can help. Wise says some nurse team members were sending meals to those who were working in COVID units.

"There is such love and compassion that's uniting our nursing team," she says. "They're willing to step out of their comfort zones to help their team with whatever they need, which has been so wonderful to see."

That willingness to go the extra mile is especially evident in patient care, says Wise. The nursing team members regularly step in to provide support when family members aren't able to be with their loved ones.

"They're spending time holding patients' hands and providing the comfort that's needed during that time," says Wise. "They are sometimes spending the last moments together with patients. It's a special honor and privilege to spend those moments with someone, but it's also a heavy weight to carry."

The DAISY awards

In recognition of the nursing team's compassion and care for their patients and each other, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission began giving out the DAISY award to team members in 2020. The DAISY award, through the national DAISY Foundation, provides ongoing recognition to nurses, who are nominated for their exemplary care by patients, families or colleagues.

Lauren Haupt, patient care supervisor, worked to establish the DAISY award at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. She brought the idea to Wise, who was familiar with the award from her previous hospital and thought it was a wonderful idea in helping recognize the nursing team's compassionate care.

"It's extremely emotional, because the nurses often don't realize the impact they have on others," she says. "It gives them a chance to be recognized for their compassion that they provide to patients and families on a daily basis."

Wise says she's proud to work alongside the team and that she hopes to find ways to help support their incredible outcomes and continue to unite as a nursing workforce.

"Our team shines in their compassion and commitment to mission,"



Courtesy AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

Stephanie Wise, vice president and chief nursing officer at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, is proud to work alongside the nursing team and find ways to help support them.

says Wise. "They truly are living the hospital's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.



For more information on AdventHealth services, visit [AdventHealthKC.com](https://www.adventhealthkc.com).

McKinney Values the Still Small Voice

Feedback as a path to growth

Courtesy AdventHealth Rocky Mountain/Centura



Jillyan McKinney serves as chief executive officer of Centura—Littleton Adventist Hospital in Littleton, Colorado.

move forward stronger.”

McKinney attributes Littleton Adventist’s 2020 Magnet Designation in large part to an environment in which feedback is not only allowed, but encouraged. For many years the leadership team at Littleton Adventist have worked hard to cultivate a culture in which transparency and open communication are ingrained in the way associates work and interact with each other.

By involving nurses in the shared governance of the hospital and establishing a continuous cycle of feedback in everything from patient safety to research to nursing and leadership practice, the nursing team’s wealth of knowledge, dedication to excellence and spirit of teamwork are able to shine through and have helped shape clinical practice throughout the hospital. High quality whole person care remains at the center of all they do, and is bolstered by a focus on communication, accountability, empathy and respect.

Change is constant in healthcare, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought change

at an unprecedented pace. McKinney’s commitment to listening and learning from those around her became more vital than ever as knowledge of the virus, its treatment and best practices for ongoing care delivery continued to evolve almost daily.

As the associates at Littleton Adventist pulled together to care for their patients and communities, they maintained a constant dialogue with hospital leadership, and McKinney and the leadership team synthesized their feedback with information being shared across Centura Health to help support the health and safety of patients and caregivers alike.

Now nearly a year after the pandemic began, McKinney is proud to say that the caregivers at her hospital have not only continued providing the highest quality care for those they serve—including maintaining a focus on key patient safety efforts like reducing falls despite the extraordinary demands of COVID-19—but have done so while maintaining exceptionally high associate engagement scores.

“Listening is such an important part of the equation,” says McKinney. “No one stays engaged if you’re not listening to them, and our people have really incredible things to share if we only give them a forum. They want

to be involved, and we want their involvement, because that’s how we continue to grow together.”

McKinney’s emphasis on the importance of listening is rooted in her faith. For her, faith is not about the traditions of her church or expectations of her family; at its essence, her faith is about her relationship with God, which she has worked hard to cultivate. This relationship, too, is often an act of receiving feedback; in times of uncertainty, McKinney says it is a comfort to know God doesn’t expect her to have everything all figured out.

Instead, she can listen for that still small voice to help show her the way. Her relationship with God and ability to lean on Him allows her to trust in herself even more, and has helped to shape her as a leader.

“In my walk, I have grown to accept that I am flawed, that I need God, and also that He loves me enough to show up for me,” McKinney says. “I know He uses people around me every day to help influence my journey, and I know He is often using me as part of somebody else’s journey. That’s a huge responsibility, and it’s also one of my greatest privileges as a leader.”

Amy Thompson is a writer for Centura Health.

FAREWELL

Buller, Kenneth, b. Jan. 18, 1941 in Parker, SD. d. Nov. 13, 2020 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Hurley (SD) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include sisters Mary Rensink, Diane Grave, Virginia Henriksen, and Elaine Tieszen; brothers Robert, Keith, David, and Dale.

Burnett, Cynthia Frazee, b. March 3, 1962. d. Oct. 30, 2020 in Denver, CO. Member of Rapid City (SD) Church. Survivors include spouse James Dieterle; 1 sister; 2 brothers.

Fiallos, Raul Oswaldo, b. June 16, 1930. d. Nov. 21, 2020. Member of Sion (KS) Church.

Henkelmann, Charles, b. Oct. 13, 1932 in Lincoln, NE. d. Dec. 3, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by spouse Noama. Survivors include spouse Carol; daughters Priscilla and Rebecca Wells; sons Thomas and Gregory; 9 grandchildren.

Kansanback, Blanche Marie, b. April 17, 1920 in Dell Rapids, SD. d. Oct. 6, 2020 in Madison, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by spouse Kenneth; 3 sisters; 2 brothers; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Kathleen Beyreis and Janie Titus; son Tom; 7 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Kleine, Vivian I., b. June 24, 1933 in Clark County, MO. d. Oct. 24, 2020 in Quincy, IL. Member of Kahoka Church. Preceded in death by spouse Dillon. Survivors include sons Dennis and John; 4 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 3 step-grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Lamb, Darlene N., b. June 11, 1933 in Terril, IA. d. Dec. 8, 2020 in Creston, IA. Member of Osceola Church. Preceded in death by spouse Howard; son Leslie; 3 siblings. Survivors include daughters

Sherrill Giza and Shirley Giza; 5 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

Millirans, Imogene "De De," b. Jan. 21, 1936 in Hastings, MI. d. Nov. 20, 2020 in Mandan, ND. Member of Mandan (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Linda Wood and Norma Armstrong; son Trent; 7 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

Nelson, Janet, b. June 27, 1943 in Aylesbury, England. d. Oct. 17, 2020 in Hermosa, SD. Member of Custer (SD) Church. Survivors include spouse Richard; daughters Heather O'Dell, Beata Henry, and Angie Macentosh; sons Sam, Rick, and Bredt; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Radcliffe, Scott, b. Nov. 17, 1979. d. Nov. 5, 2020. Member of Capitol View (NE) Church. Survivors include spouse Marguerite.

Reiswig, James M., b. Jan. 27, 1929 in Harvey, ND. d. Dec. 23, 2020 in Loma Linda, CA. Member of Bismarck (ND) Church. Preceded in death by spouse Mildred; 1 sister. Survivors include daughters Pamela Timothy and Susan Haines; 1 brother. Served in U.S. Army for 2 years and Army Reserves for 5 years.

Correction: Reiswig, Jeremy, b. Nov. 27, 1973 in Youngstown, OH. d. Oct. 19, 2020 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Member of Turtle Lake (ND) Church. Survivors include spouse Maritza; daughter Emilie; parents Stanley and Lila Reiswig; brothers Kerwin and Ryan.

Roberds, MaryLou M., b. Oct. 10, 1929 in Sheboygan, WI. d. Dec. 12, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by spouse Robert; daughter Donna; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughter Esther; son

George; 5 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Rodewald, Pamela Jean, b. Feb. 27, 1946 in Seattle, WA. d. Nov. 24, 2020 in Grand Forks, ND. Member of Grand Forks (ND) Church. Preceded in death by spouse LaVern. Survivors include daughters Danita Heilig and Alicia Rodewald; 5 sisters.

Scheresky, Laurence, b. Feb. 5, 1929 in Max, ND. d. Nov. 21, 2020 in Minot, ND. Member of Minot (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 2 brothers. Survivors include spouse Lenore; daughters Katherine Kopp, Kari Shea, and Kim Danner; son Barry; 3 sisters; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Stutzman, Valene "Eenie," b. Feb. 14, 1941 in Hot Springs, SD. d. Dec. 22, 2020 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by spouse

Edwin; 1 sister. Survivors include sons Kerry and Chad; 2 sisters; 10 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Weasel Bear, Maxine Nancy Carita, b. May 9, 1958 in Pine Ridge, SD. d. Nov. 10, 2020 in Pine Ridge, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by daughter Vanessa; 2 sisters; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include daughter Jessica Two Bulls; 4 sisters; 2 brothers; 1 grandson.

Williams, Oliver, b. March 15, 1932 in New Orleans, LA. d. Nov. 10, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by spouse Lolene; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include sons Vaughn, Vorce, and Victor; daughter Veda; 2 brothers; 14 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Army for 2 years, receiving an honorable discharge with a National Defense Service Good Conduct Medal.

SUNSET CALENDAR

March 2021					
COLORADO	MAR 5	MAR 12	MAR 19	MAR 26	
Denver	5:56	6:04	7:11	7:18	
Grand Junction	6:11	6:18	7:25	7:32	
Pueblo	5:56	6:03	7:09	7:16	
IOWA					
Davenport	5:57	6:05	7:13	7:21	
Des Moines	6:10	6:18	7:25	7:33	
Sioux City	6:20	6:28	7:37	7:45	
KANSAS					
Dodge City	6:38	6:44	7:51	7:57	
Goodland	5:43	5:51	6:58	7:05	
Topeka	6:19	6:27	7:34	7:40	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	6:00	6:10	7:20	7:29	
International Falls	6:04	6:14	7:25	7:35	
Minneapolis	6:06	6:15	7:24	7:33	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	6:06	6:13	7:20	7:27	
Kansas City	6:15	6:22	7:29	7:36	
St. Louis	5:58	6:05	7:12	7:18	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	6:22	6:30	7:38	7:45	
North Platte	6:38	6:46	7:54	8:02	
Scottsbluff	5:50	5:58	7:06	7:13	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	6:35	6:45	7:54	8:04	
Fargo	6:19	6:29	7:38	7:48	
Williston	6:45	6:56	8:06	8:16	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	6:35	6:44	7:53	8:01	
Rapid City	5:46	5:55	7:04	7:13	
Sioux Falls	6:21	6:29	7:38	7:46	
WYOMING					
Casper	6:00	6:08	7:16	7:25	
Cheyenne	5:55	6:03	7:10	7:18	
Sheridan	6:01	6:10	7:19	7:28	

OUTLOOK

www.outlookmag.org

SERVICES

Free Planned Giving: Maranatha Volunteers International Foundation can help with your estate planning needs. Personal consultations, online wills, trusts, annuities, providing protection for you and loved ones at no cost to you. For more info: 916.774.7700; email: estates@maranatha.org. Visit maranatha.org/plannedgiving.

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

NEW/USED Adventist Books: TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide dis-

tribution. Call 800.367.1844 for a free evaluation. Visit www.LNFBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

Summit Ridge Retirement Village: An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities and transportation as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: www.summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

EMPLOYMENT

It Is Written is seeking a full-time Planned Giving Field Representative. Candidates must be highly motivated, some work from home office, travel routinely to communicate with support-

ers, and represent the ministry at assigned events. NAD trust services certification preferred, but not required. If interested, please email your resume to work@iiw.org.

Southern Adventist University is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following salaried staff positions: Associate Director of Catering Services—Food Services, Mental Health Coordinator—Student Success Center, and Director of Adult Degree Completion—Graduate and Professional Studies. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs.

Southern Adventist University is currently seeking teaching faculty: School of Education and Psychology, Biology/Allied Health Department, School of Computing, School of Visual Art and Design, School of Journalism and Communication. For a full list

of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs.

Stallant Health, a rural health clinic in Weimar, California, is accepting applications for a Family Health Physician as well as an NP or PA 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.

NOTICES

Enrollment for 2021 at Atlanta Adventist Academy is now open! Atlanta Adventist Academy offers excellent Adventist education locally (Atlanta, Georgia) as well as virtually through our live online program for homeschoolers and distance campuses. To enroll your student, call 404.699.1400 or visit aaa.edu/admissions.

EASTER SPECIAL WATCH ON NBC

The Awakening

This NBC Television Special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), features an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry, and special musical guests: Pastor Donnie McClurkin and the Jeremy Winston Chorale, along with actress, Crystal Day.

Pastor Donnie McClurkin

Crystal Day

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker

Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio

Watch on NBC on April 4, 2021

For a list of stations and times, call 256.929.6460 or visit breathoflife.tv

OUTLOOK

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