

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

OUTLOOKMAG.ORG



CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF

*Learning*

JULY/AUG  
2021





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—Gerard Ban

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**“Adventist education is the longest and largest evangelistic event in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” —p. 4**



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## THE GIFT OF LEARNING

When the first Adventist school opened in 1872 in Battle Creek, Michigan, no one imagined that today the Seventh-day Adventist Church would be operating nearly 9,500 similar centers of learning around the world with an enrollment of over 2 million students.

This issue of OUTLOOK magazine takes a look at a few of the facts surrounding Adventist education here in Mid-America, shares some of the many stories of impacting students' lives, and celebrates the spiritual leadership of our seven academy students receiving Caring Heart Awards.

Does a student you know need the benefit of being in an Adventist school this fall? Please pray about it. Consider talking to others at your church, including your pastor. And perhaps together you can help make it a reality.



**BRENDA DICKERSON**  
editor



## ON THE COVER

Jennifer DeFluiter, head teacher at Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in South Dakota, visits Mt. Rushmore with some of her students.

More on p. 6  
Photo by Amy Aldrich

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# Remote. and Learning

**“Adventist education is the longest and largest evangelistic event in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”**

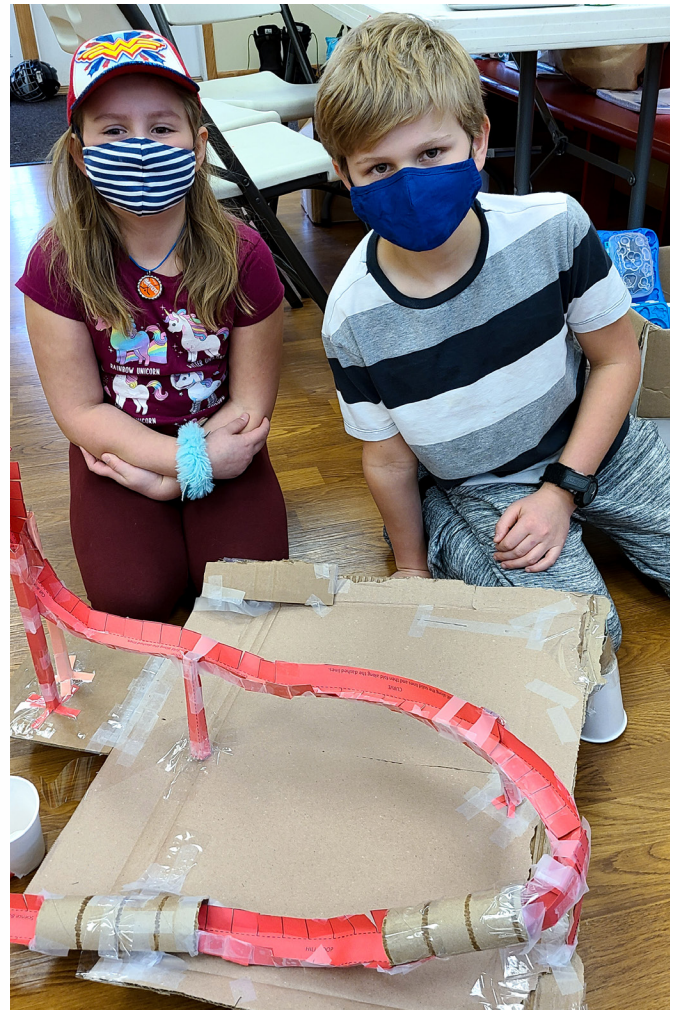
—John Wesley Taylor V, associate education director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church

To say that things have been challenging for PK-12 educators in the Mid-America Union Conference this past year is an understatement.

Education overall in the United States faced a crisis again with the looming threat of the coronavirus pandemic forcing schools across the country to develop new strategies for education, provide training for school staff and students in cybersecurity/online learning strategies, and install monitoring/filtering software on school-issued devices. Additionally, many students were not able to fully participate in their school’s education program due to limitations of devices and/or internet access.

## *Looking back*

Throughout the school year, teachers continued to brainstorm strategies for keeping students connected and engaged. Students and teachers need to connect countless times throughout the day, whether for class discussions, teacher-student conferencing or just chatting about upcoming projects or



events. Remote learning can be frustrating given the many interruptions and distractions of “doing the business of school” virtually while in the home environment.

Student engagement—both academically and

emotionally—fast became a concern. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the mental health of many students. Throughout the United States, depression, anxiety and suicidal thought rates significantly



# Hybrid

## Largely successful across Mid-America



increased within youth. The Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey found that 56 percent of young adults reported feeling symptoms of anxiety or depression and 26 percent experienced suicidal thoughts at some point during the past year.\*

“Since the pandemic started, it has been hard for me to stay positive,” a student from Campion Academy in Colorado said. “Before COVID, I had struggled with anxiety already and the pandemic only added to the problem. I have struggled with social anxiety the most since I haven't been able to interact with others regularly. However, God has been the main frame of happiness in my life, and I have learned how much I need to lean on Him in difficult times.”

Our administrators and teachers have worked hard to meet the academic and emotional needs of their students, while at the same time following COVID-19 safety protocols. They have continued to work together to meet our high standards of Adventist education during these many months as the COVID-19 virus is being dealt with and managed. (Surf any of our schools' Facebook pages to see the creative ways God shone through the actions of our students and teachers.)

Even though we had to add virtual education, our educators met the challenges and worked with their students to not only provide a good education but to also show Jesus to their students. This pandemic brought us

closer in our relationship with each other and with our God.

### *Looking forward*

There are many priorities facing school administrators as we plan for the next school year. As you know, the mental health of our students and the staff must be at the top of the list because until they feel safe at school—physically, socially and emotionally—it will be more difficult to close learning gaps or address other academic concerns.

I just want to say thank you to all our administrators, teachers and support staff. You all have made this year a success, and not just academically. By adjusting your school's “normalcy,” you have been able to model Jesus to the young people in your school and to all our young people

in the Mid-America Union Conference.

We can only hope that the future will bring a safe return to a normal transformation of what we miss when we were in-person, face to face, without having to have a masked environment. We actively solicit your prayers for the educators and administrators across the Mid-America Union Conference. **0**

*\*Panchal, N., Kamal, R., Cox, C., & Garfield, R. (2021). The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/>*

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#### GERARD BAN

is associate director of education for the Mid-America Union Conference.





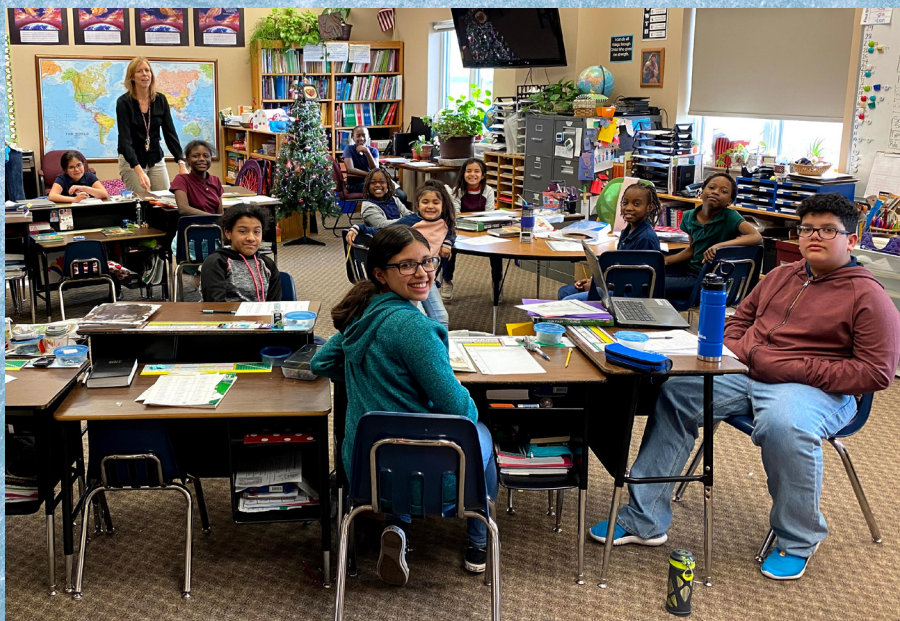
# ADVENTIST *Education*

## Offering Something Better

**I**n the spring of 2020, schools came to an abrupt halt, retooled, and carried on. Our teachers had to turn on a dime and completely change how to provide our students Something Better. Everyone thought things would be back to normal by fall.

And some form of normalcy did return. Teachers and students met together in the classroom or virtually, depending on the circumstances in their community. Teachers meeting in person had the added responsibility of cleaning and disinfecting the classroom, taking temperatures, ensuring masks were on and social distancing measures were followed. Our teachers still provided Something Better, in spite of the obstacles they faced. Here are a few of their stories.

At Springs Adventist Academy in Colorado, teacher Michelle Velbis looked for ways to engage the six young men in her classroom. Consequently, she arranged for an outdoor education field trip to the Catamount Institute in Colorado Springs. They spent the day building forts, bird watching, hiking, playing in a stream, building windmills, and learning about

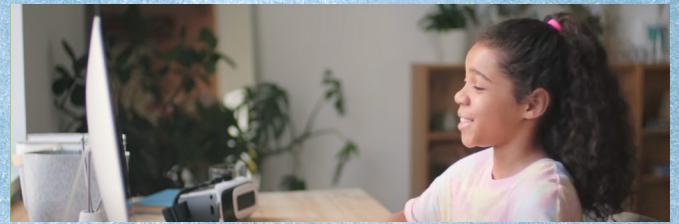


renewable resources. Some of the students had never built forts outside before.

“Building the shelter and learning some survival skills was my favorite part of the field trip,” commented a seventh-grader. Velbis observed that “being out in nature and reinforcing our science and Bible lessons was such a blessing. During this time of COVID-19 and other stressful events, it felt right to let the young people find some reprieve from all of that and soak up God’s creation.”

Matt Daarud, teacher at Summit View Adventist School in Iowa, challenged his students to adopt a community service project. One student suggested that they participate in a food drive. Research showed that one in seven families in the Kansas City area currently experience food insecurity, and so the students decided that this would be their project. The Home and School leader found out about the Bless KC Food Collection, and the students decided to participate in that food drive.





The leader brought 10 grocery bags and distributed them to the students to hand out in their communities.

However, the entire school body caught the vision and began collecting grocery bags of food donated by neighbors, family and friends. Within two weeks, grocery sacks covered the school lobby. Exactly 126 sacks were delivered to the drop-off point. The students at Summit View were delighted that their efforts in being the hands and feet of Jesus were a blessing to many.

Teacher Debra Eszler reported that several months ago, a fourth-grader at Brentwood Adventist Christian School in North Dakota made a prayer request for the soon return of Jesus. The other students agreed and that request has remained on the prayer request board ever since. During this time of COVID-19, many of the school's traditional outreach activities have been curtailed, but that hasn't stopped the students from looking forward to Christ's soon return, nor dampened their

desire to invite others to know Jesus as their Savior.

Students chose seniors in the church to write letters to and encourage. Many seniors have written back. One student even asked if they could write their person from home, too! The students also participated in a food drive. Brentwood School keeps their focus on Rev. 22:20: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Carlene Lang's students at Chadron's Prairie View Adventist School in Nebraska distributed 45 Random Acts of Kindness bags in the community. The students wore masks and were greeted with fist bumps, handshakes and smiles from the recipients. Students wrote an encouraging message on the bags and put a hot chocolate packet, cup, spoon and napkin inside.

Minnesota teachers have also gone above and beyond. Many were teaching in a hybrid environment with some students at school and some online. This could change from week to week as students were either exposed

to or became ill with COVID-19. Teachers have been flexible and understanding, giving extra time to complete assignments and working alongside students to ensure success.

Technology was embraced to facilitate instruction and collection of assignments. Since traditional field trips were not possible, virtual field trips were planned. Worship services and weeks of prayer were conducted via Zoom, since it was important to limit onsite guests.

Grades 5-8 students at Wichita Adventist Christian Academy in Kansas celebrated Veterans' Day last fall by creating and presenting to the whole class informational posters about Veterans' Day. Teacher Heidi Grecian says the students "were very eager to learn about what the day signifies, who it honors and how it came to be. They created some really nice posters and spent the day honoring our veterans."

The science unit on the circulatory system came to life for fifth- and sixth-grade students in Paul Bragaw's "can-do"





themed classroom at HMS Richards School in Colorado when they dissected lamb hearts. For many, this was their first experience with dissection.

Zachary, a fifth-grader, thought that “it was going to be disgusting and I was afraid I was going to faint. But, when we cut it open, it wasn’t so bad, and it was cool that we could actually touch it and move it, so we could understand our hearts better.” Bragaw finds it important to include a variety of hands-on activities because he sees that they capture the students’

attention and make them excited to learn. “Students were in awe of how God has created the body, especially the heart,” he said.

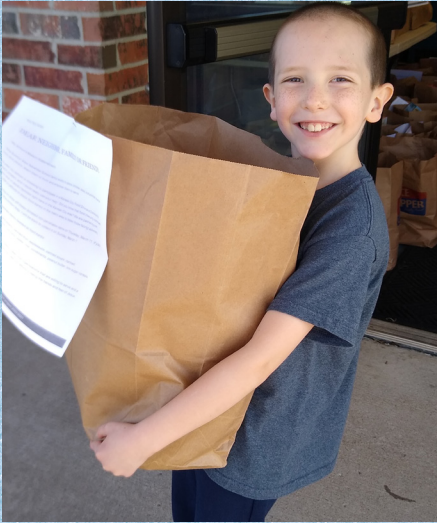
Michelle Flores, sixth grade teacher at College View Academy in Nebraska, brought pen pals into the age of technology. Instead of writing to students in another part of the country or world, her students were zooming with their new “Zoom Pals.” Mrs. Flores had a connection at an English Institute in Argentina. The sixth graders enjoyed zooming with

pals in Argentina who could practice their English skills with their new friends at College View Academy.

*We want to recognize that even though our teachers have done so well and have made our school systems shine, it has not been without cost. Our teachers are exhausted—physically, mentally and emotionally. However, throughout it all, they have sought to continue to provide “Something Better” for their students. Please pray for the strength of all to be renewed this summer,*



# WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



*Students across Dakota recently shared their thoughts about their school. Here are a few:*

"I love Hillcrest because it teaches me about God. Hillcrest makes learning very fun. God wants to be with us. He loves us a lot! I also get to see my first to fourth grade friends. I enjoy recess and lunch because I can visit with my friends. That's why Hillcrest is a great place to go to school."

**Fourth Grade Student**



"When I first came to this school I had a bad attitude and was not used to Christian schools. I also had a hard time getting along with others and making friends. I did not like handwriting. Over the years, my attitude has gotten better and better. Now I'm getting along with others and I'm making more and more friends. God has changed me ever since I came to Brentwood."

**Eighth Grade Student**



"Sioux Falls Adventist School is a fun and safe environment for me and all my fellow peers . . . God has impacted my life through the school when we were giving things to the kids with disabilities. I enjoyed making the blankets and buying gifts for the kids. Some of the things that were fun at school were the last day of school, like going to the Omaha Zoo and the school picnic. Mrs. Shumaker has been the only teacher I have ever had and she is amazing."

**Sixth Grade Student**

*and for a safe and healthy return to school in the fall. 0*

LouAnn Howard, director, and Gerard Ban, associate director, lead the Mid-America Union Conference's Office of Education.





# Caring Heart

## 2020-21

Each school year, senior academies in the North American Division select a junior or senior student with a strong citizenship record, a personal commitment to witnessing and service, and an overall positive influence on their campus to receive a \$500 scholarship, a plaque and an engraved Bible.

### Campion Academy



*Milka*  
**Mendoza Sanchez**

As student chaplain, Milka has exemplified a heart of service and compassion in everything she does. Her commitment to sharing her testimony of God's work in her life has made her relatable to the student body, and her spiritual leadership has encouraged others to grow in their own walk with Christ. She has warmed the campus with her outgoing personality, kind heart and prayerful disposition. Her dedication to the student chaplaincy position has made her a valued and admired servant leader.

### Sunnydale Adventist Academy



*Olivia*  
**McIntosh**

Olivia is a four year senior who impacts others with a caring heart and a smile. Olivia's love for service is evident in her life path from mission service in Africa, India and here at home in New Mexico at LaVida Mission. She is a quiet leader, an Associated Student Body officer for the past two years, always ready to help and looking for what needs to be done before being asked. Olivia loves volleyball, helping others, family and Jesus! The staff and students of Sunnydale congratulate Olivia and wish her the best in her coming educational endeavor at Union College.

### Mile High Adventist Academy



*Liesel*  
**Kahler**

Liesel lives with a "caring heart." Despite the pandemic, Liesel (an active member of the Denver South Church) has continued to find ways to be a servant to others in her community. She is quick to jump in during community service projects, bringing energy and positivity. More importantly, she is the kind of person who sees the needs around her day in and day out. She has a knack for understanding situations and what must be done to make someone else feel more comfortable, included or heard. Liesel has proven that even when service projects are limited by circumstances, a person can still live with a servant's heart.



# Awards

## Maplewood Academy



## College View Academy



## Dakota Adventist Academy



## Midland Adventist Academy



## Gilead Tarus

The coolest thing about Gilead is his head-over-heels love for Jesus and how that love spills over to everyone around him. Since his freshman year, Gilead has impressed others with his genuine kindness and his joy in sharing Jesus with others. Gilead is following God's call to be a fisher of men through encouraging words, prayer in the hallways with classmates and the Bible studies he has started in the dorms. These seemingly small actions are flaring up to a powerful spiritual fire on our campus. Maplewood is proud of Gilead and we full-heartedly congratulate him on his graduation and receiving the Caring Heart Award.

## Kylie Bock

The faculty and staff at College View Academy have chosen Kylie to receive the Caring Heart Award because we feel she exemplifies the true meaning of Christian love. She has a passion for helping others and her participation in student-led campus ministries activities and community outreach make her a perfect candidate. Kylie has a heart for people! During this school year she noticed that a student was coming to school without a lunch day after day and she started bringing extra food so this student was never hungry. Kylie is aware of how others feel and she wants all students to be included in school and social activities.

## Colter Roffler

Colter is a senior who served as an RA and participated in music activities and all intramural athletics. He spends time working in the auto shop, is a member of DAA's strings ensemble and participates in regional conference gatherings as well as other worship opportunities, including leading dorm worship and vespers. Colter has spoken for church services on campus as well as in his home church, and actively encourages other students to do the same. He also serves as the spiritual vice president for the student association and the senior class and is an active member of the National Honor Society.

## Jordan Anderson

Throughout her high school years Jordan has been involved in music, helping to lead praise and worship during chapel, writing her own songs and singing in the choir. During her junior and senior years, she has helped more students become involved in worship by being the student leader of Midland's Campus Ministries team. Jordan is also actively involved in worship ministry at the Beacon Light Church. Her mentorship of others will continue to bless students for years to come.



# 10 Reasons Adventist Schools Work:

## Spiritual Focus

**1** Seventh-day Adventist schools focus on preparing students not just for success in this life, but for eternity. The ultimate goal of each teacher is to see each student in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Student-Teacher Ratio

**2** Most Seventh-day Adventist schools have a low student-teacher ratio. This allows for more individualized attention and instruction. “The benefits of smaller classes extend beyond test scores and student engagement. In addition to the longer-term positive attributes of small class sizes in the early grades, benefits include continued academic and life success.”

[www2.ncte.org/statement/why-class-size-matters](http://www2.ncte.org/statement/why-class-size-matters)

## Academic Achievement

**3** CognitiveGenesis, a four year study of 30,000 students enrolled in Seventh-day Adventist schools across North America found that students in Seventh-day Adventist schools achieve an average of half a grade above predicted ability in all subjects.

## Tailored Curriculum

**4** Seventh-day Adventist schools benefit from a curriculum especially designed for single and multigrade classrooms. The North American Division Office of Education has developed excellent, high-quality, standards-based materials for all classrooms. The curriculum is designed so that students are constantly connected with Christ and the possibilities He has for each life.

## Family Atmosphere

**5** Seventh-day Adventist schools have a family atmosphere that is similar to what students encounter in the real world outside the classroom. “The range of social relationships students build in a multilevel classroom more closely reflects the social situations individuals encounter in workplaces, communities, and families.” [edu.gov.mb.ca](http://edu.gov.mb.ca)

## Involved Parents

**6** Parents appreciate the stable learning community of Adventist schools and the stronger relationships they are able to develop with their child’s teacher. There are more opportunities for parents to be involved whether it is volunteering in the classroom, assisting with a field trip, or serving on the local school board.

## Peer Tutoring

**7** “The benefits of having older students offer assistance to younger students are supported by research. Studies show that both the student being tutored and the student doing the tutoring improve academically.”

Anderson, R.H. and B. Paven.  
*Nongradeness: Helping it Happen*

## Community Service

**8** Students in Seventh-day Adventist schools are encouraged to become active members of the local community through various community service projects. From putting on a musical program at the nursing home to raking leaves for an elderly person in the school neighborhood, students are actively engaged in showing God’s love to the world.

## Higher Education

**9** “A national survey found that 75% of high school dropouts in the United States said that providing smaller classes with more individualized attention would have improved their likelihood of graduating from high school.”

Bridgeland, John M. *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*

Students who attend Seventh-day Adventist schools are more likely to attend college. Over 85% of graduates from Seventh-day Adventist high schools attend college and over 80% of them complete college degrees. This is compared to 66% and 14% of public high school students respectively.

## Remediation & Enrichment

**10** In single and multigrade classrooms, remediation and enrichment activities can be more discreetly arranged than in traditional classrooms.





**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





## How the Secret Sauce in Adventist

*“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children.” Isa. 54:13.*

There is a phrase that I remember hearing used when I was young to describe children born to parents of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. This phrase was “You were born into this church.” I recognized that the assumption was because my parents were Adventist that I was automatically “in the church.” But as I grew up, I realized I may have been born to Adventist parents but I certainly was not born saved. And here is where I will testify about how Adventist education saved my life.

It is said by leaders in the education field that the first five to seven years of a child’s life are the most important in instilling values and principles that will guide that child for the rest of his or her life. I remember attending the Barbados Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Infants A and Infants B; that would be equivalent to kindergarten and first grade here in the United States.

And it was there in elementary school that I learned that my God-fearing parents weren’t crazy. The principles of knowing who I am, being created in the image of God, learning how to develop my own personal relationship with God, and so much more I learned at elementary school were the same principles I learned at home.

One of the first ingredients in the secret sauce that saved my life was that my home and school taught me the same values. I was never confused about who God was or the differences between right and wrong, regardless of the outside worldly influences that were very real.

This strong foundation kept me stable as I moved from Adventist elementary school to Adventist high schools on the islands of Barbados and Antigua; to Caribbean Union College in Trinidad and Tobago; and then to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

It was in Trinidad—then later in Michigan—far away from my parents in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, that my Adventist education foundation received more testing. Andrews University provided opportunities for me to use my gifts and talents for God, even while I was simultaneously trying to be a prodigal son, and

straddling the proverbial fence to experience the life of this far country.

There was no social media or cell phones at that time, so I thought I could do this, that and the other—without much parental supervision.

This brings me to the second ingredient of the secret sauce with Adventist education. There were always opportunities for me to encounter God.

No matter how hard I tried to find enjoyment and fulfillment in secular activities that were clearly not of God, I found myself at Black Student Christian Forum with my heart crying out for God. I would find myself being



Courtesy Avonelle Dorant

(l-r) Nicholas, Faith, Priscilla, Lydia, Karen and Cryston Josiah



# Education Saved My Life

asked to play the piano for vespers on Friday nights or for church on Sabbaths, and God's Spirit would not stop tugging on my heart-strings.

Worships and devotions on campus, and powerful sermons from the pastors (**Dr. Clifford Jones** and **Dr. Timothy Nixon**, in particular) felt like they were created and written specifically for me. I remember, even though my degree at Andrews was in business, how I would find myself being used to minister the gospel in song, even though my own religious experience was lacking.

Adventist education provided avenues for God to keep working on me that secular institutions could not have come close to giving me.

As I was completing my bachelor's in business administration with an emphasis in marketing, I remember my mother asking me this question: "Son, what are you going to market?" This was a question she had asked a few times, and my response was consistently something to the effect that it didn't matter what I was marketing once I made good money doing it. In other words, my purpose in life—my godly purpose in life—had not yet been recognized, until God made another move, thanks to Adventist Christian education.

## Creating connections

In this thing called life, God knows that we need to find good friends, close friends—even potential life partners—who will help us become closer to Him and ultimately help us secure our eternal salvation. While living around Andrews University in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana, God sent a woman from Brooklyn, New York, to Andrews University who a few years before was baptized into the Adventist Church.

**Karen** came to Andrews to further her education, but it became clear to me that God sent her to meet this third generation Adventist guy—who still did not have a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ. This newly baptized, spiritual woman of God was on fire for the Lord, and helped to re-solidify my faith in the God to whom I was introduced in Infants A.

The third ingredient of the secret sauce of Adventist education is simply that it will connect you with people who will help you make it into God's kingdom.

It has become evident based on my own personal experience that spiritual Adventist educators and pastors do indeed create an environment that allows

for our children to receive the same biblical values that are taught by our Christian parents, create spaces where our kids can encounter God, and create opportunities for us to connect with spiritually minded friends.

I believe that this basic model of home, church and school was created by God Himself so that our kids will have that great peace that He promises, not only in this

world but in the world to come. Adventist education definitely saved my life. I believe that it has saved the lives of many others. And, I believe if we remain faithful to its calling, it will save the lives of many more children who need it.

.....  
Cryston Josiah is vice president of administration for the Central States Conference.

Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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



# DAA Construction Class Remodels Faculty House

When the topic is Dakota Adventist Academy, one name that often comes up in conversation is Thompson. Having been on staff long before the planning and building

of the facility, **Tommy and Ella Mae Thompson** are well known and cherished for all their contributions to Adventist secondary education in the Dakotas. Though they have moved on from

their house on Thompson Lane, they are still influencing students.

The Thompsons' former home on faculty lane is now the classroom of the school's construction classes, where a remodel job is in progress under the tutelage of teacher **Ryan Peterson**. Working with the support of the Dakota Conference, the Construction II and III classes are getting hands-on building opportunities. They have completed the necessary demolition, which was initiated by conference maintenance director **Marlin Miller**.

Incorporating some design ideas from the students has enabled slight modifications and updates to the standard late '70s era floor plan. Moving walls to open up the space will lend a modern feel to the house. Two of the biggest changes the class has opted for are removing the wall between the kitchen and living room to allow for

an island to be added in the kitchen; and adding a doorway from the main bathroom into the master bedroom resulting in a suite. These are small changes that will make a major difference.

Students are getting a lot of firsthand experience with their classwork. They are learning about structure, esthetics, flow, electrical, drywall and much more.

Tracy Jo Peterson is Dakota Adventist Academy's recruiter and horse barn manager.



High school students who are looking for this type of vocational training are urged to contact Dakota Adventist Academy for more information: [mydaa.org](http://mydaa.org).

Photos: Ryan Peterson



(left) Skylar Longtin and Claire Playle learn about the demolition process.

Colter Roffler has learned how to use various tools, including the Sawzall.

## Discovering Jesus at an Adventist School



Janna Wright

He came into my classroom like a watermelon seed: sweet, but when you tried to contain him he would squirt away. It was a little after the beginning of the school year when he joined our school. Most of the curriculum he accomplished easily; however our Bible class was geared mostly

for standard Adventist students. He was neither standard nor Adventist.

We have a tradition in our classroom to have a "class pastor" every day who says morning, lunch and dismissal prayers, and gets to be line leader all day. It's an honor to be the pastor on your day. Of the seven



# Seeing God in Every Detail

Photos: Tabitha Coto



Like many Adventist educators, my main motivation for teaching in a church school setting versus teaching in a public school setting is the ability to openly and freely share Jesus and His love with my students. This past year that privilege seems to have presented itself more frequently and in more ways than usual.

One day, just as we were heading in from recess, one of the lower grade students noticed a perfectly formed snowflake that had landed on her glove. Then, we noticed another on her hat, one on

another hat, coats, gloves, the grass ... everywhere! We spent the next several minutes admiring God's handiwork in the striking beauty all around us. The experience left our hearts filled with thankfulness for such a sweet "little" reminder of God's love, power and careful attention to even the smallest details in our lives.

God can be found in every detail of an ordinary day at school. I have overheard lunchtime chatter filled with unprompted student dialog about God, His love, salvation and answered prayers.

students in our room, four had never prayed or had any idea what it meant. He was one of these. To change this I start out praying for them and then after a time we did echo prayers where I prayed a phrase and they echoed it. Then it progressed to them starting the prayer and me filling in any gaps, and so on. I thought he was doing well.

Then one day not too long after he arrived, we were

talking about Jesus' soon return when I said, "Won't we be glad when Jesus comes?" Then he blurted out, "I don't know Jesus, but my dad is coming to visit this weekend and that's cool!"

I decided to make a shift in Bible class plans. We started at the very beginning of who God is, what He has done for us and how very much He loves us—all with lots of stories and projects.

God and His unconditional love is a topic that weaves its way into every subject and every part of the school day; it does not have to be planned or scripted.

Our weekly Revelation studies, joint worships with our pastors, and daily class morning worships almost never end "on time." This is because we regularly find ourselves completely caught up in engaging and inspiring discussions about the devotional thought or that morning's Bible verse and what God is teaching us through it.

Our main worship topic or theme Bible verse always sparks additional topics and spiritual questions from the students. Sometimes students even bring questions they have thought of outside of school, written down and want to discuss during worship.

I treasure these opportunities and know that no extra time spent on sincere, spiritual questions is ever

wasted. On one occasion, when we had already gone far past the allotted time for morning worship, I reminded my class that it was time to wrap up and move into our other subjects. In response, a fourth grade student pleaded, "Can we not do any school work today and just spend the *whole day* with God?"

The spiritual eagerness, faith and sincere love for Jesus that is displayed in the life of my students fills my heart to overflowing and reminds me why I do what I do every day. I praise God for the opportunity to be part of my students' spiritual journeys, and for the lessons they teach me every day.

Tabitha Coto is head teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, North Dakota.

water and he would boldly stand up proclaiming to all his love for Jesus.

And so we ask for your continued prayers for our church schools as we all go on learning about Jesus.

Betty Hay is the lower grade teacher at Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary School in Dickinson, North Dakota.



## Pastor Wolfe Retires

After 35 years of pastoral ministry, **Pastor Terry Wolfe** retired at the end of May.

Terry Wolfe was born in 1946 into a family from the Netherlands. Every Sunday you would find his family attending the Dutch Reformed Church. It was during his younger years that he felt the Lord tugging on his heart to preach for God, so on many Sunday afternoons after church, he would go home and practice preaching.

Terry's father would later join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which would lead Terry to attend Grand Ledge Academy in Michigan and graduate in the

spring of 1965. After academy he attended Andrews University for one semester. From that initial semester of college, Terry would describe his next journey of life as a time of running from the Lord. He worked in a hospital, served as an Army Medic in Vietnam, and married **Judy** on June 14, 1970.

He then started attending the Catholic church and went back to college at Motlow State College in Tullahoma, Tennessee, to play college baseball. A road trip with the baseball team brought Terry close to Southern Missionary College, where his brother **John** was attending and invited him to come visit the

campus. That visit started the journey of moving back to what God was calling him to do—be a Seventh-day Adventist minister.

After a series of miracles, Terry began studying at Southern, but that too was only for a short time. In that semester, he struggled with aligning his life to what he felt were high standards of the church and what it meant to be a pastor. He once again left college and ran from the Lord and His calling.

After a 10-year journey and much growth in his faith, Terry and Judy returned to Southern. In 1985 while finishing up his studies at Southern, Terry



Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference

started pastoring three churches in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Over his 35 years of ministry, Pastor Wolfe and

## Couple Honored for Service to Army Community

**Ira and Diana Thompson** were honored by the command team at Fort Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital for their outstanding service to the Fort Leonard Wood community and their families over the past three years. Although the honor was only given for the last

three years, we know they have been volunteering and aiding area families for over 25 years.

Many military families have trouble adjusting to their new duty stations; on average they move every three years. Diana and Ira Thompson provided a strong

sense of family to retired soldiers and their families, and will continue to do so in years to come. Just this past year during the COVID pandemic, they supported seven military families to attend eight weekend campouts, which included 15 nights

camping under the stars or in tents, as well as a culminating 27-hour survival weekend challenge for the Rolla area youth.

The Thompsons each received a Commander's Challenge coin for their dedication and service. Challenge

(right) Ira and Diana Thompson each received a Commander's Challenge coin in honor of their dedication and service to military families at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

(opposite page) Ira and Diana Thompson were gifted a handcrafted coin rack from the Rolla Pathfinder club to hold and display their coins.



Photos Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference



Judy also served in the New York Conference and other districts in the Iowa-Missouri Conference. They spent the last five years serving the Ava, Branson East, and Oak Grove Heights churches in Missouri.

The Wolfes have three grown children: **Nathan, Kelly and Hunter.**

Pastor Wolfe and Judy demonstrated a strong passion for bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Adventist message.

I personally would like to say thank you to the Wolfes. It was a privilege to serve with Pastor Wolfe in the Iowa-Missouri Conference, and I

and many other pastors will miss his outgoing, fiery personality at minister's meetings.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Terry and Judy for their many years of sacrificial service to the Lord and His church. Even though he is retiring, Pastor Wolfe will continue to follow his call to ministry by seeking to bring people into a relationship with Jesus through his passion of giving Bible studies.

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

coins are highly sought after and collected. They are awarded by a handshake in which the coin is passed from the awardee to the awarder. Military members and others earn them through distinction, merit, valor and going above and beyond the call of

duty. The Rolla Pathfinder club added an additional gift of recognition for them to hold their new honors: a handcrafted coin rack!

.....  
At the time this article was written, Chelsea and Ben Wunderlich were Pathfinder directors for the Rolla, Missouri, club.



## LEGAL NOTICE OF THE QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE IOWA-MISSOURI CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Sunnysdale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 10:00 am. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers and departmental directors for the Conference, consideration of any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Session. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each 25 members, or major fraction thereof. All regularly elected delegates from the various churches of the Conference shall be seated at the meeting.

**Dean Coridan**, president  
**Robert Wagley**, executive secretary

## LEGAL NOTICE OF THE QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE IOWA-MISSOURI CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Sunnysdale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 11:00 am. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers and a board of directors for the Association, consideration of any proposal amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Session. Delegates to the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates for the Iowa-Missouri Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists.

**Dean Coridan**, president  
**Rhonda Karr**, treasurer



## Conference Welcomes New VP of

Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



**M**elvin Santos has accepted the invitation to be vice president of administration for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. An experienced, ordained pastor, Santos is currently the vp of administration for the Alaska Conference. He served in Michigan and Tennessee before moving to Alaska. He begins his ministry in our conference in July.

### Pastor Santos, please tell us a little about your experience in ministry.

I have been in pastoral ministry for 30 years. God called me at a very young age and I responded to the call. God gave me a fantastic discipleship ministry to develop Holy Spirit-filled leaders who are soul winners and church planters. God has given us front row seats when

He revived stagnant, dying churches and transformed them into thriving ones with much growth!

### What do you enjoy most about ministry?

I enjoy equipping people for ministry so they can experience their God-given potential as Christian leaders. I am also thrilled when I see people grow in their relationship with Christ and become

## Silva Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

**P**astor Diego Silva was ordained to the gospel ministry Sabbath, May 15, at a special service at Chapel Oaks Church in Shawnee, Kansas.

Silva was born in Brazil where he attended Sabbath school regularly with his grandmother. He immigrated with his mother and sister to the United States when he was six and attended public schools. During his junior year in high school, he reconnected with his Adventist

family in Brazil and consequently gave his life to Jesus. During his senior year, he sensed a call to ministry and enrolled at Hartland College in Virginia where he studied theology and met his French-Canadian wife, **Melissa**.

After completing their undergraduate ministerial training, they founded a lifestyle center and discipleship school near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and served there eight years. After returning

from Brazil in 2013, Diego served at Hartland College as the chairman of the Religion Department and taught theology courses. Diego pastored a two-church district in Eastern Montana from 2016 until 2018, and has been serving as young adult pastor at the Chapel Oaks and Lawrence Churches since 2019. Diego completed his Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University in March 2020.

Diego and Melissa have two children, **Abigail** and **Caleb**. They have been on a 14-year journey in ministry together and have loved every moment. They have

traveled to most continents, serving in pastoral and educational ministry.

They are passionate about teaching God's Word to young adults and sharing the beautiful picture of God revealed in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. They believe the Seventh-day Adventist message presents the most attractive and biblically accurate picture of God, and are excited about the adventures God will call them to in the years to come.

Stephanie Gottfried is publications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



(l-r) Sue Carlson, Women's and Family Ministries director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference; Melissa Silva; Pastor Diego Silva; and Ron Carlson, conference president



# Administration

actively involved in expanding God's kingdom. It is the reward of ministry—seeing people get excited about making a saving impact.

## What new challenges or opportunities do you think the role of vp of administration in Kansas-Nebraska will bring?

The challenge will be helping our churches find effective ways to minister during this pandemic. Life and ministry may never be the same again. We may need to adjust how we use creative methods and technology to spread the gospel and train our teams. We may need to reinvent and transform some ministries to be more effective in reaching people for Jesus.

I would like to listen and hear what everyone is doing and learn how they would like to be supported so they can do their best in partnership with God. My goal is to develop a team that loves Jesus supremely and loves their ministry to the point where they are also developing others to have ministries like them.

I would embrace the opportunity to support our ministers, teachers and Bible workers, and would love to train them to be disciple-makers so they can share in the joy of working for God.

## What are you looking forward to the most

### about joining our conference?

I am looking forward to meeting the amazing leaders and members in this conference and together exploring new opportunities to expand the kingdom of God.

### Tell us about your family.

I'm blessed to have a wonderful wife, **Juliet**, a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner, who has been in healthcare leadership for a very long time. We will be married 34 years in August. Together, we have three young adult children.

**Elizabeth**, a practice manager who now works in healthcare IT, is a graduate of Andrews University and Loma Linda University. Her husband, **Paul**, is a graduate of Southern Adventist University and specializes in HR healthcare informatics. Both work for Adventist Health in Roseville, California.

**Lauren**, a graduate of Southern Adventist University and a recent Loma Linda University School of Dentistry graduate, is now practicing in Roseville, California.

Our youngest, **Michael**, a graduate of Southern Adventist University, is a CPA and finance manager for AdventHealth in Ocala, Florida.

## LEGAL NOTICE OF THE 2021 KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS REGULAR CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the eleventh Constituency Session of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the New Haven Church, Overland Park, Kansas, on Sunday, August 29, 2021 at 11:00 am. The purpose of this regular Constituency Session is to elect members of the Conference Executive Committee, Board of Education, Conference officers and department directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this Session will be appointed by the churches from among their members, one for each church and one additional delegate for every 50 members or major fraction thereof.

**Ron Carlson**, president  
**Darin Gottfried**, association secretary and vice president for finance

## LEGAL NOTICE OF THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS 2021 REGULAR ASSOCIATION CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the eleventh Constituency Session of the Kansas-Nebraska Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a religious corporation, having its primary office located in Topeka, Kansas will be held at the New Haven Church, Overland Park, Kansas, on Sunday, August 29, 2021 at 11:00 am. The meeting is for the purpose of electing trustees and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the corporation at that time. The delegates for this meeting are the same delegates that are appointed by the churches for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference Constituency Session, meeting at the same time and place.

**Ron Carlson**, president  
**Darin Gottfried**, association secretary and vice president for finance



## Meeting Jesus at North Star Camp



Photos Courtesy North Star Camp

Since 1957, North Star Camp has been a place of ministry to the kids and youth of the Minnesota Conference. However, in summer 2020 that ministry looked strangely different.

With high-level COVID restrictions, gathering kids from multiple households for overnight camp was not a possibility. So, a small team of staff brought digital ministry to the campers.

In 2020 North Star Camp staff produced a skit on the life of Paul to share virtually.

## Lewis Graduates in Surprise Ceremony at Pathways Church

In efforts to reduce the spread of COVID, many graduations last year and this year have only been conducted virtually. When the Pathways Church found out that their beloved pastor, **Karen Lewis**, would not be able to march at her graduation from Andrews University, they decided to take matters into their own hands.

Pastor Lewis says, “It has taken me 10 years to graduate with my master’s degree in Pastoral Ministry, and the church I currently pastor, Pathways Church, surprised me by providing me with a graduation gown. I happened to have my cap with me—I was going to show it to them—and they had



me march down the aisle to the front of the church to the tune of *Pomp and Circumstance*, where they

presented me with some beautiful flowers and a copy of my certificate.”

The Minnesota Conference

Photos Courtesy Karen Lewis



After 10 years of hard work, Pastor Karen Lewis graduated from Andrews University with her master’s degree in Pastoral Ministry.

staff and members of the Pathways Church offer their congratulations and best wishes to Pastor Karen Lewis on this milestone accomplishment in her life!

Carol Lyons is administrative assistant for Minnesota Conference’s Communication Department.



Weekly live vespers with music and a devotional thought drew together hundreds of viewers who tuned into North Star Camp for a God moment to start their Sabbath. With the goal of bringing the Bible to life, our staff wrote a seven-part play called *Brave* about Paul's conversion and spiritual journey. We videoed this play and shared an episode each week, inviting campers to connect with God and find courage, peace and hope in Him.

Last July, we added family retreats to the ministries we were offering. And we were able to serve 119 people through these relaxing week-end retreats, which allowed families to get out into nature and bond together through activities and programs. While it was not the typical look of a North Star Camp summer, it was wonderful to be able to support families as they were looking for fresh ways to spend family time.

The unique summer of 2020 also provided opportunities to work on camp improvement projects. One of the biggest projects you will be able to see is the upgraded field. North Star's central field has long had drainage problems that caused washouts and bumps in this play area.

With lower levels of camper traffic, we were able to regrade the field, put in a better sidewalk system and

reseed it for a more beautiful, smooth area for meetings and activities.

Some of the other improvement projects included: clearing and mapping trails, dredging the waterway, deep-cleaning activity areas, and rebuilding a retaining wall. I am excited to get back to a more typical summer season this year, but we were blessed that so much ministry happened even during difficult circumstances.

## Summer 2021

"In summer breeze and gentle dew ... is seen the love that restores. And nature still speaks to us of God's goodness" (Ellen White, *Education* p. 101).

The new camp season is now in full swing. I have had the privilege of seeing God bring together an amazing group of staff. We have record numbers of campers signed up. And our wonderful camp team has put together multiple programming schedules and protocols that should allow us to serve campers safely, even if there is a rise in COVID numbers.

Given the social isolation, stress and fear this last year has brought, I believe this summer presents unprecedented ministry opportunities. Coming out of this difficult year we are all more aware of our needs than ever before. But we are so blessed

because we know that a relationship with Jesus provides that security, joy and peace that campers need. I love working at camp as I have a front-row seat to witness God working in the lives of our campers and staff.

North Star Camp's mission is to provide opportunities, through nature and Christian community for youth to grow in their relationship with Jesus. This week-long evangelism project has led to hundreds of youth making commitments for Jesus.

I invite you to partner with

us this year by praying for our camp season and helping to send kids you know to a week of camp!

.....  
Shelina Bonjour is the North Star Camp director and Youth and Young Adult director for the Minnesota Conference.



Learn more about North Star Camp at [www.northstarcamp.org](http://www.northstarcamp.org).

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(right) Rodriguez-Vera family enjoying Family Camp at North Star Camp in 2020



(below) The ball field renovation was recently completed.





## DeeAnn Bragaw Accepts Women's Ministry Position for North American Division

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



**D**eeAnn Bragaw, Rocky Mountain Conference's Women's Ministries director and prayer coordinator, recently accepted the invitation of the North American Division to become their Women's Ministries director.

RMC president **Ed Barnett** reflected on Bragaw's ministry: "DeeAnn has been a blessing to our conference, and I know she will be a blessing at the North American Division as well! We will miss her."

Bragaw is a Colorado native and will miss her home state. In an interview with *NewsNuggets* she

summarized her service in RMC. "It's been my privilege to live and serve in Rocky Mountain Conference! I'm a Colorado native who grew up in Denver about six blocks from the conference office and graduated from Mile High Academy. I spent many summers both attending camp and then working at Glacier View Ranch, and married my husband **Paul** right here in RMC. Together we've served in Casper, Boulder, Franktown, Brighton and Campion. And now I've served conference-wide in prayer and Women's Ministries."

The process of accepting the invitation has not been simple, Bragaw explained. "In April, I received a phone call from NAD administration asking if I'd be willing to submit a resumé and interview for the position of director of Women's Ministries for the North American Division. I

was shocked! Me?"

Bragaw added that "the journey and the decision have not been easy. There are many factors involved in transitioning into this new role. I actually asked if I could serve NAD from RMC. They said no."

Prayer and Jesus will remain the center of her ministry at the NAD, she added. "I can't wait to get to know more of our women, and to develop a team of women from around our division who can partner with us to continue to provide resources to better equip women of all ages to serve from a place of wholeness in Christ. My deepest prayer and my highest calling are to point our women to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who mentored His team of disciples so they could disciple others. And He did that by spending time in prayer."


Bragaw is transitioning to Maryland and will begin

serving as NAD Women's Ministries director on the first week of July.

"At this point Paul will likely stay in Colorado at HMS for the upcoming school year, and we will slowly transition to Maryland. Our family is mostly in RMC, and this is home—we'll be back! Until that time, my prayer is that God will continue to reach the hearts of our people in RMC with a call to a deeper life of prayer, surrender and service. As one friend put it, 'You're not leaving us—you're taking us to NAD!'"

Bragaw's prayer for RMC members as she begins a new chapter in her life is: "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He make His face shine upon, may His mercies extend to your children's children, and may we, together, pray on and serve with joy!"

.....  
*RMCNews*



### Get Your Share of the Nuggets

Subscribe to NewsNuggets at [rmcsda.org](http://rmcsda.org) for all of the latest news from around the Rocky Mountain Conference delivered to your inbox every Friday morning.



# Piñon Hills Church to Host *The Wall That Heals*

The Piñon Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Farmington, New Mexico, will be hosting *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in September.

Church members view this event as a way to reach out to the community in a meaningful approach by serving and working with them. They hope that lives will be touched, and the love of Jesus made visible to all who may attend.

The event is also a way to reflect on and honor veterans, as many of them continue to deal with difficult memories and experiences or have loved ones who have struggled with the impact the Vietnam War had on their lives.

*The Wall That Heals* is a traveling exhibit which honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Commenting about the church's involvement in hosting the exhibit in Farmington, **Pastor Wayne Gayton** said, "This is a real opportunity to share the healing power of Christ's love and to honor those who gave their all for the gift of freedom."

The 53-foot trailer that transports *The Wall That Heals* will transform to become a mobile education

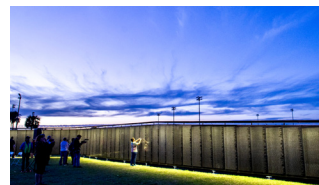
center. The exterior of the trailer features a timeline of "The War and the Wall" and provides additional information regarding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional exhibits will give visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at The Wall.

## Related events

Local displays will include:

- **Hometown Heroes**—Photos of service members on The Wall who list their home of record from the local area
- **In Memory Honor Roll**—Photos of Vietnam veterans from New Mexico who returned home and later died of Vietnam-related illnesses and have been honored through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *In Memory*

Piñon Hills will also be holding a prayer breakfast for community leaders. **Dr. Dick Stenbakken**, a veteran and retired Chaplain (Colonel) for the U.S. Army, will be a featured speaker. Stenbakken noted that "It is both important and essential for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be involved with community projects and programs. When we do so, we follow the example of Christ and His Ministry of Presence.



Photos Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



The exhibit will be located on the San Juan College athletics field and will be open to the public **Sept. 9 at 2 pm through Sept. 12 at 2 pm**. Admission is free and guests can visit the wall any time, day or night.

Learn more about this event by emailing [twthfarmingtonnm2021@gmail.com](mailto:twthfarmingtonnm2021@gmail.com).

Being there tells the community that we care, and we are part of the community, not just disinterested observers."

Members will be serving as committee leaders and volunteering during the event. **Lillian Clopine**, chairperson for the church's *The Wall That Heals* team, said, "Community members will have the opportunity to meet and interact with church members. We will be praying that the Holy Spirit will guide us through this process, that

the event will honor God and touch lives, and that the attendees will come to better know the source of all healing—Jesus Christ."

She added, "I am humbled we have been afforded this opportunity to serve our community and to touch lives with love and kindness by following our Lord's example."

*RMCNews* with Lillian Clopine, chairperson for *The Wall That Heals* and a member of Piñon Hills Church





### Honoring Pastor Rich's Legacy

Union alumni who were impacted by Pastor Rich's ministry have honored his legacy by establishing a scholarship fund in his name. You can join them by giving to the fund at [ucollege.edu/pastorrich](http://ucollege.edu/pastorrich).

## Pastor Rich Carlson Retires After 40 Years at Union

Chaplain **Rich Carlson** has retired this summer after being an integral part of the Union College experience for 40 years.

Officially, he is Dr. Richard Carlson, vice president for spiritual life and associate professor of psychology and religion. But it is unlikely even he could tell you his full title without consulting Union's personnel directory. To generations of Union students and alumni, he is simply "Pastor Rich."

And above any title, he will tell you his job is mentorship. "I love interacting with the kids, journeying with the students," he said. "It's been a joy and an honor."

Former student **Gina Creek** calls him the best leadership mentor she's ever encountered. Currently director of leadership development at AdventHealth, Creek said, "Before Pastor Rich, I always saw myself as another face in

the crowd. He helped me hear the call of God on my heart."

"The clock tower stands tall but Pastor Rich is a more prominent part of our campus life," said Union College president **Vinita Sauder**. "He shaped the Union experience for tens of thousands of students. He loves students, he empowers them to serve and he points them to Jesus every single day. He is a true man of God, and an outstanding servant leader."

As one of the first student missionaries Union sent overseas in 1971, Pastor Rich has been instrumental in weaving service into the very fabric of Union College life. After his own experience, he told the *Central Union Reaper*, "A thousand years of school can

never equal the experience of mission service." As chaplain at Union, he has encouraged thousands of students to take their lessons from the classroom to communities next door and around the world changing many lives—including their own.

Pastor Rich also recognizes the need for service closer to home. Project Impact began as Project BRUSH the year before he became Union's chaplain, and under his leadership, Union's annual event has become the nation's largest and oldest collegiate volunteer event. From available research, no campus has a bigger event by percentage, and few have as many volunteers despite 10-20 times the enrollment. He then uses the

event as a springboard to get students involved in serving the Lincoln community all year long.

Carlson graduated from Union in 1973 with the intention of being a pastor. Then, after teaching Bible at Maplewood Academy and Dakota Adventist Academy, he returned to Union to pursue medicine. He envisioned himself working in an ER, but providence turned him toward the chaplain's office. Does he have any regrets? "Not a one," he said. "It's the best thing that could have happened."

Kim Peckham is director of communication strategy at Union College.

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Pastor Rich Carlson will be remembered at Union for creating a supportive environment that built leaders and helped students learn the value of a strong walk with Jesus.



Photos: Steve Nazario/Union College



# Computing a Calling

## Jean-Christian Touré turns a side hustle into a thriving business

In theory, running a successful business is easy: find what people need or desire and provide it for a reasonable price. But reality is a lot more complicated and a lot more rewarding. **Jean-Christian Touré**, a 2018 Union College graduate, found this out when his side hustle became a thriving tech company providing application development, digital marketing, and IT services to businesses across Colorado and into Wyoming.

While some struggle to find their passion, Touré knew exactly what he wanted to do from a young age.

“I’ve always been fascinated with technology,” explains Touré. “I’ve always loved it. A lot of college students change their majors over time, but I knew this was the right fit for me. I still love it and am excited for the future.”

Touré’s passion for technology led him to Union College, where education and on-the-job training were a direct path to business success. With classes that emphasize practical learning and a job in the college’s Information Systems department providing hands-on experiences, Union was the perfect place for him to earn his degree and begin his entrepreneurial journey.

“I felt like it was the school that was meant for me,” said Touré. “The projects assigned in classes provided valuable experience. It wasn’t just homework and exams; we were assigned projects

like setting up computer networks and systems. I learned a lot while working for Union’s Information Systems department. In fact, I was learning things there before learning it in class, so it reinforced the classroom learning and I gained valuable, hands-on experience.”

After working for a brief time in California, Touré found himself in Colorado looking for a job. To pay the bills, he started a side hustle providing IT services for companies in Denver. When his side hustle became a flourishing business, he stopped looking for a job and focused his efforts on building his business. Now, at age 24, Touré owns and runs his own company.

It sounds easy, even glamorous, but his was a journey of hard work and hard knocks.

“It’s been very challenging,” confesses Touré. “I didn’t have a lot of experience running a business. I’ve learned a lot on the job, and I’ve made a lot of mistakes. It’s part of owning a business; you have to make mistakes to learn. And I learned from my mistakes.”

Starting a business involves a significant investment of time and resources.

“At the beginning, I traveled 750 miles a week on average,” shares Touré, “and I was working 16-hour days.”

But, fueled by persistence and passion, his company, JCTTEK, is growing at an exponential rate.



Jean Christian Touré used his experience at Union to launch his own thriving computer business in Colorado.

“We’re expanding quickly and doing well,” Touré explains. “We signed contracts with major banks like Wells Fargo and Bank of America, and our revenue has tripled in the last six months.”

JCTTEK is now five employees strong and still hiring. They provide service to an ever-expanding list of clients across Colorado and into Wyoming. With the responsibility of employees, the pressure to succeed increases.

“Two years ago, I never thought I’d be here,” Touré said. “Now I have to make sure the business makes enough money to pay everyone. We need to budget everything. If there’s a dollar that’s spent, we have to ensure it’s in the budget or else we will be in financial trouble. It’s a big responsibility for me.”

But for Touré it’s not just about making money; the opportunity to provide jobs during these challenging times drives him to work harder.

“I’m really glad things worked out this way,” Touré shares. “Now I can provide opportunities and job experience for others.”

And he has some words of wisdom for anyone considering doing that hard thing, chasing that improbable dream, pursuing that vision just over the horizon: “Work really hard. It’s not going to be easy. There will be a lot of failures, and you will probably lose money as well, but put your heart into it. Never give up. Just keep pushing.”

Thanks to his passion, personal drive, and the skills learned at Union College, Jean-Christian Touré is making his dream come true while offering job opportunities, coaching and mentorship to his ever-growing family of employees.

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



## Love, Joy, Peace

### Stories of spiritual care at AdventHealth

In healthcare, referrals are understood as transfers of care to medical specialists, such as cardiologists or gynecologists. But at AdventHealth, referrals are also made to spiritual caregivers, a testament to the organization's commitment to whole-person care—body, mind and spirit. In fact, since the inception of AdventHealth's clinical mission integration program in 2018, nearly 35,000 spiritual care referrals have been logged.

The referrals originate in the patient room, whether that's physical or virtual, with a spiritual wholeness screening based on the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Patients are asked three questions that are integrated into the electronic health record:

1. Do you have someone who loves and cares for you?
2. Do you have a source of joy in your life?
3. Do you have a sense of peace today?

A “no” answer to any one of the questions triggers a referral to one of the hospital chaplains or to the patient's provider who has the option to address the issue during the patient visit, or to place the referral for the E-Spiritual Care Center based at corporate headquarters.

“We're all human. We all experience loss, failure, loneliness, anxiety about the future, broken relationships, disappointment,” said **Dr. Ted Hamilton**, AdventHealth's chief mission integration officer. “We don't

always know where to turn or have ready access to spiritual resources. This program provides that resource.”

Following are two stories, told from the perspective of spiritual caregivers, of patients who were referred to the E-Spiritual Care Center for support, comfort and encouragement. In order to maintain patient confidentiality and trust, spiritual caregivers take special care to avoid any protected health information when recording these mission moments.

#### A voice that cares

The notes from the provider's referral read, “Patient has a speech impediment.” I prepared myself mentally and dialed Sarah's\* number.

When I began talking with Sarah, I noticed right away that the impediment was rather severe; her voice was very shaky and would come and go. It took a bit of concentration on my part, but I found that, with some patience, we could communicate just fine.

So, Sarah began sharing her story with me. She stated that she was lonely and depressed and felt empty. She said no one ever calls her, so she very much appreciated that I had.

Then she stopped and asked, “What is your name again?” I replied to her and she became apologetic for having assumed, based on my voice, that I was a woman instead of a man. I told her that it was quite all right and that I'm used

to it. Those I talk with over the phone often make that mistaken assumption. And I laughed. Which invited her to laugh with me.

Then I made the statement that cemented our bond. I said, “No one gets to choose their voice.”

Almost immediately, Sarah lost any self-consciousness about hers. She said, “While I don't get to talk with people, I talk a lot with God.” I told her how wonderful that was and shared how I can't sing, but I still sing to God because He doesn't mind. In fact, He rather likes it. Then she asked me if I was familiar with a certain hymn. I was not, but she said it was one of her favorites. And then she sang it for me.

Without exaggeration, she must have thanked me six times for being willing to talk with her. I told her that it was my joy in life to do so.

#### Words of comfort

The phone rang several times until a female voice came across the line. After I explained the reason for my call, she said, “Thank you so much for dialing! My mother has been waiting for your call.”

The woman who had picked up the phone was one of Margaret's\* daughters. Margaret was going through medical treatments that were taking a toll on her physical strength. When her daughter passed her the phone, I noticed that Margaret's voice was muffled, and she took many pauses between words. She shared she was extremely exhausted and struggled to speak.

I offered to call her back at a more convenient time, but



to my surprise, she replied, “No, please stay. Just recite the words of God. Remind me of His promises.”

For the next 20 minutes, that's exactly what I did.

I read the Bible slowly and listened to Margaret's gentle voice whispering, worshipping and praising God. At that moment, all she wanted was to be comforted.

These stories represent how the spiritual wholeness screening is allowing AdventHealth caregivers to move beyond patient interactions to patient relationships, addressing deep spiritual needs that otherwise would go unnoticed and untreated.

Ingrid Hernández is manager of Stakeholder Communications for AdventHealth.

\*This is an alias used for the purposes of storytelling. Patients' real names are never recorded in mission moments.



For more information on AdventHealth's focus on spiritual care, visit **AdventHealthKC.com**.

# Connecting Faith Leaders with Mental Health First Aid Training to Save Lives

Courtesy AdventHealth Rocky Mountain/Centura



We all experience good days and bad days when it comes to our mental health, but mental wellness can be difficult to talk about. However, suicide and other mental health diagnoses are common across the United States. In fact, mental wellness has been identified by all 17 Centura Health hospitals in Colorado and Kansas as one of the most pressing health needs in the communities they serve. Recognizing that the brain is as important to whole person health as the heart, lungs or bones, Centura is committed to better addressing mental wellness for their associates, patients and communities.

One way Centura is working to improve the mental wellness of their communities is by offering scholarships for community leaders to become Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors. Instructors are then able to

train community members about how to identify risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, how to talk about these concerns, strategies that can be used to help someone—family, friends, neighbors and colleagues—in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and information about where to turn for help.

Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack until first responders arrive, MHFA helps you know how to assist someone struggling with mental health or substance use and appropriately connect them with help.

As part of a faith-based healthcare system, Centura leaders understand how critical faith-based organizations and religious communities can be in supporting mental wellness. Faith leaders and communities are often the first point of contact when people and families

are struggling with a mental health need or substance abuse disorder. Many people will turn to their pastor, priest or other faith leader before they seek help from a mental health professional.

To help ensure the people in our communities have a better understanding of mental wellness, Centura has begun a Faith Partnerships for Mental Health initiative to provide MHFA instructor training to local faith organizations.

**Jim Feldbush**, director of Mission Integration at Centura-Porter Adventist Hospital, and **Monica Buhlig**, Denver Metro Group director of community health, have reached out to Denver-area faith leaders to educate them on the benefits of MHFA training for their congregations and the role they could play as an MHFA instructor. Open to leaders from all faiths, these trainings equip participants to provide MHFA classes to their own congregations and communities, expanding the growing network of individuals who are better equipped to help and support each other.

“MHFA training is a huge benefit for my congregation,” said **Elder Mickey Mallory**, who has been highly supportive of Centura’s MHFA program and helped recruit a group of local Adventist pastors to attend instructor training this spring. “A lot of people are uncomfortable responding or don’t know

how to intervene when they see someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Thanks to MHFA training, I can not only provide more effective help to people who come to me in need, but I’m also able to pass on what I’ve learned to help ensure the people in my community have the tools and confidence to take action that can ultimately save lives.”

This Centura partnership enables MHFA faith-based instructors to focus on recovery and resiliency. The program emphasizes that when we experience a mental health challenge, we can and do get better and can use our strengths to stay well. The trainings offered by MHFA instructors are a way to embed a growing number of MHFA-trained individuals in communities across the greater Denver area and are helping to build a supportive infrastructure of people who can not only intervene, but also facilitate open conversations and provide ongoing support within the community.

“MHFA truly is an extension of our healing ministry. It takes a community supportive of whole person well-being to address mental wellness in a way that helps people feel connected and loved,” Buhlig said. “We are creating a system of support that extends to everyone in our communities, regardless of mental health status.”

Amy Thompson is a writer for Centura Health.



# FAREWELL

**Branson, Cecil**, b. Dec. 26, 1926 in Mountain Grove, MO. d. March 23, 2021 in Mountain Grove MO. Member of Mountain Grove Church. Preceded in death by first wife Geraldine; second wife Joy; 1 stepson; 1 sister. Survivors include 1 step-daughter Phyllis Clark; 1 step-sister; 1 step-brother; 2 step-grandchildren; 3 step-great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and received a Purple Heart.

**Cooper, Jerry**, b. Jan. 26, 1967 in Springfield, MO. d. April 30, 2021. Member of Rogersville Oak Grove Heights (MO) Church. Preceded in death by father Robert. Survivors include sons Clayton, Isaac, Jerad, and Kurtis; mother Rita; brothers Allen, Steven, and Robert Jr.

**Holmberg, Carol L.**, b. July 3, 1939 in Wellington, MO.

d. Feb. 4, 2021 in Aurora, CO. Member of Twin Peaks Fellowship (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Theodore; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Deborah; 1 sister; 1 brother.

**Jennings, Raymond Gene**, b. July 15, 1927 in Thornfield, MO. d. May 6, 2021 in Houston, MO. Member of Houston Church. Preceded in death by spouse Mary; 4 sisters; 5 brothers; daughter Charlotte VanNoordt; son Gregory. Survivors include daughters Yvonne Cope, Tabatha Jolly, and Patricia Lowrance; sons Mike, Dwight, and Melvin; 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

**King, Delores Marie**, b. June 30, 1937 in Kansas City, MO. d. March 5, 2021 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction (CO) Church.

Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Delorece Girard and Lisa Williams; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

**LaBelle, Donna Marie**, b. Sept. 19, 1947 in Pittsfield, NH. d. May 10, 2021 in Lakewood, CO. Member of Arvada (CO) Church. Preceded in death by brother Michael Howser. Survivors include daughter Christine Preve; 1 sister.

**Lickteig, Anita**, b. June 15, 1950. d. May 25, 2021. Member of West Lenexa (KS) Church. Survivors include husband Pete; son Terry.

**Miller, Darlene**, b. Oct 10, 1929 in Goodrich, ND. d. May 11, 2021 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Manfred (ND) Church. Preceded in death by spouse Dale. Survivors include daughter Denise Weikum; son Lynn; 1

granddaughter; 3 grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter.

**Newkirk, Garrett**, b. Sept. 1, 1934 in Goldsberry, MO. d. May 20, 2021 in Bertrand, MO. Member of Goldsberry Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Justine; daughters Nancy Cutler, Connie, and Sid Leckbee; son Robert; 2 sisters; 2 brothers; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

**Nogler, Naomi**, b. June 19, 1928. d. May 22, 2021 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by husband Robert. Survivors include daughter Pamela; sons Robert and Calvin; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

**Palmer, Ilse**, b. Dec. 12, 1965. d. Jan. 10, 2021. Member of Wichita Cornerstone (KS) Church.

SUNSET CALENDAR	July 2021					
	COLORADO	JUL 2	JUL 9	JUL 16	JUL 23	JUL 30
	Denver	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:14
	Grand Junction	8:43	8:41	8:38	8:33	8:27
	Pueblo	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:15	8:09
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:39	8:37	8:33	8:28	8:21
	Des Moines	8:52	8:49	8:46	8:40	8:33
	Sioux City	9:06	9:04	9:00	8:54	8:47
	KANSAS					
Dodge City	9:05	9:03	9:00	8:56	8:50	
Goodland	8:17	8:15	8:11	8:06	8:00	
Topeka	8:52	8:50	8:46	8:42	8:35	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	9:05	9:02	8:57	8:50	8:42	
International Falls	9:18	9:15	9:10	9:02	8:53	
Minneapolis	9:03	9:00	8:55	8:49	8:41	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22	
Kansas City	8:48	8:46	8:42	8:37	8:31	
St. Louis	8:29	8:27	8:23	8:19	8:12	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	9:01	8:59	8:55	8:50	8:44	
North Platte	9:19	9:17	9:13	9:08	9:01	
Scottsbluff	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:21	8:14	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:40	9:37	9:32	9:25	9:17	
Fargo	9:24	9:21	9:16	9:09	9:01	
Williston	9:57	9:54	9:49	9:41	9:32	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:29	9:26	9:22	9:15	9:08	
Rapid City	8:39	8:36	8:32	8:26	8:18	
Sioux Falls	9:11	9:08	9:04	8:58	8:51	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:47	8:45	8:40	8:35	8:27	
Cheyenne	8:35	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:17	
Sheridan	8:57	8:54	8:49	8:43	8:35	
<b>OUTLOOK</b>	<a href="http://www.outlookmag.org">www.outlookmag.org</a>					

SUNSET CALENDAR	August 2021				
	COLORADO	AUG 6	AUG 13	AUG 20	AUG 27
	Denver	8:07	7:58	7:48	7:38
	Grand Junction	8:19	8:11	8:01	7:51
	Pueblo	8:02	7:54	7:44	7:34
	IOWA				
	Davenport	8:13	8:04	7:53	7:42
	Des Moines	8:25	8:16	8:06	7:55
	Sioux City	8:38	8:29	8:18	8:07
	KANSAS				
Dodge City	8:43	8:34	8:25	8:16	
Goodland	7:53	7:44	7:34	7:24	
Topeka	8:28	8:19	8:10	8:00	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	8:32	8:21	8:09	7:56	
International Falls	8:42	8:31	8:18	8:04	
Minneapolis	8:32	8:22	8:10	7:58	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	8:14	8:06	7:56	7:46	
Kansas City	8:24	8:15	8:06	7:55	
St. Louis	8:05	7:57	7:47	7:37	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	8:36	8:27	8:17	8:06	
North Platte	8:53	8:44	8:33	8:23	
Scottsbluff	8:06	7:57	7:46	7:35	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	9:07	8:56	8:44	8:31	
Fargo	8:51	8:40	8:28	8:15	
Williston	9:22	9:10	8:58	8:44	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	8:59	8:48	8:37	8:25	
Rapid City	8:09	7:59	7:48	7:36	
Sioux Falls	8:42	8:32	8:21	8:10	
WYOMING					
Casper	8:19	8:09	7:59	7:47	
Cheyenne	8:09	8:00	7:50	7:39	
Sheridan	8:26	8:16	8:04	7:52	
<b>OUTLOOK</b>	<a href="http://www.outlookmag.org">www.outlookmag.org</a>				

## 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](mailto:estates@maranatha.org). Visit [maranatha.org/plannedgiving](http://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](http://www.apexmoving.com/Adventist).

**New/Used Adventist Books:** TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Call 800.367.1844 for a free evaluation. Visit [www.LNFBOOKS.com](http://www.LNFBOOKS.com) for used books and your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://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. Onsite church, planned activities and transportation as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: [www.summitridgevillage.org](http://www.summitridgevillage.org) or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Currently seeking massage therapist in west central Missouri near Kansas City** work in an established massage practice alongside two other Adventist/Christian therapists as God continues to grow our practice and branch

out in other areas of service for Him in our community, church and surrounding small communities. Is God calling you? If you feel God calling you to come work, grow, expand and witness through the medical mission field via massage therapy, hydrotherapy, nutrition, evangelism and more, please contact Crystal Reynolds, LMT. Phone: 417.761.2925. Email: [crystalr-massage@aol.com](mailto:crystalr-massage@aol.com).

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

**Looking for Certified Teachers** to join us in Christian Online Education (first-twelfth grades). Work part-time from home tutoring "live" in a Zoom environment. If interested, please call us at 817.645.0895.

**Natural Way Mills, an Adventist-owned organic flour mill and whole grains processorsince 1973, is seeking a husband/wife team** to work in production and assist the office manager with various duties. Prefer Adventist mission-minded couple. Located near Middle River, Minnesota. Wages negotiable. Country home possibly available. Natural Way Mills Employment, 24509 390th St. NE, Middle River, MN, 56737. [naturalwaymills2@gmail.com](mailto:naturalwaymills2@gmail.com). 218.222.3677.

**Southern Adventist University is seeking qualified candidates for HVAC Lead Master Technician—Plant Services.** The HVAC technician will install, troubleshoot, repair and perform preventive maintenance on central heat and air systems, water source heat pump systems, PTACs, chillers, boilers, freezers, ice machines and other refrigeration. Other jobs as assigned related to the

maintenance, renovation and construction of campus facilities. Certification for refrigeration and HVAC Universal preferred, and a minimum of five years of experience as a heating/air conditioning and refrigeration specialist with varied experience in maintenance tasks is preferred. For a detailed description and qualifications please visit: [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**Southern Adventist University is seeking qualified candidates for Wastewater Collection System Operator—Plant Services.** The wastewater collection system operator will be responsible for the Southern Adventist University wastewater collection system, its operations, reporting requirements and repairs. Must have a wastewater collection system operator license. Must have knowledge of how to perform all system maintenance and repair functions. Must be experienced in all duties listed above. Basic computer skills required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Must hold a valid U.S. driver's license with reasonable driving record. For full description and qualifications: [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**Stallant 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@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.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](http://ucollege.edu/employment).

**Union College is seeking applicants for a Religion Program faculty** with an emphasis on discipling. MDiv or master's in a related field required, DMin or PhD preferred. See the full job description and instructions for application at [ucollege.edu/employment](http://ucollege.edu/employment) under faculty jobs.

**Walla Walla University is hiring!** To see the list of available positions, go to [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

## FOR SALE

**Caskets for Adventists—** High quality 20 gauge steel. Includes Second Coming picture, Ten Commandments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Three Angels' Message. Priced under \$800. Website: [1844casketsforadventist.com](http://1844casketsforadventist.com). Phone: 865.882.0773 or 865.382.1834 (Harriet or Marvin).

## TRAVEL

**Adventist Tours 2022.** Israel in Jesus' Steps March 9-7, June 12-21 (optional Jordan/Egypt); New Testament Alive/7 Churches June 2-12, African Safari & Service May 24-31, Germany-Austria: Luther to WWII June 22-July 1 (includes Oberammergau Passion Play); Thailand July 27-Aug. 7. Adventist-led with excellent rates. \$1,750+/person. Contact [tabghatours@gmail.com](mailto:tabghatours@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours) or 423.298.2169. "The best trip I've ever had! Nothing comes close."

## 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](http://unionspringsacademy.org).





## We're not a sink-or-swim college

Every freshman at Union gets a life coach to help keep their head above water

**You want to make a splash at college—but not in a panicked, I-can't-swim way. Don't worry. Union assigns every first-year student a certified life coach.** They'll help you keep your head above water as you choose classes, explore career options and adjust to college life.

Your coach can help with specific problems (*How can I keep from falling asleep while reading the English assignment?*) and talk through deep questions (*What is my calling?*). They'll even give you study strategies and tips for time management.

Besides life coaches, Student Success also offers tutoring for any subject—completely free. And if you're struggling to find the right major, they've got a test or two for that. Even if you don't need these resources, just know at Union College, you've got a team on your side.

You'll find extra support at Union as you reach toward your goals. So don't be afraid of college life. Jump on in. The water's fine.

**Note:** actual life coaches may not be as adorable as those pictured.

**UNION**  
COLLEGE

**Finding purpose. Unlocking potential.**

[ucollege.edu/success](https://ucollege.edu/success)

