

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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ADVENTIST
EDUCATION
P. 12



CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF
SUSTENANCE

JUNE 2021



OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

JUNE 2021

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“I try not to worry about the things I can’t control.” —p. 4



OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) June 2021, Volume 42, Number 6. OUTLOOK is published monthly (10 months per year) by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. Printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE and additional offices. USPS number 006-245. **Postmaster: Send all undeliverables to CFE.** Free for Mid-America church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. **CONTACT us by email: info@maucsa.org or phone: 402.484.3000.**





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CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF SUSTENANCE

When I was a child growing up, I did not enjoy working in our family's garden. Hoeing weeds, planting, watering, harvesting and preserving produce—it all seemed like too much hard work, especially when I wanted to go play in the woods or swim in the pond.

Today, however, I love growing as much food as I can and sharing with family and friends. I've come to understand that food is a sacred gift from the hand of God, lovingly given to celebrate and sustain life on earth.

In the midwest, agriculture is one of our main industries, and many Adventist church members are farmers or gardeners. In this issue we want to honor all of them for their dedication to working the land and their hard labor in producing delicious and healthful foods.

We do well to remember from where our daily food comes, and to always be thankful—not only to God, but also to “those whose hands have prepared it” through their wise and faithful efforts. So to all who are working with God in creating the miracle of sustenance: Thank you and may God always bless you above what you would ask for yourselves!



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

Larry Stolz, a North Dakota farmer, holds his grandson, Everett. Sitting by Larry is Michael Stolz and standing is Everett's daddy, Jordan Stolz.

More on p. 4

Photo by Larry's daughter-in-law, Daniella Stolz

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THE GIFT OF SUSTENANCE

Celebrating agriculture's role

 The pandemic has helped us all focus on what is really important in life—the essentials. And food is one of them. Grocery stores never closed ... because food kept growing and farmers and gardeners kept harvesting it and selling it to distributors.

The life of a farmer is often misunderstood and undervalued. Farmers work hard. They are smart people who watch not only the weather, but also markets, economic trends and new products. They are willing to take risks and stick with tough situations because they love the land, they love the freedom to manage their own businesses and they are committed to producing products that sustain life on our planet.

North Dakota is rooted in agriculture. Agriculture is a vital economic force with about 90 percent of the state's land being used for agriculture, totaling 39.3 million acres devoted to farming and ranching. North Dakota's sub-humid continental climate is perfect for producing small grains, helping make it a top producer of dry edible beans, navy and pinto beans, flaxseed and honey. It is also the top



Daniella Stolz

producer of durum and spring wheat—when you eat spaghetti, chances are it contains North Dakota wheat.*



Life on the farm

Larry Stolz lives in Sykeston, North Dakota, with his wife, Joye, and farming has been a part of his life since childhood. They live in his childhood home and Larry farms the land his father farmed. Larry grew up working alongside his father on the farm, planting, maintaining and harvesting crops. During his college years he branched out on his own, rented some land and with the use of his father's machinery he planted crops and managed his own small business that helped pay most of his tuition at Union College.

The life of a farmer is varied. North Dakota's spring

and summer are short in comparison to other climates, but even during the "off" season, farming never takes a back seat. There is always something to do. Winter months are sprinkled with grain hauling and inside work such as machinery maintenance. January sees finalization of accounting, tax filing and other reports. March is the time to take inventory and buy the remaining supplies needed to last through the year.

Various machinery is being removed from storage and given a once over, making sure everything is ready for the spring. Trucks and cars are serviced, carburetors are cleaned and attention is given to making sure things are running smoothly.

Mid-April to early June, fertilizers are applied to fields and seeding begins, spraying the fields to manage insects and various plant diseases that may impact the crops. A lull comes in July as the fields grow and flourish, and then the harvesting season begins and continues through October.

Barley, canola, hard red spring wheat, sunflowers and soybeans can all be seen on the land Larry farms. Have you ever seen a field of blooming canola? The bright yellow flowers undulating in the wind can almost fool your eye into believing you are watching a golden ocean's waves move across the landscape. Sunflowers move with the sun, their bright beautiful heads turning to take in every ray. Even harvest lends beauty to the landscape as rows of freshly cut golden wheat weave across the countryside.

"It is gratifying to see the

process of multiplication, of life: from clean seed sprouting, growing and maturing," Larry shares. "I love the variety of work I get to do, inside and outside. Who wouldn't want to drive a tractor? Setting our own schedule in the off season is also a blessing. I enjoy the quietness, the excitement and sometimes even the chaos of farming. I love working with my hands and the variety of work farming allows me to do."



Ever-present challenges

Farming does not come without its challenges. Living at work can take its toll.

"It is important to not be consumed by it because the reality is that work is never truly done—there is always something to do. Taking time to rest and relax is important. I try not to worry about the things I can't control," Larry adds.

There is also the uncertainty of a profitable return each year. Changes in grain prices, unexpected expenses for machinery repairs and the weather all have an impact on the bottom line.

Each year the weather plays an important role in the yield. Excess moisture and drought can both impact quality and yield. Excess moisture can make it difficult to harvest, while areas that have gotten too much water can become inaccessible.

Hail can also have an impact. Just a few years ago, Larry was one day away from harvesting a beautiful crop of barley. A hailstorm came through and totally wiped out the field. Every head of barley was broken

off at the stem. What would have been a field that yielded around 12,000 bushels yielded 1,000. (A bushel is a measure of capacity equal to 64 U.S. pints, used for dry goods.) The loss was significant. Even more interesting to note is that weather varies mile to mile. Spotty showers or violent hailstorms can hit one field but completely miss the next.

"There are always two paths to choose in how we react to challenges," Larry says. "There are lessons we can learn from nature and through being dependent on the elements. The solitude gives a person a lot of time to think and process. We can never plan on bountiful crops and good prices. I don't worry about it or even speculate because I am promised that my needs will be met by the One. And sometimes we need to realize that prosperity from big crops and high prices isn't necessarily our need."

Our homes are impacted daily by the farmers who dedicate their lives to the love of their vocation, this wondrous cycle of renewable food. There is a lot of work that happens from start to finish, including processing and distribution. And they always do their best to produce a food product that contributes to our health in a positive way, while also being caretakers of the land from which they harvest. **O**

Stephanie Gottfried is Larry's niece by marriage. She had the privilege of spending a harvest with the Stolz family, helping with the hard and fun work of harvesting wheat in a large combine.

* www.farmflavor.com/north-dakota-agriculture





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Asian Cucumber Salad

Recipe

The summer season is a great time to introduce simple and lighter meals to your table, but without skimping out on the nutrients you need to keep you active while you're on the go. A quick but flavorful salad is a great way to do that.

Cucumbers are delicious anytime, but their cool, crispy charms are especially welcome in the sweltering heat of summer. In this Asian salad, they're flavored with a hint of sesame and chopped peanuts. This salad has been served to crowds of people over the years, and it's always received rave reviews.

Overview

Yield: 6 servings **Cook Time:** 0 minutes **Prep Time:** 15 minutes **Total Time:** 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 4 cups cucumbers, sliced
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons Bragg Liquid Aminos, or 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tablespoon peanuts, finely chopped, or ½ tablespoon peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds, roasted
- 1/4 cup red or sweet onion, finely sliced

Instructions

Mix all ingredients together and serve.

Nutritional Data

Calories: 33.23 **Fat:** 1.59 g **Saturated Fat:** 0.17 g **Cholesterol:** 0 mg
Sodium: 17.64 mg **Carbohydrates:** 4.01 g **Fiber:** 0.82 g **Sugars:** 1.62 g
Protein: 1.38 g

Neva Brackett, Copyright © AdventHealth Press



Visit [MyHealthKC.com](https://www.myhealthkc.com) for more recipes and guides to help you stay well.

 **Restoring Hope**

Community partnership feeds the body and the soul

In 2016, April suddenly lost her job. She was scheduled to have surgery shortly afterward, so she planned to get through her surgery and then try to make a plan for the future. She and her husband weren't wealthy, but they were financially comfortable and she had faith that they would be able to stay on their feet. Then, with her surgery came an unexpected diagnosis: breast cancer.

April and her family needed help. Without her income, they struggled to put food on the table, let alone pay other mounting bills. Not sure where else to turn, April went to the free food market at SECORCares to pick up groceries for her family.

SECORCares is a faith-based organization in Parker, Colorado, that operates the largest food bank in the southern Denver metro area. Recognizing that suburban poverty is a growing but often hidden problem, SECORCares seeks to break the chains of poverty in their

community and bring hope and dignity to their neighbors in need by offering free groceries, financial support, help finding employment, life coaching and more.

"Parker is an affluent community, and a lot of people think there's no problem here," said **Dennis Gorton**, executive director and CEO of SECORCares. "But life happens, and situational poverty can happen to anyone. We are here to build relationships, encourage hope and help our guests move forward stronger than ever."

For the past several years, Centura-Parker Adventist Hospital has been partnering with SECORCares to help meet the whole health needs of their patients and communities.

"True wellness involves so much more than medicine," said **Michael Goebel**, CEO of Parker Adventist. "Food security, financial stability and hope for the future are just as important as physical well-being. As two

pillars of our community, we can work together with SECORCares to help make all those things a reality for the people we serve."

Over the past year, the financial impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in a staggering 300 percent increase in need in the Denver suburbs. SECORCares, with resources and support from Parker Adventist, has risen to the challenge, serving 3,000-4,000 guests per month on average. They are also partnering on initiatives like Food for Thought, which provides weekend meals for families of school-aged children, and a mobile market that brings food to people who cannot come to the market themselves due to age, disability or lack of transportation.

"Our two organizations, both driven by faith, share a commitment to caring for our neighbors through any challenges our communities face," said **Greg Matney**, director of development for SECORCares.

To help navigate uncertainties in food sourcing, SECORCares is launching their own aquaponic garden, growing lettuce, herbs and other produce to ensure they could keep the market's shelves full. Because aquaponic systems create such a high yield, Parker Adventist

connected SECORCares with their purchasers to channel the excess produce to hospital food services, restaurants and other buyers, providing additional income to further sustain and expand the work of SECORCares.

At Parker Adventist and across Centura Health, diversity, inclusion and social justice are top priorities. As the partnership with SECORCares continues to grow, **Leeroy Coleman**, the hospital's director of Mission Integration, is helping develop strategic plans to advocate for underserved populations and ensure equitable access to food, housing, healthcare and jobs for all members of the community.

Today, April is cancer-free, financially stable and working as a military family life counselor on Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. She is also working with chaplains on base to start a cancer support group.

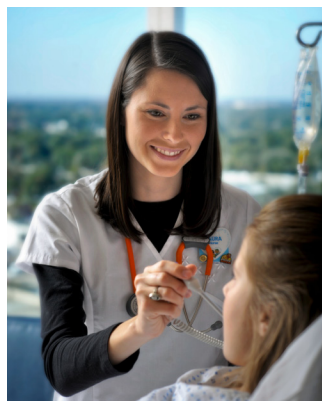
"Now that we've come through that crisis, we've been able to give back a little bit, and that feels really good," April said. "We would not be where we are today if it wasn't for SECORCares, and I want to be the hands and feet of Christ for others like they were to me."

.....
Amy Thompson is a writer for Centura Health.



Courtesy AdventHealth Rocky Mountain/Centura

The market at SECORCares allows guests to shop for fresh food for their families at no cost.



MAUC Prepares for

Dear Mid-America Union Conference Family, Whew! It is hard to believe nearly five years have passed since our last Constituency Session! Time has flown by so fast; but then again, there were times during these past five years when the days and weeks seemed to stand still.

Here's a recap—from my perspective—of the past five years.

The past five years

I think of our Pathfinders attending Oshkosh (Wisconsin) International Camporee and our own Union Camporee in Custer, South Dakota, both of which were spiritual high notes for them. It was also inspiring to watch so many of our Bible Experience teams move on from their conference, union, and over to the division level in this Bible knowledge journey.

Our union-wide pastor's convention in Omaha, Nebraska, was a highlight as we came together to talk about our first calling—our own families. Then the teachers had an incredible division-wide convention in Chicago that brought wonderful exhibits, workshops and other learning opportunities they could never have experienced otherwise.

Evangelism is on the rise as well, and our local conferences work with pastors and laity to keep the Three Angels' Messages ever before our communities. Both public and personal evangelistic strategies have been employed to share this beautiful message of the gospel and hope for what the Lord has in store for His children.

However, there were also times during these past five years like none we have ever experienced in our lifetime. Who could forget March 2020, when our country and world came to a screeching halt due to the COVID-19 virus? One Sabbath we were singing and worshiping together in our churches, and the next we were told not to meet because of the threat of exposure to this disease. It was painful to hear about and watch people we know and love suffer from this dreaded virus. Sadly, some even lost their lives.

Overnight, our elementary schools, academies and Union College faculty and staff had to figure out how to operate virtually as parents, teachers and students worked together in ways no one saw coming. They made it happen, though. And they succeeded beyond our wildest imaginations!

Pastors and their teams, too, learned very quickly how to bring Sabbath school and church worship services to our Mid-America family, so we could continue to fellowship and study God's Word together. As hard as it has been, our pastoral teams and church members have worked hard together to meet the needs of our church families. Virtual weddings,

Constituency Session in September

graduations and, yes, funerals have become part of our church life over the past number of months. We are still not able to fully assemble together throughout our region, but we are getting there ... slowly but surely.

Another day when time stood still was when we watched in horror as George Floyd's life was taken from him right here in our Minnesota and Central States conference territories. I don't believe anyone can fully understand the pain and harm this brought to our communities and to our own church family. Racism is a sin and evil at its core. The hope we have is for a great awakening, where we will choose to love one another as Jesus loves us all.

Following God together

Because of the COVID-19 virus, the General Conference Session was pushed back first one year, and now two years. Our GC leaders have worked tirelessly to meet the continued global needs of our church. Mission continues to move

forward in a powerful way. It is inspiring to hear the stories of God sustaining His church. These stories are absolute miracles as we see God's mighty hand at work.

"I Will Go!" is the GC's theme for this quinquennium, and it has caught on beautifully both here in the NAD and abroad. The division is using that theme, along with the emphasis "Together in Mission."

As we at the union office thought about these great themes and considered what our theme should be for the Mid-America Constituency Session, we acknowledged the personal commitment that must take place for "I Will Go" and "Together in Mission" to become a reality.

Our thoughts also went to the apostle Paul's beautiful picture of the body of Christ, which he says is made up of many parts—all of which are essential. He says, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly" Roman 6:4-8 (NLT).

In order to say "I Will Go" and "Together in Mission," each of us must first say, "Yes, Lord! I give my life to you

use me and empower me to do whatever you want me to do." So, we decided our theme for the Mid-America Session will be "Yes, Lord!"

We plan to come together in person on Sept. 12 for the Mid-America Session, which will take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. With our focus of "Yes, Lord!" we can join together as never before to accomplish the mission God has called us to fulfill.

As usual, we will review our Bylaws to see if they should be honed even more to help us accomplish our mission. We will have an opportunity to hear and see firsthand how God has sustained and blessed Union College. We will elect leadership for the next quinquennium. And, as several conferences and our own Executive Committee

has asked us to do, we will talk about the ongoing journey of recognizing our women pastors' calling from the Lord.

If you have an old youth songbook from the '70s, more than likely there will be a song in it titled "Yes, Lord!" In full disclosure, that song came from the heart and mind of my father, John Thurber. And the words are probably more impactful and pertinent for me today than ever before. The simple chorus, which is really a very personal prayer, goes like this:

Yes, Lord, I give my heart to You.

Yes, Lord, my will I yield anew.

Love me, guide me, fill my soul,

Yes, Lord, take full control.

In Mid-America, let's encourage one another to say "Yes, Lord!" to whatever God calls us to. Maybe it will be to go overseas as a missionary. Maybe it will be to come alongside our teachers at our schools to help them with the enormous mission they lead. Maybe God is going to call you to be an evangelist as a lay person or a pastor. Or maybe God will ask you to represent Him in a greater way in your workplace.

All I know is that if we will prayerfully say "Yes, Lord!" here in Mid-America, we will see mission happen like it has never happened before.

Will you join me and the team here in the Mid-America Union office and commit to this prayer? Let's do this together! 0

GARY THURBER

is president of the Mid-America Union.



Mid-America Union Hosts Virtual Ministries Training

Over 150 participants from across Mid-America and beyond joined together last March for four days of virtual presentations, training and Q&A sessions with professionals from various areas of church-related ministries including Adventist Community Services, Women’s Ministries, Men’s Ministries and Prayer Ministries. Additionally, communication and education leaders hosted seminars specifically geared toward local church members. A Spanish language track was also offered.

This event was hosted in partnership with AdventSource, and their team of employees led by

director **Brad Forbes** helped to integrate website, video streaming and chat options to provide a seamless experience for attendees. The programming was a mix of recorded presentations for the five General Session and 28 live Zoom seminar presentations that offered plenty of interaction and Q&A time.

“This style of convention allows for us to connect our MAUC church leaders with great presenters from across the NAD,” said Forbes. “And, it allows for people who could not afford either the expense or the time away from home to receive high quality, personal training.”

 The general sessions and seminars are now available for viewing at no cost on MAUministries.org.



MAUC Leaders Evaluate and Plan

The Mid-America Union Executive Committee gathered virtually for their spring meeting on April 22. Highlights of the administrative reports focused on the union’s finances,

membership reports and priorities for 2021.

Troy Peoples, treasurer, stated that the final tithe figure in December 2020 was a tithe gain of 0.05%, which he said was nothing

short of a miracle.

Hubert J. Morel Jr., vice president for administration, reported that as of December 2020 there were 525 companies/churches in Mid-America territory and 64,787 members.

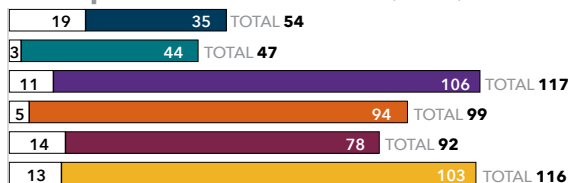
President **Gary Thurber** shared that priorities for 2021 would include preparing for union and conference constituency sessions, promoting Union College and our elementary and

secondary schools, and supporting the conferences’ stewardship programs.

Other reports included information on the union’s 10 Days of Prayer initiative, teacher certifications, pastoral interns, video production, virtual events for women, and seminars for Hispanic pastors and members. **0**

Stories on this page were written by Brenda Dickerson, communication director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Companies/Churches (Q4)



Pathfinders Participate in Bible Learning

Seven teams from Mid-America place at the division level

Congratulations to all the teams from Mid-America's conferences who placed in this year's Pathfinder Bible Experience NAD level event!

Central States Conference

1st place: The Mountain Experience Wise Believers—Team 1

Iowa-Missouri Conference

1st place: Ankeny Son-Seekers
2nd place: Lee's Summit Aviators

Kansas-Nebraska Conference

1st place: College View Trailblazers Team Cappadocians

Minnesota Conference

3rd place: Ramsey Light of the World Team Golden Lamps
2nd place: Ramsey Light of the World Team Shining Doves

Rocky Mountain Conference

1st place: Aurora Hispanic Las Aguilas



(top) The Mountain Experience Wise Believers Team 1

(middle) Aurora Hispanic Las Aguilas Pathfinder Group

(bottom) The College View Trailblazers Team Cappadocians

Adventist

Watching a Miracle

I believe that the most important function of Adventist schools is to lead children to Christ. We have had the privilege and blessing of watching a miracle unfold in the lives of the family of one of our students.

Mosheh Crist, an eighth-grader this year, has been at Invitation Hill Adventist School since fourth grade. His mom, Danell, is a postal carrier and in the summer of 2016 was delivering mail in the school neighborhood (then in the basement of the church). She noticed a banner on the fence of the church/school yard stating that applications for registration were being accepted. Not having met the teacher or knowing much about Adventism, Danell went into the building and enrolled Mosheh on the spot. He was having a bad experience in public school,

and she felt this would be a good place for him.

Mosheh has a curious mind, and shortly after beginning school noticed some interesting magazines in the foyer that talked about the mark of the beast and other topics that piqued his interest. He began attending church with the teacher and her husband each week. His mom worked most Saturdays but came when she could. Over the years, Mosheh's little brother and sister began attending church weekly as well.

Last summer, Danell began asking questions about the Bible and expressing more interest in things of a spiritual nature. The teacher and her husband studied with the family a few times in their home, and last fall when the church hosted an online evangelistic series, Danell attended almost every meeting.

By the end of the series,

she had developed a growing desire to commit her life more fully to Christ and was convicted that she should not work on the Sabbath anymore. She spoke to her supervisor, and while he sympathized, he said he couldn't allow her to have Saturdays off. She worked one more Sabbath, and then said, "I can't work another Sabbath." And she hasn't.

Our class and our church began lifting this matter up in prayer daily. Danell has expected her employment to end, but even though she has been written up a few times for calling in on Sabbaths, her employment continues. It has presented hardships as many weeks she has a paycheck that reflects only four days of work. As a single mom, this takes a lot of faith.

She is inspiring many in our church family, our students, and a wider circle

as her story is being shared, and people from many states are praying for her. Her living testimony is shining a light and creating a legacy that will have ripples into eternity.

To all those who support Adventist Christian education with your prayers and pocketbooks: Thank you so much. You are making a difference for eternity—not just in the lives of the students, but in their families' lives as well.

Please continue to pray for the teachers as leaders of this evangelistic effort, and for the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of our students to make a decision for Christ while they are young. **O**

Janna Wright is head teacher at Invitation Hill Adventist School in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Photos Courtesy Dakota Conference



Education

Hearing and Answering the Call

We learn in Isa. 43:1 that we have been called by name.

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, ‘Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.’”

This Bible verse reminds me of the story of Gideon. Gideon clearly heard and answered God’s call, but where did he learn to recognize God’s voice? Where did he get the courage and faith to answer in the face of such adversity? I think he received some training.

My parents decided that my three older brothers and I would get an Adventist education. We did not have a choice. My parents decided for us. We did not have much money when I was growing up, and my parents could

not afford to send us to an Adventist school, but they did it anyway. It never occurred to them to do otherwise. In fact, at one point all four of us were in elementary school at the same time. They were determined that we would learn to hear and answer God’s call.

It was not easy, but they made it a priority. I wanted the latest toys and new clothes; my parents wanted an Adventist education. I wanted our family to have the nice things that other families had, but my parents wanted an Adventist education.

When one of my brothers was expelled from school, the local public school was not an option. My parents did not give it a thought. Instead, my father sold his coin collection and cherished guitar so that he would have enough money to make the long trip with his son to an Adventist school that would accept him.

I must tell you that my parent’s commitment to an Adventist education has made a difference in my life. I learned to hear God’s call and to answer. I am not Gideon, but I learned to put my trust in Him and not earthly possessions or fellow human beings. I learned that he is there for me during my darkest hour and during moments of triumph.

I learned that He sees value in me and that I have purpose. I learned that He has called me by name. Even if it appears that everyone else is more talented and gifted, He has a plan for me. I learned all of this while attending an Adventist school and it has made a difference.

Adventist schools are eager to teach your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces to hear and answer the call. We live in a difficult time with troubles all

around us. Your children need an Adventist education more today than ever before. They need every opportunity to learn about Jesus and have teachers who have a Seventh-day Adventist worldview answering their many questions. I urge you to make the decision to send your children to an Adventist school if one is available to you. It makes a difference. It really does.

My father died eight years ago, but he and my mother gave me a gift. My parents gave my brothers and me the legacy of a Seventh-day Adventist education that will last for an eternity. What more could we want than for our children to hear and answer God’s call like Gideon did? **0**

Jeff Bovee is education superintendent for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE



Central States Conferences Hosts 26th Constituency Session

Delegates re-elect officers, conduct church business

Hugh Davis



Additional leaders selected

Departmental directors were also elected with strong support, over 90 percent for all positions. New directors are **Joann Herrington** (Education), **Donna Brown** (Women's Ministry), **Karsten Rogers** (Youth/Young Adult), and **Joseph Ikner II** (Ministerial).

Re-elected directors are **Marlon and Denise Johnson** (Family Life), **Tomas DeGyves** (Multicultural Ministry), **Rachel Banks** (Pathfinders), **Bryan Mann** (Men's Ministry), **Gary Collins** (Personal Ministry, Prison Ministry, Publishing/Message Magazine), **Keith Hackle** (Community Ministries/Disaster Relief), **Cryston Josiah** (Public Affairs and Religious Liberty), and **Roger A. Bernard** (Sabbath School).

Thanks was expressed to outgoing directors **Byron and Alfredia Conner** (Health Ministry), **Mark Paris** (Ministerial), and **Tonya L. Anderson** (Stewardship, Trust Services, Children's Ministry) for their faithful leadership.

Departmental positions being referred to the CSC Executive Committee include: Communication, Evangelism, Stewardship,

Delegates to the Constituency Session held on April 18 voted with strong support to re-elect their leadership team:

(l-r) **Tonya L. Anderson** (vice president for finance), **Michael Anderson**, **Ivona Bernard**, **Roger A. Bernard** (president), **Karen Josiah**, **Cryston Josiah** (vice president for administration)

Central States Conference delegates met in person at conference headquarters in Kansas City on April 18, 2021, for the purpose of electing leadership, receiving reports and conducting other church business.

A quorum was established as 265 registered delegates wearing appropriate face coverings gathered in a large tent erected on the conference's spacious grounds where social distancing could be practiced. Voting was conducted by voice and also through electronic handheld devices. Despite rain showers and chilly weather, delegates

fulfilled their roles as local church members directing the conference's work.

Following an early morning prayer session, **Elder Dana Edmonds**, executive director for the Office of Regional Conference Ministry, presented a passionate devotional message as the official meetings began.

After the vote to receive previously shared written and video reports from CSC administration and departments, delegates to this Fifth Quadrennial and 26th Constituency Session voted with a strong show of support to accept the

recommendation of the 19-member Nominating Committee and elected **Elders Roger A. Bernard, Cryston Josiah and Tonya L. Anderson** to continue serving as president, vice president for administration, and vice president for finance, respectively, for the coming quadrennial.

In his remarks, Elder Bernard thanked the delegates, conference staff, pastors and teachers for their dedicated service. "I am deeply grateful for the honor extended to me and am appreciative of the support," Bernard said.

Trust Services, Health Ministry, Van Ministry, Inner City Ministry, and Children's Ministry.

In addition, 23 individuals were voted to serve on the Central States Conference Executive Committee for the coming quadrennial, with representation from each area region, and including 11 lay persons.

Re-elected members of the Conference Corporation Board of Trustees are Roger A. Bernard, Cryston Josiah, Tonya L. Anderson, **Stephen Williams, Ralph Reid, Dawn Bookhardt, and Charles Osborne III.**

Representatives from the Mid-America Union Conference were on hand throughout the day to assist, including **Elder Gary Thurber** (president), **Elder Hubert J. Morel Jr.** (vice president of administration), and **Troy Peoples** (vice president of finance).

During his remarks, Thurber thanked the Nominating Committee for their "thoughtful, prayerful, careful work" during their earlier committee meetings, which had 100 percent attendance. **Amber Patterson**, who was elected secretary for the committee, presented the names to the delegates.

More agenda items

The administrative and departmental reports

focused on the conference's ministry initiatives during the past quadrennial and summarized membership numbers and financials, including the most recent audit report from 2016-2019 presented by **JoJean Birth** on behalf of the General Conference Auditing Services.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented six recommendations to delegates. Most were minor word changes, but an important addition to the bylaws was voted in allowing virtual attendance and participation for CSC's Constituency Sessions. The bylaw addressing the 10 percent of guest delegates allowed to vote at CSC Sessions was also discussed and narrowly approved by the required two-thirds majority vote.

The Conference Association also presented a report, mainly addressing the use of the conference's grounds and its current property holdings.

Other business included establishing 10 new congregations and disbanding five congregations due to lack of members.

After a presentation by Elder Josiah based on the North American Division's 2013 study of ordination report, 83 percent of delegates voted in favor of the

following question: "Should the Central States Conference be able to recommend to the Mid-America Union Conference for ordination men and women to full-time gospel ministry?"

As with any large gathering of members, there were differences of opinion among delegates on a variety of topics, with the bylaws generating the most questions. An orderly process allowed delegates to voice their comments at microphones and the discussions proceeded respectfully.

One delegate, in calling for member commitment to support the conference's debt elimination initiative, stated, "I want to be a part of the solution, not the problem."

As the 26th Constituency Session closed, special recognition was given in memory of Elder Arvin Topps (who passed on Feb. 10, 2021) for over 30 years of faithful service to the Central States Conference as associate treasurer and auditor. A memoriam video also honored CSC members who have passed to their rest since the last session.

Beyond the votes

There was more than business reports and votes at the Central States Conference Constituency Session. The session also highlighted the blessings of the Lord

in the past few years in the accomplishments and activities of the departments. In addition, it was an opportunity to consider how best to advance the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the conference's nine-state territory. "It was kind of like camp meeting," observed one delegate.

"This is God's church and God's holy business. We are praying for His will to be done," said Elder Josiah.

The Central States Conference is comprised of 9,198 members (as of Jan. 2020) and 35 churches, plus 19 companies. The conference is organized into five geographical areas: Eastern, Central, Rocky Mountain, Great Plains and Great Lakes.

The Central States Conference supports two elementary schools: the V. Lindsay School in Kansas City, Kansas, and Saint Louis Unified School in Missouri.

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



Reports are available on the CSC YouTube page:
YouTube.com/theCSconference

The Power of Repentance

Angela Barber



T*his is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength [but you would have none of it]' (Isa. 30:15).*

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I was born into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, spent Friday nights rehearsing memory verses and special music, attended church every Sabbath and was educated primarily in Adventist schools. Not prone to rebellion, I was not perfect, but I genuinely believed in God and woke up early in high school to write to Him, keeping up the practice until college.

I remember the day in

2001 when I wrote, "Even if I stop writing to You every day, I'll still know You're there." I stopped writing to God shortly after that. Maybe that was where the thread was loosened?

I still felt the Presence of God and spoke to Him throughout the next phase as I taught English in South Korea and returned to Lincoln, Nebraska, to substitute teach. While working at an Adventist language institute in Seoul, I became disillusioned with the combination of God and business, hierarchies within the church and too many hellfire sermons.

Returning home, I remember going to church and

hearing a sermon about a classic Bible story, with a classic interpretation I had heard since the age of six. I did not feel like the church had anything left to teach me. When an offer came to teach creative drama to sixth graders on Saturdays, I took it and stopped going to church.

I did not stop believing in God or Jesus, but my belief was slowly worn down over time by entertaining other beliefs and expressions of God outside of the Bible.

Then I went too far. Wondering what it would be like to not believe in angels or other spiritual help, I let go of asking. Around this time a truckload of emotions from childhood trauma resurfaced, spilled over and pulled me under. Though I had access to many tools of healing such as sound, meditation, psychology and the sheer determination to go deep in and feel it all, I did not consciously have God.

My life became so, so heavy. There were days when I seriously considered whether I should be alive at all because it clearly felt like I was not living my purpose. Division between friends and loved ones and endings of all kinds surrounded me, and I felt responsible. My ego was out of control and I fought to maintain balance.

For years, though functioning on the outside, I was in deep emotional pain that left me exhausted and

craving isolation as I struggled to find a safe form of expression. I began studying astrology in an attempt to understand what was happening in me. Though helpful, it did not stop me from tearing my heart out on a regular basis. It did not stop me from falling into the same trauma-based traps over and over. That is where I was at when I returned home to North Dakota.

I had promised my grandma I would go home to North Dakota and stay on the farm for the month of June in 2020, but when protests broke out in Lincoln, I could not leave. I stayed and participated, understanding that Black Lives Matter is a cry from people being oppressed and longing to be heard, seen, and valued as all lives supposedly are.

All through the summer and fall of 2020, the words of a song by Leonard Cohen rang through my head, "When they said, 'Repent! Repent!' I wonder what they meant." I understood that our country—myself as a citizen included—had a history of violence and exploitation to acknowledge and repent of. After a couple of intense weeks spent protesting and testifying, I went to North Dakota to be with my grandma for the winter. Still activated, I also came home to confront the church and God.

In order to participate in

conversations in church, I began studying the Sabbath school lesson and talking to God again. I returned to keeping the Sabbath. After a lesson on the Ten Commandments, I admitted to God two commandments that I knew I was breaking and needed help with. I did not hide anything from Him—not my sins, not my questions, not my feelings. So much of my heart was in full rebellion against Him. I knew God could flick me away at any moment. But in my acknowledgment of that, I also acknowledged the power and sovereignty of God, which I had not openly affirmed in years.

Setting the oppressed free

Then came the study of Isaiah. I had read Isaiah 58 in a Sabbath school class of the previous quarter to emphasize how God dislikes exploitation and how He asks us to “loose the chains of affliction, to set the

oppressed free,” and to “share our food with the hungry” (v. 6-7). But I was doing it with the “pointing finger” God also warned about (v. 9). I was excited to get into the study, but I had no idea of the transformation that was to come.

Through the story of Uzziah I understood the boundaries of God. We are not the creator. God blesses with wisdom and God gets the respect and praise. From Ahaz’s story I understood God’s relentless love for us. Even when we refuse God’s power to save, He makes a way to save us (Isa. 7:14). Through Hezekiah I learned what partnership with God looks like and the pitfall of focusing on possessions instead of God when put to the test. All throughout Isaiah, God longs for His people to turn back to Him, to talk with Him, to wrestle with Him, so that He can heal them.

As I was learning to know

and love God again through the study of Isaiah, I was still struggling with consistent surges of trauma response that left me exhausted. At a critical juncture, God stepped in and redirected my path in such a powerful way that I could not doubt His Presence.

To share the fullness of those moments is a whole story in and of itself. In summary, God pulled me from a pit where I knew I would go down were it not for His help. It was not an easy lesson, but as He comforted me, I understood that at every point in my life He had held me, even when I believed otherwise.

I came home to testify before the church about all they were not doing, but God has allowed me to testify about all He is still doing through the grace and forgiveness of Jesus. I’m grateful for the faithfulness of my home church so that I could have a place to return to and

learn how to repent.

To repent is to bring our whole selves to God, not to hide any part of ourselves, not to blame someone else, but to turn and lay our heart out before Him so that He can heal it.

I am comforted that God means what He says and that when we turn and admit our sins, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). God is good. Once again, I’m writing with Him in the mornings, and I look forward to where He leads next.

Angela Barber is a graduate of Union College and currently lives on the family farm near Jud, North Dakota. In 2021 she chose to be rebaptized on her birthday in the Edgeley Church.

(right) Angela Barber was re-baptized in March 2021.

(far right) Angela with her sister, Amy Tanner, and mother, Terri Krovoza, on her birthday/re-birth day



Jodi Dossenko



Curt Krovoza

Council Bluffs Members Help Keep Their Community Clean



The Council Bluffs Church adopted a street last year that we are required to clean twice a year. We like to do it more than that!

We did our first street cleanup of 2021 on the last Sunday of March. We had a great crew of people who came out and helped and we collected 80 pounds of trash!

We really enjoy taking care of God's world. Trying to keep the street cleaned up is a challenge, but we try to get it looking as nice as possible. We will be doing another cleanup in June.

—Shannon Pigsley is a member of the Council Bluffs Church in Iowa.

Micah House Residents Benefit from Collection Drive

Members of the Council Bluffs Church in Iowa recently hosted a collection drive for the Micah House. The Micah House provides services for those who are homeless. They also provide resources and a place to stay.

We had a very successful drive and collected food, some outerwear, paper products, diapers and even some personal items. We gathered enough to fill the back ends of three cars. Several people showed up to help deliver everything to the Micah House. Those who helped were glad to be making an impact.

—Shannon Pigsley



Photos Courtesy/ Iowa-Missouri Conference

Three New Members Join Guthrie Center Church

Last February three individuals were baptized and joined the Adventist Church in Guthrie Center, Iowa. **Laura Smith** and **Michael** and **Brenda Clouse** were welcomed into fellowship as members with much joy and celebration.

Bible worker **Steve Goodenough** performed the baptism, and his wife **Emily Goodenough** gave a message titled “Invisible Realities” based on 2 Cor. 4:16-18.

Several years ago, the Goodenoughs started prayerfully going door-to-door to ask local people in their town about their needs and interests and offering to pray with them. In the summer of 2019 they came upon a man on a riding lawnmower who smiled and stopped his work to talk. This gentleman was happy to accept Bible studies to learn more about God. After some time, his wife joined the Bible studies too.

In early 2020, Pastor Steve, who is also among the chaplains serving the local sheriff’s department, was called to visit an inmate at the jail. That visit led to visiting a friend of the inmate. This person’s heart also proved to be “good soil” for the love of God through study and practical ministry.

By these means, God has grown the small Guthrie Center Church in Iowa with

these three new members.

Emily Goodenough is an elder and Bible worker at Guthrie Center Church in Iowa.

(top) Bible worker Steve Goodenough baptizes Michael Clouse as Michael’s wife Brenda watches.

(bottom) Emily Goodenough helps celebrate the baptism of Laura Smith by Steve Goodenough.



Visit the church website www.guthriecentersda.com or Facebook page at facebook.com/guthriecentersdachurch.



Photos Courtesy/ Iowa-Missouri Conference



The screenshot shows the website header with navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, STORIES, MINISTRY SERVICES, DIRECTORY, RESOURCES, CONTACT. The main banner features the text "STAY CONNECTED WITH THE IMCONNECTED WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER" and a "SIGN UP" button. The background of the banner is a close-up of hands typing on a laptop keyboard.

Conference Welcomes New Associate

Alejandro Dovald ha aceptado el llamado a ser parte de nuestra Conferencia como Asociado Ministerial y Director de los Ministerios Hispanos. Él actualmente está sirviendo como Pastor en la Iglesia Hispana de Lincoln, NE. El Pastor Dovald comenzará su trabajo en las oficinas de la Conferencia en junio.

Stephanie Gottfried conversado con el Pastor Dovald para poder saber un poco más sobre él y sus planes para esta nueva oportunidad en su ministerio.

¿Cuánto tiempo ha trabajado en nuestra Conferencia?

He trabajado para la Conferencia durante más de nueve años. Al principio mi distrito pastoral era Grand Island, Lexington y Lincoln. Se hizo un plan de crecimiento y un proyecto, y con el apoyo de la Conferencia, se contrató a un pastor asociado de medio tiempo. Después de que se cumplieron las metas, el distrito se separó y me quedé en Lincoln por un tiempo con una sola iglesia. Durante los últimos dos años hemos estado plantando una nueva iglesia hispana en Omaha que ya ha crecido a más de treinta miembros y se reúne en la iglesia de Golden Hills.

¿Qué es lo que más le ha gustado del ministerio?

Es difícil responder a esto,

porque hay muchas cosas que realmente disfruto. Me gusta estar con la gente y mostrarles que los amo en verdad, me gusta escuchar sus historias de vida y saber sobre su pasado y sus costumbres. También me gusta predicar y mostrar a la gente que Dios se preocupa por ellos y los ama.

¿Qué nuevos desafíos/opportunidades cree que traerá el papel de Director Ministerial Asociado para los Ministerios Hispanos?

Cuando alguien viene de otro país ha dejado muchas cosas atrás, y no estoy hablando de cosas materiales, me refiero a padres, primos, amigos, comida y lenguaje, y sin darse cuenta pierden su sentido de pertenencia. El Evangelio no es sólo enseñar una doctrina, sino invitar a esa persona a “pertener” a la familia de Cristo. Es por eso que en la comunidad hispana cualquier excusa es buena para compartir un plato de comida y pasar tiempo juntos. La iglesia es mucho más que un lugar de culto, es el lugar donde la familia se reúne. ¡La iglesia es la familia! Nuestro mayor desafío ahora es trabajar con la segunda y tercera generación de jóvenes hispanos. No se sienten cómodos participando en un servicio religioso donde tienen que hablar español,

pero al mismo tiempo tienen la cultura y las raíces hispanas, y no encuentran su espacio en las iglesias de habla inglesa. Debemos tender puentes y trabajar juntos para tener iglesias bilingües y multiculturales que acojan a estos jóvenes y los amen como Jesús los ama.

¿Qué es lo que más esperas en tu nueva posición?

Espero poder ser una bendición para los pastores y para las iglesias. Espero que Dios me use para que venga más gente a Él.

Háblanos de tu familia.

He estado casado con **Miriam** durante veinticuatro años. Dios nos ha dado un hijo y una hija. **Arian** (20) está estudiando Física y Matemáticas en el sur de Tennessee y **Nyara** (17) se graduará en CVA en mayo. Mi esposa y yo nacimos en familias adventistas y hemos tenido la oportunidad de ir a escuelas y universidades adventistas en Argentina. Miriam se graduó como Asistente Administrativa y estudió piano. Ella trajo música a nuestras vidas, gracias a ella a mis hijos les encanta la música y tocar instrumentos.

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Basado en su experiencia pasada, Pastor Alejandro Dovald cree que “La Iglesia es la familia.” A él le gusta escuchar las historias de la gente y predicar del amor de Dios.

Ministerial Director for Hispanic Ministries

Based on his past experiences, Pastor Alejandro Dovald believes that “the church is the family.” He loves listening to people’s stories and preaching about God’s love.

Alejandro Dovald has accepted the call to join the Kansas-Nebraska Conference as associate ministerial director for Hispanic Ministries. He is currently serving as lead pastor at the Lincoln Hispanic Church in Nebraska. He will begin his work at the conference office in June.

Stephanie Gottfried, publications director, recently spoke with Pastor Dovald to learn a little more about him and his plans for this new ministry opportunity.

How long have you worked in our conference?

I have worked for the conference for over nine years. At first my pastoral district was Grand Island, Lexington and Lincoln. A growth plan and project was made, and with the support of the conference, a part-time associate pastor was hired.

After the goals were met, the district split up and I stayed in Lincoln for a time with just one church. For the past two years we have been planting a new Hispanic church in Omaha that has already grown to

over 30 members and meets at Golden Hills Church.

What have you enjoyed most about ministry?

It is difficult to answer this because there are many things that I really enjoy. I like being with people and showing them that I really love them. I really like listening to their life stories and knowing about their past and their customs. I also like to preach and show people that God cares about them and loves them.

What new challenges/opportunities do you think the role of associate ministerial director for Hispanic Ministries will bring?

When someone comes from another country they have left many things behind, and I am not talking about material things—I mean parents, cousins, friends, food and language, and without realizing they lose their sense of belonging. The gospel is not just teaching a doctrine, but inviting that person to

“belong” to the family of Christ. That is why in the Hispanic community any excuse is good to share a plate of food and spend time together.

The church is much more than a place of worship; it is the place where the family gathers. The church is the family. Our biggest challenge now is working with the second and third generation of Hispanic youth. They do not feel comfortable participating in a religious service where they have to speak Spanish, but at the same time they have the Hispanic culture and roots, and they do not find their space in English-speaking churches.

We must build bridges and work together to have bilingual and multicultural churches that welcome these young people and love them as Jesus loves them.

What are you looking forward to most in your new position?

I hope I can be a blessing to the pastors and to the churches. I hope that God uses me so that more people come to Him.

Tell us about your family.

I have been married to **Miriam** for 24 years. God has given us a son and a daughter. **Arian** (20) is studying physics and mathematics at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee and **Nyara** (17) is graduating from College View Academy in May.

My wife and I were born into Adventist families and we have had the opportunity to go to Adventist schools and universities in Argentina. She graduated as an administrative assistant and studied piano. She brought music to our lives, and thanks to her my children love music and play instruments.

Hansen Wins Space Camp Scholarship

Scheduled to attend one-week Space Camp for Educators in June

Ms. Brooke Hansen, Southview Christian School's grades 5-8 teacher, has won a one-week scholarship to attend Space Camp for Educators, sponsored by a local nonprofit organization with a mission of celebrating imagination, inspiring creativity and building our community through service and education.

Hansen will be attending Space Camp this June in Huntsville, Alabama. The program includes authentic astronaut training simulators and activities developed to promote learning in a classroom setting. Curriculum includes NASA-inspired lesson plans and is correlated to the National Science Education Standards. Hansen will also get access to their website with lesson plans, standards and tips needed to adapt many of the workshop activities to individual class environments. All tuition and travel expenses are included in this scholarship.

Space Camp is an educational camp located on the grounds of the U.S. Space &

Ms. Brooke Hansen, Southview Christian School's grades 5-8 teacher, will participate in a weeklong program that includes authentic astronaut training simulators and activities developed to promote learning in a classroom setting.

Rocket Center museum at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. It provides residential and educational programs for children and adults on themes such as space exploration, aviation and robotics.

To win, Hansen wrote and submitted a two-hour science lesson plan and an essay showing an interactive way to engage students ages 10-14 on a chosen science topic related to space, and also include a letter of recommendation from a colleague or supervisor.

Hansen teaches science to grades 2-8 at Southview Christian School, in addition to physical education and core curriculum classes for grades 5-8. We are proud and blessed to have her as one of our teachers.

Rayleen Hansen is principal and lower grades teacher at Southview Christian School in Burnsville, Minnesota.



Courtesy Minnesota Conference



Learn more at rocketcenter.com

Ministerial Director Appointed



Courtesy Minnesota Conference

Karen Lewis, pastor of the Pathways Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota, will also assume the responsibilities of serving as the conference's ministerial director.

always been a high priority for me, and I'm eager to be able to incorporate that into this new position."

The Minnesota Conference administration is pleased to announce the appointment of **Pastor Karen Lewis** to the position of ministerial director, which she will fulfill in addition to her current pastoral role with the Pathways Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

The ministerial director is responsible for pastoring, supporting, supervising, training and coaching pastors, Bible workers and church planters, along with managing local church conflicts and supporting churches when they are between pastors. When asked about the position, Pastor Lewis stated, "I'm very excited about this new phase in my ministry and consider it a real privilege. My heart is being able to connect with people and encourage them in their walk with Christ. So, mentoring and coaching has

Pastor Lewis has served in various ministerial positions since 1999, including Bible work, training, evangelism and local church pastoring. In addition, Pastor Lewis wrote the popular *Lifting Up Jesus* Bible study lessons, which are used throughout the North American Division and beyond.

Pastor Lewis graduated in May with a Master of Pastoral Ministry degree from Andrews University. Please join us in praying for and welcoming Pastor Lewis as she begins her new role as ministerial director.

Savannah Carlson is Human Resources director for the Minnesota Conference.



Learn more about Karen Lewis' ministry: bit.ly/KarenLewis-Interview.

Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy

How generations can work together

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28).

At a local church leadership meeting one day, I was chatting and laughing with an older teen during a break when he suddenly leaned over and said, “They are afraid of me. They don’t think I have the capacity nor the experience to lead and produce an impacting result for the church.”

I thought to myself, *I am too!*

I have since reflected on many occasions as to why I felt that way—or perhaps still feel that way even today. In my interaction with the various levels of church leadership, it is evident that the feeling is present there as well, otherwise younger generations would be more actively engaged and represented. Yet we know for a fact that every individual is gifted with abilities that make him or her unique and capable to contribute to society and to God’s work (*Our High Calling*, p. 289).

Perhaps the fear comes from the realization that we have built a church culture that is closely associated with our understanding of biblical principles. That in turn brings the possibility that we could experience some transformation if the new generations were to exercise control and influence in

leadership. Nevertheless, one thing is sure; time always brings change.

The text in Joel offers an interesting solution to the issue of the generation gap in the church. The ideal dynamic presented here is one of team play, where both old and young work together in fulfillment of mission. It is very evident from a simple reading of the context of Joel 2 that the Lord is promising that prior to the great day of the Lord there will be a manifestation of God’s Spirit that surpasses and overwhelms any obstacles or limitations to the knowledge of His Name. And with that outpouring, there is no age limit.

The text says, “your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” By definition, dreams are mainly related to past experiences. On the other hand, visions are mainly related to the future. Young people are often characterized as being visionaries who look to the future. An example of this is the huge Apple Corporation which began with a vision in the mind of a couple of young students and turned into a major, multi-billion-dollar corporation majorly impacting the world.

According to the Scriptures, the Spirit of God will create such a team spirit that a dreamer (based on experiences of the past) and a visionary (based on their perspective of the future) will be able to work together in

preparation for the return of the Lord. But how can that happen when the current reality is that Gen X’ers and Millennials are largely gone from our church? And Gen Z’s will soon be too—unless we reverse the trend.

In response to that reality, the NAD Ministerial Department recently hosted a “Growing Together” summit in Texas. The purpose of this gathering was to bring together intergenerational teams from as many churches as possible to learn about and embrace core commitments to “Keychain Leadership,” which entails entrusting young people with access and authority to influence their local church. This is one of the various strategies to consider in bridging that gap between young and old. Having the opportunity to concentrate on principles which make up the identity of our church and commit our youth to those principles in such a way that there

is space for some cultural change is a constructive way of addressing the trend.

The Growing Young initiative is providing specific strategies to bridge the gap between generations in the church (*Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by **Kara Powell**, et.al). It only takes one leader to create the environment for bringing young and old together.

Experience and innovation united. Dreamers and visionaries on the same team. The Lord says that it will happen. You can be that leader, if you are willing!

Eduardo Jacobo is Hispanic Ministries/Family Life Ministries coordinator for the Minnesota Conference.



Read the full article at outlookmag.org/sons-and-daughters.



An Interview with Douglas English

... on administration, ministry and VWs

Robert McAlpine Ordained



rmcsda.org/robert-mcalpine-ordained

Matthew Hasty Ordained to Gospel Ministry



rmcsda.org/matthew-hasty-ordained-to-gospel-ministry

Montrose District Pastor Nathan Cranson Ordained



rmcsda.org/montrose-district-pastor-nathan-cranson-ordained-to-the-gospel-ministry

Not altogether unknown in his ministerial role for the Rocky Mountain Conference, **Douglas English** was invited to fill the position of vice president as of April 1, a vacancy left with the retirement of **Eric Nelson**. Prior to joining the RMC team, English served as the property manager and director of trust services, stewardship, and personal ministries for the Minnesota Conference. He has served as RMC's director for planned giving and trust services since 2016.

In an interview with NewsNuggets editor **Rajmund Dabrowski**, English shared a few glimpses into his roles and personal experiences serving the Adventist Church in several regions of North America.

How has your lifelong ministry as a pastor, teacher and conference departmental director prepared you for this executive leadership role?

It's been good to have been involved with many of those different areas of church and education work, and it was important for me to understand the different positions that our own employees are involved in.

Of course, it's not always possible to have done something on every church level, and I certainly haven't, but getting a breadth of experience is important.

Rajmund Dabrowski



When reviewing your weaknesses, what needs a little bit of fine tuning?

You know the classic answer: I just give too much of myself. That's always a hard one to be able to articulate, but I'm aware of it. There are things I need to address. And one of them, frankly, is a core need of this position. This is a record keeping position. This may sound funny from somebody who's been working in trust [services] for as long as I have, but details are something I prefer leaving to somebody else. I will need to work on this and having someone keep me on track, keep me focused.

To accomplish all this and more, there is a need for prayer, and this isn't the first job that has required that. I need that on two levels. I need time with God. But it's also gratifying to know that other people are praying for me.

Looking ahead, what are some goals you can identify at the beginning of your journey?

The answer a year from now will probably be different than what I say now. Because my goal right now for the next six months is to understand my position better so I can

serve better and to learn better the situations that need to be addressed.

Currently, there are ongoing situations I've had to jump into the middle of, and my colleagues **Ed Barnett**,

George Crumley, and **Mickey Mallory** have had to say, "Well, let's give you some background."

Is there such a concept for you as having free time? How do you spend it? How do you recharge yourself?

I love working on the house and I'm a VW freak. Everybody knows that about me. I spent a better part of 16 years rebuilding an old VW because it was such a basket case. And it took that long because you can only give so much time. While I no longer own it, it's out there with a plate on it being driven right now. But what I discovered was that doing mechanical things can stress me more than relax me. Doing carpentry relaxes me. So, we bought a house that needs some upgrading. And I'm having the time of my life.

What is your message to the church?

We have a mission and when we are fulfilling it, there is joy.



Read the full interview at bit.ly/DougEnglish042021

Barnett to Retire in August



Rajmund Dabrowski

“What I will miss is the people,” Ed Barnett said.

The conference office staff was stunned and is still absorbing the news of the announcement made by Ed Barnett, RMC president. On April 6, at the end of their first in-person staff meeting of 2021, Barnett told his staff he is planning to retire on Aug. 31.

Barnett met his partner in ministry, Shirley, while at Pioneer Valley Academy, but their ministry together didn't begin until February 1979 when they graduated from Atlantic Union College. “She was an RN and I had a theology degree,” he reminisced. After 42 years, Shirley still looks forward to traveling to do ministry together.

Barnett has served in several conferences in a variety of positions, including the Minnesota Conference as president. His introduction to the Rocky Mountain Conference began when he served as the senior pastor of Denver South Church in the early 2000s, and as RMC president since 2014.

Barnett says he feels comfortable retiring knowing the Rocky Mountain Conference is strong and will continue to advance God's kingdom. He

often points to being blessed by God with the “generosity of our members as they continue to build the mission of the church.”

Barnett would like his legacy to be the knowledge he encouraged on how to grow healthy churches and have open conversations in the church about the quality of Christian life, “where Jesus is at the center of all we do.” Barnett said what is most important for our churches is to bring back our missing members.

Gary Thurber, Mid-America Union Conference president and former RMC president, commented on Barnett's decision to retire: “Ed Barnett is one of those rare people who—no matter what task he has to do—excels. He has a gift as an administrator. Everyone who worked for Ed both in RMC and Minnesota when he served as president loved him because of his wisdom, kindness and passion for mission.”

For Barnett's lifelong friend and ministry partner, Brighton Church pastor Wayne Morrison, Barnett's passion for leadership will be missed. “Ed is able to be both a friend and a leader, always encouraging, and a steady example of leaning into Jesus. Some may think of golf as his passion, but more than golf, [his passion is] evangelism, Christian education and sharing the love of Jesus in all aspects of church and social interactions!”

Diane Harris, newly appointed RMC director of education, said, “I have known Ed for many years. As my pastor, he dedicated my

oldest daughter, then baptized her many years later. As my conference president, he has been an incredible supporter of Adventist education and his leadership and ministry will be greatly missed.”

Barnett's leadership and friendship are valued by many, including Rajmund Dabrowski, RMC communication director. “What will stay with me after Ed retires is his honesty, openness and total commitment to the Good News of Jesus Christ. He inspired me by his reaction to every issue of the RMC quarterly magazine *Mountain Views* and often said, ‘Keep the conversation going. There is no topic off limits in this church.’”

Jessyka Dooley, assistant youth director, says that for the youth department Barnett's legacy means support in bringing youth to leadership positions in the conference and in the churches.

“Our youth ministry team has been lucky to serve in a conference where the president is so incredibly supportive of relevant ministry,” Dooley added.

A message that has been at the foundation of Barnett's life ministry is: “Jesus is coming soon! Make Jesus the center of who you are and how you fulfill His mission.”

RMCNews

Read the full story at rmcsda.org/barnett-to-retire.

COVID's Toll on Mental Health: Champion Students Share Their Struggles



rmcsda.org/covids-toll-on-mental-health-champion-students-share-their-struggles

Fort Morgan Lighthouse School Birthday Boxes Bring Joy to the Community



rmcsda.org/fort-morgan-lighthouse-school-birthday-boxes-bring-joy-to-the-community

Springs Academy Students Have Fun Talking About God



rmcsda.org/springs-academy-students-have-fun-talking-about-god

Union Plans for “Normal” Semester Next Fall

Photos: Scott Cushman/Union College

As COVID levels continue to drop across the country and vaccinations become more widely available, Union College has announced plans to reopen in person next fall, returning to a near pre-pandemic state.

“We are committed to an in-person campus experience in the fall, and we hope to return to as close to ‘normal’ as possible—much like we did prior to the pandemic,” said **Vinita Sauder**, Union College president. “While none of us can foresee the future, our fall plans are based on the assumption that everyone in our campus community who chooses to be vaccinated will be by then.”

The college expects all



classes to be conducted in person, dining services to return to normal and to resume a full schedule of varsity athletics and group travel.

Sauder explained that the college must be ready to adapt to any new threats presented by COVID, and will

still have provisions in place to safeguard the campus—including isolation rooms for positive cases. “We have yet to determine whether face coverings will be required next fall,” she added. “We will continue to work closely with our public health department

to ensure the safety of our students and employees.”

The campus community is thankful for God’s protection during the 2020-21 school year. “God has kept His promise to protect us this school year and we believe He will continue to watch over us,” Sauder said. “As the psalmist said, ‘The Lord will ... watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore’ (Psalm 121:7-8 NIV).”

Union’s planning team will continue to work on fall plans throughout the summer and post updates as they are available.

.....
Ryan Teller is director of integrated marketing communications for Union College.

Renovate more Rees Hall rooms

Maranatha is returning to Union College **June 6-18, 2021**, to renovate another 27 women’s residence rooms.

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Brian Garcia

Home is where the ministry is

Aiea, Hawaii, is far from home for a boy from Pharr, Texas. “I never wanted to leave home,” confessed **Brian Garcia**, a 2020 Union College graduate. “I’ve always wanted to be home. I’ve always wanted to be with family in the familiar place I grew up.”

But God had other plans. Brian didn’t grow up in a typical Adventist home, but the seeds of faith planted by his mom blossomed into impromptu ministry at his public high school. Friends and acquaintances, recognizing a difference in Garcia, called on him for encouragement, prayer and advice on building a relationship with God.

“Never did I think I’d be a pastor,” Garcia explained. “It was something I actively tried to run away from because my friends would always tease me by calling me ‘Pastor Brian.’”

Despite his reluctance, Garcia listened to God’s call—even when it sounded like teasing. When it came time to attend college, he was unsettled, moving schools three times before deciding to study theology at another Adventist college.

“Going into theology was a kind of ‘thank you’ to God for keeping me alive through all the craziness of life I’d been through,” Garcia shared. “I believe God orchestrated it all knowing that this is where I’m meant to be.”

But a friend convinced him to give Union a try. And when Garcia walked through the God-opened door to

Union College, he found something special, something his heart longed for—he found a family.

This new family included his professors, fellow students and the wider community of believers.

One afternoon, sitting outside, struggling to guide a friend through a difficult situation, Garcia encountered this family of faith in the shape of a man.

“This man comes over and starts giving a Bible study, sharing the exact words we needed to hear,” Garcia recalled. “I thought to myself, *I don’t know what’s different about him, but I want that; I want to be that.* That character wasn’t just found in **Tyler Morrison** (an enrollment counselor at Union at the time),” he continues, “it was a communal thing. Everyone was amazing. They loved without expecting anything back. They loved with this family feeling.”

Garcia also found this family trait in his professors: “I was so different from the other students. I was still a little ghetto,” Garcia confessed. “I don’t hide where I come from; it’s very different from Union’s culture; Lincoln’s culture. Still, they were able to work with me where I was and helped me grow.”

It blossomed in his fellow students: “We had a real brotherhood,” Garcia remembered. “We navigated our faith together. To this day we talk about how we’re growing in Christ. We continuously edify each other. Union was the perfect place for me to



Brian Garcia (right) says the friendships he built at Union help keep him grounded in his faith.

grow spiritually.”

It flowed from the pastor at Allon Chapel where Garcia interned. “**Pastor Larivaux** taught me that being a pastor isn’t just about the people who attend,” Garcia said. “You are the pastor of the community. You are a worker of God in every single facet of your life and where you live. Pastor Larivaux gave me that foundation of being a local church pastor and put in the work. Even today he advises me.”

And it was evident throughout the congregation of Allon Chapel: “The church family I gained at Allon Chapel is great,” Garcia said. “They still encourage me and let me know they’re praying for me. The family I have there was an enormous blessing.”

But this character of love didn’t stop at the Lincoln city limits; Garcia also found it flourishing in Hawaii. Because of the connections he made at Union, Garcia was offered an opportunity to serve for a year as the volunteer youth pastor at the Aiea Church in Hawaii. Despite

COVID-19 restrictions, his new Hawaiian church family found ways to connect. Like all good families, they fed him, taught him important skills (like surfing), planned FaceTime and Zoom meetings, invited him to COVID-conscious events, and even asked about his love life.

“Hawaii reminds me of home so much!” Garcia shares. “The climate, the family-oriented culture, the friendliness that can be found in the form of what we call southern hospitality back home, I have found in the spirit of Aloha here. They are truly a great bunch of people who have welcomed me in as one of their own with arms spread wide.”

Even though Aiea, Hawaii, is far from home, Garcia found his ohana. And no matter where God calls him next, this extended family is waiting to welcome him into their hearts.

Trena Reed is a Union College graduate and freelance writer based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Bozzetti, Ann, b. May 7, 1923 in Rapid City, SD. d. Sept. 9, 2020 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 4 brothers. Survivors include husband Tony; son Louis; 1 granddaughter.

Butt, Randy Eugene, b. Nov. 24, 1947 in Berkeley, CA. d. April 26, 2021 in Warrensburg, MO. Member of Warrensburg Church. Preceded in death by son Robert. Survivors include wife Mary; 1 sister; 1 brother; 1 grandchild.

Chase, Jerry Curtis, b. Sept. 7, 1949 in Bismarck, ND. d. April 29, 2021 in Hebron, ND. Member of Richardton (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Pam; stepdaughter Kerry McCone; 3 sisters; 1 foster brother; 2 grandchildren.

Cochran, Alethea, b. Oct. 11, 1930 in Union Springs, NY. d. Nov. 18, 2020 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Cleveland (ND) Church. Preceded in death by son Stevie; 1 sister; 4 brothers; 1 grandchild. Survivors include daughters Diana Johnson, Taresa, and Wendy Mayer; son Larry; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren.

Dewey, Doreen, b. March 27, 1933. d. Jan. 17, 2021. Member of Palisade (CO) Church. Preceded in death by son Edward Morgan. Survivors include daughters Nina Wright and Brenda; son Don; several grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

Fairchild, Edna Mae, b. June 21, 1927 in Erie, PA. d. March 8, 2021 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Kingsville (MO) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Betty Jean. Survivors include husband Dale; son Dave; 5 grandchildren. Adventist teacher for 35 years.

Fisher, Sheldon, b. March 12, 1927 in Antelope, ND. d.

May 2, 2021 in Antelope, ND. Member of Richardton (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include former wife Kathleen; daughters Sharon Messer, Vaunda, Sheleen, and Shannon Drake; son Craig; foster son Robert Lee; 22 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren.

Haynes, Rose, b. April 10, 1933. d. Oct. 8, 2020 in Mitchell, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church.

Marohl, Gina Ann, b. May 16, 1961 in Milbank, SD. d. May 5, 2021 in Aberdeen, SD. Member of Aberdeen Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include husband Clifford; 1 sister; 2 brothers.

Peterson, Perry Eugene, b. Jan. 16, 1934 in Farmer, SD. d. Jan. 6, 2021 in Loveland, CO. Member of Fort Collins (CO) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Valeta; daughters Teri and Lori Herrera; son Norman; sisters Karen Wade and Normalie West; 8 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Rushold, Carroll, b. May 8, 1930 in Minneapolis, MN. d. April 29, 2021 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by grandson Kevin Campbell. Survivors include wife Arlene; daughters Candy and Connie Heinrich; son Timothy; sister Sally Parsons; 9 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Sanchez, Orva June, b. June 10, 1930 in St. Helena, CA. d. April 17, 2021 in Plainville, KS. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include husband Paul; sons Ralph, Dan and Scott; 3 grandchildren. Held many church positions though out the U.S. and Chile.

Schaefer, George, b. Aug. 29, 1955 in Casper, WY. d. April 7, 2021 in Salina, KS. Member of Salina Church.

Preceded in death by sister Millicent. Survivors include wife Mona; children Roena, Stephen, and LuAnne; stepchildren Brianna and Cameron; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren.

Siewert, Darrell, d. March 17, 2021. Survivors include 3 brothers; 1 sister.

Siewert, Nancy, b. April 3, 1955 in Rochester, MN. d. April 14, 2021 in Faribault, MN. Preceded in death by brother Darrell. Survivors include stepmother Gloria; 3 brothers.

Sutton, Dan R., b. April 29, 1946 in Oshkosh, NE. d. April 12, 2021 in Alliance, NE. Member of Alliance Church. Survivors include wife Kathy; children Gwen, Corey, Raye and Dustin; 3 sisters; 1 brother; 7 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Talley, Betty, b. March 20, 1944 in Mohall, ND. d. Oct. 26, 2020 in Velva, ND. Member of Minot (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 3 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include son Royce; 2 brothers; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Wright, John Kenneth Jr., b. Oct. 31, 1945 in Louisville, KY. d. Nov. 22, 2020 in Wichita, KS. Member of Wichita Cornerstone Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers; 2 grandchildren. Survivors include wife Ruby; daughters Jania and Jara Stewart; son John K., III; sisters Carol Smart, Shelia Jones, Vicki Burgin-Briggs, and Tarlena Burgin; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

June 2021					
	JUNE 4	JUNE 11	JUNE 18	JUNE 25	
COLORADO	Denver	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:32
	Grand Junction	8:36	8:40	8:42	8:44
	Pueblo	8:18	8:21	8:24	8:25
IOWA	Davenport	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:40
	Des Moines	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52
	Sioux City	8:58	9:03	9:05	9:06
KANSAS	Dodge City	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05
	Goodland	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:17
	Topeka	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52
MINNESOTA	Duluth	8:57	9:02	9:05	9:06
	International Falls	9:10	9:15	9:18	9:20
	Minneapolis	8:55	8:59	9:02	9:03
MISSOURI	Columbia	8:31	8:34	8:37	8:38
	Kansas City	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:48
	St. Louis	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:29
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	8:54	8:58	9:00	9:02
	North Platte	9:11	9:15	9:18	9:19
	Scottsbluff	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33
NORTH DAKOTA	Bismarck	9:32	9:37	9:40	9:41
	Fargo	9:16	9:21	9:24	9:25
	Williston	9:49	9:54	9:57	9:58
SOUTH DAKOTA	Pierre	9:21	9:25	9:28	9:29
	Rapid City	8:31	8:36	8:38	8:40
	Sioux Falls	9:03	9:08	9:10	9:12
WYOMING	Casper	8:39	8:44	8:46	8:47
	Cheyenne	8:27	8:32	8:34	8:35
	Sheridan	8:49	8:53	8:56	8:57

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EMPLOYMENT

Food Service Coordinator opening at Glacier View Ranch, Ward, Colorado. Job description and application link: www.rmcsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator.

Natural Way Mills, an Adventist-owned organic flour mill and whole grains processor since 1973, is

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Stallanth Health, a rural health clinic in Weimar, California, is accepting applications for a Family Practice physician and an NP or PA to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanth-health.com.

Union College seeks candidates for a Business Program professor to prepare professionals for Christian service in the business world. MBA or master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Please view job description and instructions for application under faculty jobs at ucollege.edu/employment.

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

EVENTS

Join Union Springs Academy in celebrating 100 years of ministry, service and God's blessings at our Centennial Alumni Weekend Sept. 17-19, 2021. Sabbath service speaker is Ted Wilson, GC President. Honored speakers include Bill Knott, Gary Blanchard and John Thomas. Visit our website for details and updates! unionspringsacademy.org

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Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Sept. 17-18, 2021: Alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. The 2020-21 Honor Classes are: '40, '41, '45, '46, '50, '51, '55, '56, '60, '61, '65, '66, '70, '71, '75, '76, '80, '81, '82, '83. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Plan to attend. For more information: Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368 or email: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Plainview Adventist Academy, Sheyenne River Academy, and Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 1-2, 2021 at Dakota Adventist Academy. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '46/47, '51/52, '56/57, '61/62, '66/67, '71/72, '76/77, '81/82, '86/87, '91/92, '96/97, '01/02, '06/07, '11/12, '16/17. Call 701.751.6177 x212 or visit our website: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

LEGAL NOTICE OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the ninth session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held Sept. 12, 2021 at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. This regular session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports, electing officers, adopting a constitution and bylaws, and transacting such business as may properly come before the session. The meeting will convene Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021. The delegates to this session are the regularly elected delegates from the conferences and institutions in the territory of the Mid-America Union Conference.

Gary Thurber, president
Hubert J. Morel Jr., vice president for administration

LEGAL NOTICE OF THE QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE MID-AMERICA UNION, CENTRAL UNION AND NORTHERN UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATIONS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists, legal corporations, the regular business session will be held at the time of the ninth business session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting of the associations will convene Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees, receive reports and to transact business that may properly come before the corporation at that time. The members of these associations are the accredited delegates in attendance at the meeting of the Mid-America Union Conference Session.

Gary Thurber, president
Troy Peoples, vice president for finance

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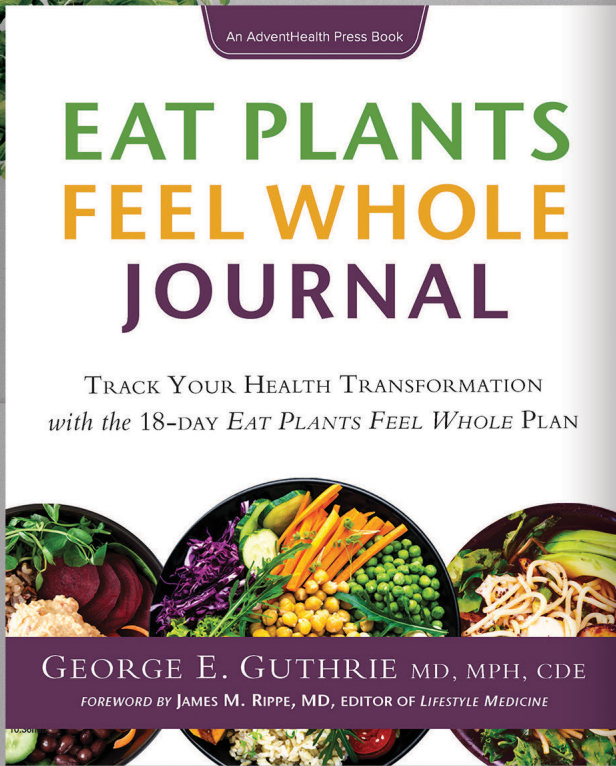


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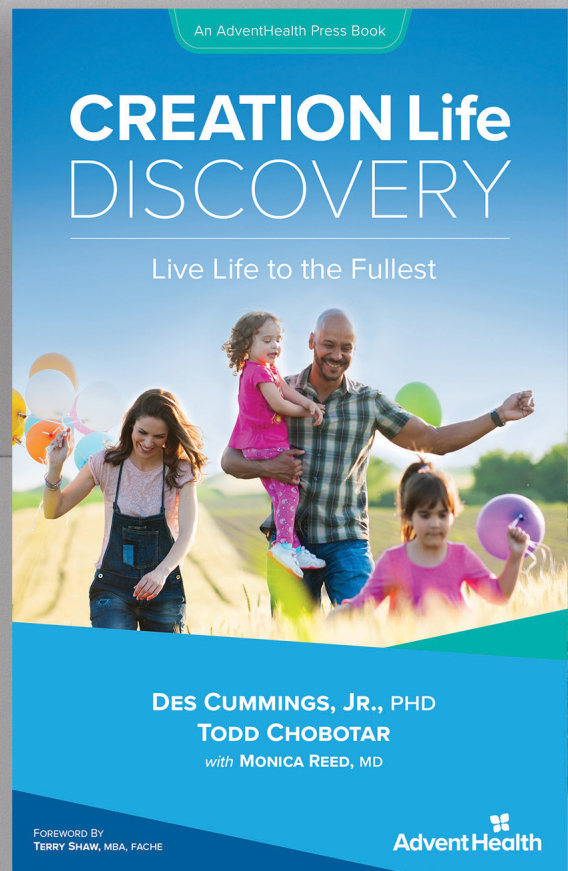
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