

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

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CENTRAL STATES  
CELEBRATES 75  
YEARS P. 8



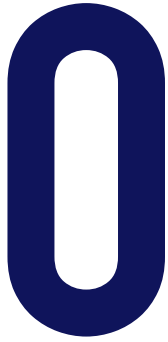
# *Celebrating*

Our Diverse Adventist Heritage  
in Mid-America

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FEB 2022





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**“The grant recipients for our first Health Equity & Advancement Fund are advancing health equity through innovative social justice programs.” —p. 28**



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## WHO AND WHOSE

Who are you? And how does your identity impact your spiritual health and growth?

In this issue of OUTLOOK we continue our 2022 theme of Strengthening Our Spirituality by looking at some of the history of our Mid-America church family and exploring how the diversity of membership across our territory makes us a stronger and more vibrant group of Christ followers.

Remembering that we are all daughters and sons of the King of the Universe—princes and princesses—gives us confidence to press in closer day by day to the presence of our royal Father.



**BRENDA DICKERSON**  
editor



## ON THE COVER

Dalila Jefferies and her late husband founded the Hispanic Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, which today has over 200 members.

More on p. 6  
Photo by Hugh Davis

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# Identity, Family and Overflowing Grace

**H**ave you stopped lately and counted the blessings of having family? In our rushed world filled with modern technology, it can escape us how precious and important family is.

I will never forget a young camper from one year when I was running summer camps. He was the most homesick young man I ever encountered. Mitch cried so much the first two nights that I had to go to the cabin and take him on a walk to settle him down before he could sleep. During the day, he kept running away from his group and we would have to send staff to find him. Usually, he was lying in a fetal position just crying.

On the third night of him not being able to sleep, I took him to the office and decided I had better call his home. Unfortunately, no one

answered and the only other contact number I had was for a grandmother who lived about four hours away. When I told the grandmother how homesick Mitch was, she made it clear she wasn't going to come and get him. When Mitch tried to talk with her, she just hung up.

The following day was worse than ever. It became dangerous the way Mitch kept running off, so I tried the grandmother again, with the same result.

## Just one more day

At that point I knew we had Mitch for the duration of the week. I wish I could tell you my heart was always charitable toward him, but the truth was, he was wearing out his counselor, myself and the rest of the staff. Finally, Sabbath came and I can remember thinking, *Just one more day of Mitch!*

After church was over,



Mitch's counselor came to let me know he had run away again. I said I would go after him this time. Once again, I found Mitch in a fetal position, crying. I told him to hang in there, he only had one more day and then he could go home.

As we were walking toward the cafeteria for lunch, Mitch reached up to hold my hand. To tell the truth, I didn't really want to hold his, but we grasped hands as we walked together. Just before we entered the dining hall, he tugged my arm, looked up at me and with tears in his eyes asked, "Would you be my daddy?"

I can't tell you the range of emotions that suddenly filled my heart. As I began to ask questions, I learned his mother had dropped him off at camp so she could marry a man who didn't like Mitch or want him around. Mitch

was feeling abandoned, alone, unwanted. At that moment, I saw firsthand how painful it is to feel you have no family. I wanted to be able to fix all that was broken for Mitch, but was powerless to do so.

## Take nothing for granted

I am grateful that no matter what this world throws at us, it is good to know I am part of the family of God! Have you thanked the Lord lately for being adopted into His family?

Together, we are quite a bunch. Here in Mid-America we come from every tongue and people from across the globe and are united by His grace He has bestowed on us. This is a family who together makes up the Body of Christ—all of us having our special role to play, all of us of equal importance.

Let's never take this family for granted. Let's celebrate our diversity, embracing one another and doing what we can to encourage each other.

I can't imagine life without the family of God. Let's do our part to make it stronger and more loving as we await the return of our Savior. **0**



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

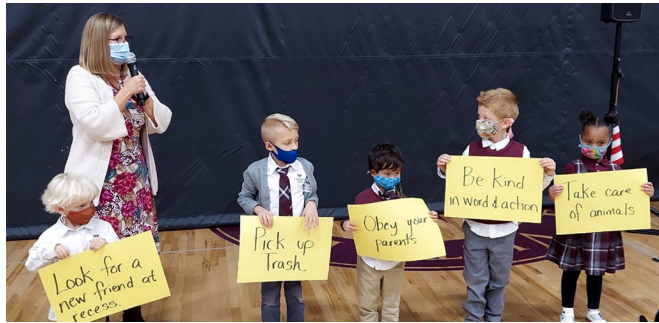
**Correction:** In last month's Q&A with the President, we mistakenly stated that a policy on term limits was voted during a General Conference Session when in fact it was General Conference Annual Council who voted the policy in 1931. In 1942 this policy was significantly reworked, and today some conferences choose to practice Tenure of Office term limits and some do not.



# Adventist Education

## *Offering something better*

I recently read a statistic that stated that the number one predictor of a student's success in the public sector is a child's zip code. It is not IQ, school readiness or the ratio of students to teachers in the classroom, but where children live that determines if they will graduate from high school or complete higher education.



As I consider the factors that give our students in Adventist schools the “success” of higher test scores across the nation, it has little to do with *where* a student lives but everything to do with *how long* a student is in an Adventist school. The Cognitive Genesis study shows that students in Adventist schools outperformed the national average compared to students in both public and charter schools.

Our students enter the classroom each day to discover their God-given purpose and to learn skills that prepare them for a life of service. These classrooms are led by dedicated teachers who want to fulfill the mission of Adventist education, which is to help each student reach their highest potential and foster a lifelong friendship with God that allows them to honor Him and bless others.

I recently asked several of our Rocky Mountain Conference teachers why they teach when they could easily do something else. As you read the hearts of these teachers, you will see they represent the mission of what makes our system so unique. Adventist teachers combine the best of academics and God's love for each student.

### *Why teach?*

“I love the daily opportunity to help each student experience how distinctly special they are in God's eyes.” *Carey Jordan (7/8) HMS Richards Adventist School*

“I am a missionary of Jesus to connect Him with others. I have chosen the ‘tool’ of education as the vehicle to connect Jesus with kids and train them to share Jesus with the world.” *Donavan Reeder (principal), Champion Academy*

“Teaching was God's plan for me! I was in nursing but I prayed about what God wanted me to do. I love every moment in the classroom with my kids.” *Carolyn Adams, Lighthouse Christian School*

“At risk of sounding cliché, I am a teacher because God said so ... There is no greater joy than sharing Jesus with children who don't know who He is. The icing on the cake was seeing two of my non-Adventist students baptized last school year!” *Traci Pike, Casper*

“This is a good question for all of us, especially as teaching becomes more difficult for a myriad of reasons

with a world full of anger and hatred. One thing I know for sure is that I am called to teach His children during these times, especially those who don't know about God's love.” *Pennie Wredberg, Lighthouse Christian School*

“Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be working with children. My goal in life is to inspire others, and I couldn't think of a better way than to be in Adventist education teaching the little ones.” *Miss Fellers (K-2), Adventist Christian School*

“Love is why I stay in Adventist education. Teaching is not Lpeaches and cream; it's not even peaches. But in a world that's falling apart at the seams, often in our own students' precious lives, showing them Christ's love is more important than anything else.” *Sarah Gould (K-1), Intermountain Adventist Academy*

“In a time in our lives when hope seems frail, I show up for the future leaders of our communities, churches and country. There is no greater way to impact the future than through education.” *Sandy Hodgson (principal/teacher) Vista Ridge Academy*

“My ‘why’ for teaching in Adventist education renewed and affirmed itself a week before Christmas vacation. God impressed me to allow a popcorn prayer, and just about all of my 17 students prayed. Each student was so in tune with each other's prayers that it moved me to tears. I'd choose teaching again every time!” *Kari Lange, HMS Richards 0*

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Diane Harris, MA, LPC, NCC, is superintendent of education for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



# History of Hispanic Adventists

## in Mid-America Union Territory

Courtesy/Roberto Correa



### Beginnings

The Adventist Hispanic ministry in the heartland of America began in Colorado in the 1920s. Two areas of Spanish-speaking populations existed: one in Denver and the other in the San Luis Valley. In 1925, the Hispanic membership of Mid-America Union consisted of only one family and two other members in Denver. Elder G. T. Vore brought continuity to the Hispanic work and the leadership needed to permanently establish Hispanic Seventh-day Adventism in Colorado.

### Rocky Mountain

In December 1927, Elder Vore launched an evangelistic series in a vacant store in Denver, baptizing 11 converts who joined the group in Colorado to form the first Spanish-speaking Adventist church in the Rocky Mountain Conference. While living in the San Luis Valley, Elder Vore evangelized among the Hispanic population in the rural areas and small towns

in Colorado. His home was in Monte Vista, but he also worked in neighboring towns.

As the 1930s ended, the Hispanic ministry in Colorado, though small, showed signs of flourishing. Leadership had passed from the hands of hard-working Anglos such as Elder Vore to Hispanic members themselves. In the 1990s, the long-awaited revival and growth among Hispanics took place under the ministry of Claudio Martín, pastor of the Denver Hispanic Church. This spawned seven new churches, all except one within a 60-mile radius of Denver.

### Iowa-Missouri

Hispanic work in other conferences in the Mid-America Union took hold much later than in Colorado. In 1964, a colporteur planted seeds in Kansas City, Missouri. Manuel Vásquez, then a ministerial student at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, spent the summer in Kansas City colporturing in the Hispanic neighborhood, leaving Adventist

books in many homes. Manuel made friends with families who were ready to receive Bible studies, but because there was not a Hispanic pastor to follow up with them, the opportunity disappeared.

In 1978, with the arrival of Luis Torres and four Spanish-speaking families, the first Sabbath School was organized in Kansas City, Missouri. In August of 1981, the Iowa-Missouri Conference invited Pastor Ignacio Chaviano to come to Kansas City to labor among the Hispanic population. They began regular Sabbath services for the seven Hispanic members meeting in the Blue Chapel of the English Central Church. By 1986, the group had grown and been organized into a church. Ten years later, Pastor Juan Acosta was called from San Francisco, California, to lead the congregation in Kansas City. The work was beginning to pick up and eventually the Hispanic membership in Kansas City exceeded 100.

### Kansas-Nebraska

In 1955, a group of Hispanics started meeting at the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. For several years, this group kept up its weekly meetings, moving from College View Church to Capitol View Church. In 1977, the group became large enough to purchase a church building of its own.

In 1961, the Hispanic work started with great success at Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Elder Raúl Sanchez came from El Paso, Texas, to hold evangelistic meetings there. The attendance was around 150 for most of the four-month series. Within two years, they had 50 members, with 80 attending Sabbath school. As these efforts ended, the Scottsbluff Hispanic Church was successfully established.

The Hispanic work started in Wichita, Kansas, in 1984. Elder Isaac Lara, Mid-America Union evangelist, held evangelistic meetings in Wichita that resulted in 75 people giving their lives to Jesus. The conference hired Pastor Bolivar Tejada to shepherd these new believers. The work spread to Kansas City, Garden City, Great Bend, Dodge City, Topeka and several other places in Kansas.

### Minnesota

In 1989, five young Hispanics arrived from



(left) The first Hispanic Church in Mid-America was established in Colorado in 1927.

(right) The most recently established Hispanic congregation (2021) is worshipping in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

El Salvador in St. Paul, Minnesota, looking for employment. When they attempted to find a Hispanic church to worship with, they discovered there was no Hispanic church in the entire state of Minnesota. They asked Elder Alvin Smith to begin holding services, since his wife Eva spoke Spanish. Five months later, the first Hispanic Sabbath school was organized in Minnesota.

By the following year, the little Hispanic group had grown to eight. When Elder Lee Huff, conference president, learned about the Hispanic group meeting in the St. Paul East Church, he was convicted that the time had come to establish the Hispanic work in their conference. So he traveled to the Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, looking for a bilingual Hispanic pastor. Elder Ben Barcenas accepted the call and by August 1992 the first Hispanic church was organized with 32 members. The conference then hired Pastor Rubén Rivera to lead the new church. That same year, with an offering collected at camp meeting, the first church building was purchased for the Hispanic congregation.

### **Central States**

In 1998, the Central States Conference initiated work among the Hispanic population in Omaha, Nebraska. Pastor Eduardo Jacobo was leading the new work there and in 1998 the first church was established as part of the Central States Conference. Later, more churches were

planted in northeastern Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; Aurora, Colorado; and the Kansas City area. The most recent church planted is in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

### ***A bright future***

Outside of Colorado, the Mid-America Union did not attract large numbers of Hispanic immigrants as did the southern border of the United States and some of the large North American cities. But ripples from the general migration and the northward flow of refugees beginning in the 1960s produced Hispanic communities in the heartland of America that were large enough to expect evangelistic activity.

The total Hispanic-speaking membership in the Mid-America Union is now nearly 8,500. We are one of the smallest unions in Hispanic membership; however, the future looks very bright considering the exponential growth happening in the last few years.

In reviewing the history of the Hispanic work in the Mid-America Union, we can see it wasn't the work of a single person. It was an effort of a group of people working together with the same passion, mission and goal in mind. It was leaders with vision, sponsoring churches, committed pastors and members with fervor for evangelism. May the Lord inspire us to keep working together with this same passion until His soon return! **O**

Roberto Correa is director of Hispanic Ministries for the Mid-America Union Conference.



Courtesy Roberto Correa



Hugh Davis

**Dalila Jefferies, age 100, is a member of the Lincoln Hispanic Church, which she and her late husband founded in the 1970s. Her pastor, Elder Daniel Sanchez (pictured right) says Dalila is an inspiration to their church family as she continues to be involved with community projects, bake bread and tend her vegetable garden.**

**Watch an interview with Dalila Jefferies in Spanish at [www.outlookmag.org/dalilajefferies](http://www.outlookmag.org/dalilajefferies).**





# CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE

## Celebrates 75th Anniversary

**G**reetings,  
Mid-America  
Union  
Family.

It is with great pleasure and delight that we would like to share with you some of the history of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventist as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our existence in 2022.

The Central States Conference was officially established on Sunday, Nov. 9, 1952. However, its true origins date back to early 1946. That year the Central Union Mission submitted a request to the General Conference to establish the Central States Mission. The request was

approved and the mission was organized on Jan. 1, 1947 in St. Louis, Missouri, with 789 members and Pastor T.M. Rowe as its president.

Two years after the mission had been established, Pastor F.L. Bland was asked to lead the six-state mission territory. Under Bland's visionary leadership, the mission grew and flourished to more than 2,000 members in the next three years. Pastor C.E. Bradford was brought in as the Central States evangelist and he continued to help grow the field, baptizing people from Missouri to Colorado. Elder G.E. Peters from the General Conference offered great support and counsel to the new mission and was instrumental in helping it move from mission to conference status.

At the time of its establishment, the Central States Conference was comprised of six states: Missouri,

Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and Wyoming. In 1952 the African American population of those six states was 423,565. The task and goal of Central States was to tell these people of the love of God.

At its organization, Central States had 17 churches and two companies and employed 20 full-time pastors, Bible workers, teachers and office personnel. The conference continued to grow and develop in the following years and it became clear that God was leading and guiding its mission. Walter W. Fordham was elected president in 1959 and brought a fresh emphasis to evangelism. Under his leadership, new churches were established in Wichita, Kansas, and Pueblo, Colorado, and a school was established in St. Louis.

In 1964 Elder E.E. Cleveland from the General

Conference Ministerial Association conducted an evangelist field school in St. Louis where more than 150 people were baptized, resulting in the organization of the Shreve Avenue Church, which was the first Northside Seventh-day Adventist Church.

William S. Lee became the fourth president of Central States in 1966. He continued to encourage evangelism, and led the construction of a new office complex. Donald L. Crowder became the fifth president and the conference experienced a huge tithe increase under his leadership. By the end of 1974 the membership had grown to 4,246.

Samuel Meyers from California became the next president and oversaw a huge renovation of Camp Shady Hill. Meyers put a new roof on the camp pavilion, built a two-story bookstore, a snack



bar and a registration complex in an effort to enhance the camp.

Sherman H. Cox, the seventh president of Central States, emphasized big city evangelism. One of the sadder times for many Central States members was when the conference had to sell Camp Shady Hill. Camp Shady Hill was a large youth camp where the entire conference gathered every summer for a two-week camp meeting convocation. There they would worship and play together and enjoy the many outdoor activities that the camp offered.

However, when the financial cost of upkeep became too much to bear, the conference was forced to sell the camp. Be that as it may, a few years later under the leadership of Elder J. Paul Monk, the conference purchased its current office location in Kansas City, Kansas. This purchase enabled Central States to not only have administrative offices and hotel rooms to house guests, but to also establish the V. Lindsay Elementary School, and eventually erect the G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center for the community.

In 1994, Phyllis Ware-Lee became the first female conference president in the North American Division after Elder Monk died in

office. Elder Ware-Lee was serving as the secretary-treasurer at that time, and she did an extraordinary job being the only conference administrator until the next constituency session.

The membership and field continued to grow under the leadership of each of the successive presidents, Elder J. Alfred Johnson, Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, Dr. Charles Drake III, and Elder Maurice Valentine II, who all brought something unique to advance the work in the region. Because of their stellar leadership witnessed by many in the Adventist denomination, many of our presidents went on to serve at the union and division levels of our organization, with Elder Bryant currently serving as president of the North American Division.

Under the current leadership of our president Elder Roger A. Bernard, the mission statement of Central States Conference is to live and proclaim the three angels' messages in the heartland of America, growing healthy, Bible-based, multicultural communities of faith.

Even though our initial mission was to make sure that the everlasting gospel was preached to the black population in the Midwest who were being neglected, whether intentionally or

unintentionally, we recognize that all peoples within our territory need to be reached. Therefore, the expanded emphasis on "multicultural communities of faith" keeps us locked into the first angel's message of Revelation 14, which describes the everlasting gospel going to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Pastor Tomas DeGyves, our multicultural director, has done a tremendous job in growing the Hispanic work within our territory, with plans for much more expansion. We are also blessed to have Kenyan, Korean, Ghanaian, Indonesian, Ethiopian, Sudanese and other people groups reaching their people within our territory.

After cleaning up our membership records due to some unfortunate poor record keeping in the past, membership was adjusted from approximately 15,000 and currently stands at 9,172 members in 54 congregations.

Even as we endeavor to facilitate growing the kingdom of heaven, we also recognize the need to be good stewards of what we have been entrusted with here on earth. Thus, in 2020 we were blessed to complete the construction of our new Central States Conference

affordable senior housing complex. All 24 units of the R. Bernard Villas are now fully occupied by senior members of our Kansas City, Kansas, community.

We thank God for the opportunity we have been given to literally brighten the corner where we are. We still believe there is an opportunity to develop more of the 39 acres on the grounds of our conference office for the benefit of our members and community. In addition, we also plan to complete the unfinished portions in the G. Alexander Bryant Youth Center for our youth and young adults.

For 75 years, the Central States Conference has "come this far by faith; leaning on the Lord and trusting in His holy word." We celebrate the history and foundation on which we stand, but recognize that our mission is not yet complete. As our theme for 2022 signals us "Forward" we strongly believe that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (*CET*, 204). **O**

Dr. Phillip Baptiste is the ASI NAD director and secretary/treasurer. Pastor Cryston Josiah is the Central States Conference vice president for administration.



Photos Courtesy Central States Conference

# Re-embracing

## The Three Angels' Messages

Any mention of the three angels' messages immediately stirs the Adventist camp.



themselves, “Do I see and embrace the good news hope of the three angels’ messages?”

### Reviewing the Messages

One of the primary purposes of the three angels’ messages found in Rev. 14:6-12 is to identify the characteristics of God’s remnant people. These characteristics include:

- They have the faith of Jesus (Rev. 14:12).
- They keep the commandments of God (Rev. 14:12).
- They are guided by the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy (Rev. 12:17 and 19:10).

To strengthen our understanding of each of these vital messages, let us consider them one by one.

### The First Angel

God’s end-time remnant church will talk about Jesus’ life, faith, sacrifice, love, mercy, grace, righteousness and victory with everyone. All people will know that God’s judgment is real and happening now (see Rev. 14:7). Everyone will be called to give the Creator God glory and recognize the value of Sabbath worship.

### The Second Angel

The second angel announces the collapse of

A great majority recognize and embrace these messages as one of the doctrines defining the identity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nearly all mission statements of Adventist entities reference Rev. 14:6-12.

Yet there are some Adventists standing on the edges of the three angels’ messages landscape. The debate is largely over the proclamation. One edge of the church wants to fling what they see as bad news in the face of the world and the other edge wants to eliminate or change what they perceive as bad news to no news. Both edges, however, have chosen the wrong focus.

### Resetting the Focus

Too long have the edges of the Adventist church interpreted these messages as bad news. These three messages are not bad news; they are good news! And now is the time to all draw together for a three angels’ messages “reset.”

The Three Angels’ Messages Committee at the General Conference is calling Seventh-day Adventists to pray, study and with divine urgency ask



a false gospel and system of worship. The true gospel triumphs. End-time Babylon is a global apostate religious power, a threefold union, composed of Roman Catholic, Protestant, and spiritualistic forms of false worship.

## The Third Angel

The third angel warns against worshipping the beast and his image. The beast represents the papacy, and the image of the beast is formed when the United States makes and enforces laws for the observance of Sunday. The mark of the beast is received when Sunday is observed as the day of worship because it is commanded by law. As a final part of the judgment, evil and all who cling to it will receive its justice and be destroyed by fire—unquenchable until only smoke remains, the effects of which are eternal.

## “Taste them again”

When the Kellogg company realized that most people had heard of Cornflakes, but few had tasted them, they came up with a slogan: “Taste them again for the first time.”

I invite you to taste the three angels’ messages again, maybe for the first time. Earnestly study these themes of Rev. 14:6-12, using the Bible as the infallible standard of truth. Complement your study with the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* and visit [threeangels.info](http://threeangels.info), where you can find many helpful resources, including the Biblical Research Institute’s summary sheet titled “Three Angels’ Messages.”

## Truly Good News

Not long ago my wife and I were part of an off-road 4-wheeler group traveling across the rugged backcountry of Utah. Carefully, we crept down the wall of a huge gorge as we prepared to cross a stream. Just as we were beginning to relax, we rounded a hairpin curve and found a sign at the bottom of the canyon: “WHEN FLOODED TURN AROUND DON’T DROWN”.

Not one of our nine members complained about that sign or criticized those who posted and proclaimed such a negative message. And though it looked like the sign had been there for many years and there was only three inches of water in the stream at the time, the evidence of a raging torrent was strewn high up on the bank of that little stream. To all, the sign was good news.

## Embracing and Sharing the Messages

Recently the Three Angels’ Messages Committee has focused on three major objectives for sharing the three angels’ messages:

1. To communicate to church members an accurate, clear definition of the three angels’ messages;
2. To develop new and meaningful resources for all church members, and materials that can easily be understood by all people;
3. To encourage and facilitate partnerships initiating multiple plans of proclamation.

The revival of commitment to Jesus Christ and urgency of

sharing good news are among our greatest needs. How do we get started? Prayer and Bible study must be our constant companions. With the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

## Free Resources

Materials are being developed by multiple departments and entities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can find these helpful materials, plans and witnessing ideas at [threeangels.info](http://threeangels.info) which is hosted and maintained by the Ministerial Association. New materials and plans are posted regularly. Current materials already available include:

- The “Digital Missionary Movement”
- *Three Cosmic Messages* video series by Pastor Mark Finley
- Missionary Book of the Year for 2022, *The Final Hope: Three Messages for an Anxious World*, by Clifford Goldstein
- Biblical Hermeneutics Seminar Video Presentations from the Biblical Research Institute, featuring BRI and other scholars
- *Biblical Hermeneutics: An Adventist Approach*, Frank M. Hasel, editor, Biblical Research Institute
- *Three Angels for Kids* curriculum for elementary and secondary students
- “Morning is Coming” three angels’ messages presented by 300 young preachers in 30 languages
- “Voice of Youth 1000” young people preaching the three angels’ messages
- *12 Bible Study Lessons on the Three Angels’ Messages* designed for women seeking involvement. These materials can be used digitally or in face-to-face

meetings (available through the Women’s Ministries Department)

- *Where are the Elijahs?* how families can be involved in sharing the three angels’ messages
- Biblical Research Institute: hosts global Bible conferences for theology professors and provides printed and electronic BRI material for essential doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Geoscience Research Institute/Faith and Science Council: a wide range of programs, materials and events advancing the biblical description of God as the creator at [www.grisda.org](http://www.grisda.org) and at [creationsabbath.net](http://creationsabbath.net).

Sharing the three angels’ messages is a very important work. “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light-bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention” (9T, 19).

Please pray that we will all be guided by the Holy Spirit to be appropriately bold ambassadors of the kingdom!

Michael Ryan is an assistant to the president of the General Conference and a member of the Montrose Church in Colorado.

Read the full article at [outlookmag.org/the-three-angels-messages](http://outlookmag.org/the-three-angels-messages)

# RADIO BROADCASTS END A 50-YEAR WAR



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The Gospel just changed the face of a country and made history as 50 years of fighting ended in Mindoro, Philippines. After listening to Adventist World Radio's broadcasts and taking the Gospel to heart, rebel fighters and assassins laid down their guns and made decisions for baptism. In November, they received amnesty and embraced members of the military they'd previously hunted.

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# AdventHealth Produces PlantWise Documentary

She grew up in the country living a vegetarian lifestyle and only rarely eating meat. As a substitute, she ate a lot of cheese, eggs and processed foods. Shortly after getting married, however, she started having health issues that eventually escalated with her first pregnancy.

“At the 27-week mark in the pregnancy, the doctor ordered a glucose tolerance test. I failed the test quite significantly,” said **Karene Bejarano**, a registered nurse who works for a west coast hospital. “They told me I had gestational diabetes and I was going to have to see an endocrinologist and do food counseling. They said, ‘But don’t worry; it will go away. You’ll just have to be careful.’ If you exercise and keep yourself healthy, you’ll be just fine.”

But after giving birth, Bejarano experienced terrible muscle weakness, intermittent blurred vision and high blood sugar levels, leading to a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes.

“It was very disheartening, and I went through a lot of denial,” she said. “I was truly grieving a loss. I was losing my health, which is part of what all of us have the right to enjoy



Courtesy AdventHealth

in life.”

Bejarano is one of six individuals who share their health transformation stories in the recently released film *PlantWise*. In the documentary, the six showcase their struggles with debilitating health conditions often caused by poor lifestyle choices.

The turning point for each of them is the decision to change what they put on their plate by embracing a whole-food, plant-based diet. For Bejarano, while she couldn’t completely eliminate her medication for Type 1 diabetes (an irreversible condition), her improved lifestyle allowed her to lower the amount she needed to take.

“When I made the switch to a whole-food, plant-based lifestyle, I started experiencing significant changes rather quickly,” Bejarano recounted. “Within six months, I had lost

40 pounds. My doctor said my blood pressure was quite low and that they were going to take me off my blood pressure medication. My cholesterol was dropping too, so he said I wouldn’t need my cholesterol medication anymore. In fact, I was able to get off the majority of my medications.”

## Eat plants, feel whole

Nearly half of all Americans suffer from at least one chronic disease, which is responsible for 1.7 million deaths every year, according to a study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. National lifestyle medicine experts believe that exposing the results of unhealthy food choices and revealing the benefits of a whole-food, plant-based lifestyle could significantly help to slow this trend.

“A plant-based diet is the best diet available for humans. When minimally processed plant food is consumed, it can be incredibly health-promoting and even therapeutic, to the point of reversing disease,” noted **George Guthrie**, MD, MPH, a lifestyle medicine physician at AdventHealth who is

also the author of *Eat Plants, Feel Whole*, a health transformation book.

Bejarano recalled how adopting this healthy eating approach made her feel so much more alive. “I thought I was free, but I didn’t really understand what freedom was until I changed my lifestyle,” she said. “You have more energy, you’re more vibrant and you’re happier. When you really decide you’re going to change your lifestyle and you stand firm with that decision, it radically changes your life for the better, and you’ll never want to go back.”

The film *PlantWise* stems from AdventHealth’s desire to explore using documentary films in inpatient and outpatient settings as a catalyst to inspire patients to make lifestyle changes. It is a powerful motivational tool that can give viewers a new vision and fresh hope for their condition, and help them experience vibrant wellness through embracing a healthy lifestyle.


*PlantWise* is a 48-minute film with subtitles available in 18 languages. Sponsored by AdventHealth, Ardmore Institute of Health, American College of Lifestyle Medicine and EatingYouAlive.org, the film features 18 leading lifestyle medicine experts from 14 specialties and disciplines.

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View the film and additional resources for free at [plantwisefilm.com](http://plantwisefilm.com).



## New Community Church Member Focuses on Friendships

Before the first Sabbath that the New Community Church in Denver, Colorado, met outdoors due to COVID-19, church member **Ginger Williams** was impressed that she should not keep the good



message and good experience to herself. So she invited everyone she knew in her surrounding neighborhood.

Sister Williams invited an estimated 40 visitors in one week. Even though many did not show up for a variety of reasons—including lack of transportation—according to Williams it was worth the effort. But seven people did come, and a few have been attending somewhat regularly since then.

Through the process of trying to get people to come to church, Williams noticed that she needed to change

---

Ginger Williams invited nearly 40 visitors to her church one week last year.

both her approach and her focus. Instead of just trying to get people to church, she became convicted that her goal is not necessarily to get people to church but to establish friendships. That is where true witnessing starts.

Williams said she has been a witness and a friend to them every day of the week. The lesson for her was just learning how God is with her and how He sets up everything in perfect timing. She said that this experience has strengthened her faith and made her stronger.

Her main motive is to build relationships. She believes God put her in her current neighborhood for a reason and that reason has begun to slowly reveal itself.

The folks she has been

inviting appreciate the invitation. Williams plans to study the Bible with her friends later on. She said the reason she is now a member of the New Community Church is because of friendships that were built from the church members. She also emphasizes that it's not about how well the pastor preachers, even though that is important, but it's about building and maintaining relationships and friendships.

Williams' favorite Bible passage is Hebrews 12 from the New International Version.

.....  
Stories on these pages were written by Ian Francis, a member of the New Community Church in Denver, Colorado.

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## Denver New Community Church Hosts Parking Lot Outreach



During the summer of 2021 the Denver New Community Church embarked on numerous activities that brought fulfillment and a sense of mission to the members and the

surrounding community. The parking lot experience spurred the motivation to intensify the church's mission, which is to *Love, Serve and Connect*.

Due to the surge in



Photos Courtesy: Central States Conference

COVID-19 cases and the interest of the members to continue to meet for church, the decision was made to have Sabbath service in the parking lot. Because of the ease of access, we saw many visitors from the surrounding area who experienced how we praise the Lord. People from the surrounding apartments and houses were sitting on their steps or looking out their windows listening and, in some cases, pulling up in their vehicles to enjoy church.

In a few instances the visiting guests outnumbered the regular members. Holy communion was even conducted in the parking lot and many of the visitors took part.

In addition, the church conducted several outreach events where over 100 food bags were given out to the

homeless throughout the Denver metro areas. Not only were these items given, but church members prayed and ministered to many who openly welcomed the gesture. Some of the homeless requested prayer, and some even prayed moving, Holy Spirit-filled prayers.

The outreach was divided into two sections, the first focused on giving out food to the homeless, and the second, led by **Pastor Oshaine Wynter** (pastor of the New Community and Boston Street churches), focused on knocking on doors of people living in the surrounding community to conduct a needs assessment. This information has been aggregated into a database where it will be used as outreach efforts continue.

# Zooming in Prayer

## Dakotans Pray is now offered weekly

Exercising the privilege and power of prayer in an instant connection with God remains our highest privilege and honor as humans. Whether it's like Noah's search in the face of God for grace, Abram's scan of the starry night searching for an heir, Jacob's dream of angels ascending and descending the ladder to heaven or wrestling with a powerful being until daybreak, we can probably relate to intimate times with God.

Perhaps like Ruth seeking a redeemer, or Esther seeking the favor of the king, or Rahab's concern for the salvation of her family, or Mary's quiet "May it be as you say, Lord," we can relate to people seeking answers from beyond this reality from a God who holds us in His care.

Dakotans Pray began in May 2020 as several people across the Dakotas gathered for National Day of Prayer. This fellowship that now meets the first Thursday of every month continues to grow across the

Dakotas and the country. Dakota Conference Prayer Ministries actively partners with Adventist churches like Fargo, with **Pastor Darrel Lindensmith** presenting opportunity for fellowship from anywhere via internet connection.

Let's consider for a moment the power of prayer, and the power of fellowship in united prayer. "The divorce rate among couples who go to church together regularly is one out of two—the same as among unbelievers. But the divorce rate among couples who pray together daily is one out of 1,153."<sup>1</sup> Incredible! Prayer is power.

Fellowship and collectively petitioning God together in prayer not only brings us closer to God but brings unity among us. It makes us woven together like a fabric or braided together as a rope. Here's what participants have said.

"For me prayer offers comfort," said **Mary**, who connects from Rhode Island. "It's an outlet I always seek

and look forward to. I love going to church and the fellowship, so thank you for this platform because it has been a comfort for me."

"Prayer works," said **Zuri**, a Texas-based over-the-road truck driver and father of five. "The prayer of the just amounts to a lot. Last time I checked a couple of weeks ago, we had prayed for more fellowship from other brothers and sisters, and within two weeks we have seen an increase in attendance in this meeting. I love this brotherhood. I thank God for it."

"Ever since I've heard about the small group idea, I've always kind of wanted to be part of a small group," said **Scott** from Bottineau, North Dakota. "Through the magic of Zoom technology, this is kind of like a small group here. The fellowship and the chance to pray together is really good, especially since I am part of a distanced district."

"It's been a pleasure and honor to be on this prayer group, and I think I'm going to try to encourage more

people from our church to hop on and take a part in it," said **Janice** from Bismarck, North Dakota.

"You know, we have to pray without ceasing, especially in this time we are living in. And yes it's a small group, but more prayer, more power," said **Natasia**, a new resident of the Fargo-Moorhead community.

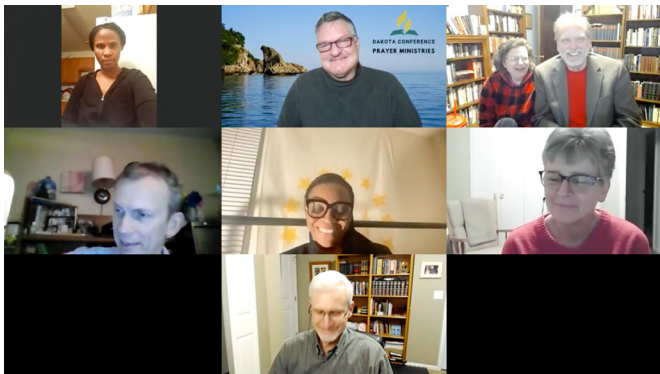
Dakotans Pray recently set a goal to increase average attendance over the next year from seven to 15.

Dakota Prayer Ministries is working on a prayer emphasis calendar to be published on the Dakota Conference website Prayer Ministries page. This will offer the opportunity to submit a prayer request and pray for the items submitted, connect with Prayer Ministries leaders and resources for the local church, and connect with others across the Dakotas in prayer.

An in-person Dakota prayer conference is being planned in Aberdeen, South Dakota, for March 18-20.

Barry St. Clair is the Dakota Conference Prayer Ministries coordinator and associate pastor of the Fargo, Red River and Wahpeton church district in North Dakota.

1. Sacks, Cheryl, *The Prayer Saturated Church*, Nav Press 2007, Colorado Springs, CO, p 150 para 1; 1993 Gallop Pole source



Courtesy Barry St. Clair

Visit the Dakota Conference Prayer Ministries' web page for more information: [dakotaadventist.org/ministries/prayer-ministries](https://dakotaadventist.org/ministries/prayer-ministries)



# Dog Breeders Can Be Angels Too

Jared Woll



Jodi Dossenko



(top) Ben's car, taken the day following the fire  
(bottom) Eleanore and Ben

Angels are all around us, protecting us even when we do not realize it. Ellen White says, "Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith" (*Selected Messages*, V.II, p. 377).

Last November, on the coldest and windiest day of the new season, **Eleanore Dossenko** was released from the Bismarck hospital 27 hours after undergoing major back surgery. She was scheduled to stay under doctor's care for a few more days but due to the overcrowded facility and shortage of workers, she was sent home early. Her pain was not yet managed, and though she had proved she could walk, it was only for a few steps and required a

walker. Her son, **Ben**, loaded her into the car and started the 100-mile drive to Harvey, where she could recover in the comfort of her own home.

On North Dakota Highway 3, halfway to the destination, which some would describe as the "middle of nowhere," Ben's car began to lose power. By the time he pulled over, smoke was rolling out of the gear shifter. Quickly he sprang from the car and ran to the back passenger door where he grabbed the walker and opened it, ready for use. The engine fire spread quickly, and flames had already begun to shoot out under the passenger side dashboard. Forgetting in the chaos that she was "glued and screwed together," Eleanore remembers thinking, *I could hop the middle console*. She was attempting to crawl up over the console to

exit the car from the drivers' door away from the flames when Ben opened her door.

"Stop!" he said as he pulled her out of the car, "You can't even do that on a good day!" He gave her the walker and told her to get away from the car. The wind was so forceful that Ben had to stabilize her. Eleanore sent up a plea, "Oh God, help us!"

Less than two minutes passed from the time Eleanore put her feet on the ground and prayed before a van pulled up. Ben ran up to the vehicle and calmly said, "My mother just had surgery. She has to get out of the cold. I need you to take her to Harvey. Please get her away from here." Without hesitation, Eleanore was loaded into the van and was on her way home. Because there was no room in the vehicle, Ben stayed and waited for his brother to arrive while he watched the car burn.

The van driver, **Candy**, an insurance adjuster and dog breeder, lived beyond Eleanore's hometown, but it was not far out of her way. She was heading home after an extended trip to see family and was traveling with her nine dogs. Candy said she regularly took the backroads, but today her GPS advised that her usual route was icy, so she rerouted and drove a highway she had never traveled before.

The two ladies visited a little and found common ground as both were former nurses. Candy was pleasant and had not been shaken by a strange man stopping her on the highway and "throwing" his mother in her vehicle. She had found it odd that the GPS had

taken her this way as she had never been on Highway 3.

The dogs did not make a sound on the drive and Candy never turned her head to look at Eleanore. As the ladies pulled up in front of Eleanore's home, Eleanore tried to give the woman a check, which she refused. "You can't refuse, I already made out the check!" Eleanore argued. Candy replied, "It's not complete because you don't even know my last name. I won't take it."

Although the car fire had been hot enough to melt a portion of Eleanore's coat, neither passenger was hurt during the ordeal. Ben's car burned to the ground, but he was able to save almost everything of value after he pulled his mother to safety.

From the time she left the car until she got home, Eleanore doesn't recall worrying. Her son acted calmly and quickly, taking all the correct actions—almost like it had been rehearsed. Her back was not injured, and she experienced no pain.

The family has unsuccessfully tried to locate Candy, but even information regarding her insurance company and dog breeding has yielded no results. Was Candy an angel? Maybe she was, maybe she wasn't. Regardless, she was sent to help in a time of need. The family may never know the answer, but they are grateful for the Lord's mercies.

"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11 NKJV).

Jodi Dossenko is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

## Church Provides Space to Shelter Homeless

Earlier this winter the Lebanon Church opened its education center for the second year of sheltering those needing a warm place to stay. In November 2020 **Sue Watson**, director for the Laclede County Salvation Army, appeared on local television explaining a need for a facility to house homeless individuals when the weather gets cold. “In the television interview I told them that [the Salvation Army] had put a lot of [homeless individuals] in motels in the past, but we could not do it anymore because of lack of finances,” Watson said.

**Marty Resz**, a member of the Bolivar Church at the time, saw the interview and felt impressed to contact the Lebanon Church and suggest the church use their education center to help the homeless. The church members discussed this possibility and

invited Watson to tour the facility. Upon inspection, Watson decided the building was a perfect fit. The church then agreed to provide the space to help those in need of shelter.

However, due to its small membership size, the Lebanon Church knew it was unable to run the operation alone. **Craig Wiles**, pastor for the Lebanon Church, called a meeting with several community leaders to discuss how the center could operate.

A steering committee was formed and included representatives from five different organizations: L-LIFE Food Pantry, Laclede County Salvation Army, Free Store Ministry, White Oak Pond Presbyterian Church and the Lebanon Church.

The committee organized a plan of action and on Jan. 11, 2021, only two months after Watson conducted

her television interview, the Lebanon Warming Center was opened.

Executive director for Free Store Ministry **Amber Meredith** said Free Store Ministry had been praying for a warming center for years. “We interact with people who struggle for housing and a warm place to stay during the winter months on a daily basis,” Meredith said. “We were overjoyed when the possibility of having a set warming center became a reality.”

The center is open 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on days when the weather is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below. As the church is located outside the city limits, those in need of shelter meet at the Free Store Ministry building and are transported in limousines by a local taxi service.

At the center, individuals are met by volunteers and receive food, hygiene items and other necessities donated by the involved organizations. Each person has their own cot, blanket and pillow for the evening. The individuals can use the center’s showers and may also wash and dry their

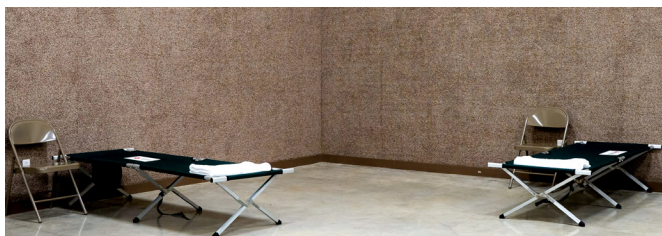
clothes in machines donated by the local Lowe’s store.

Last winter the center was open 42 nights and accommodated 249 total stays, serving a total of 33 people. Now in its second year of operation, the center expects to see an increase in the number of individuals served. “We started off small last year but as word of mouth has spread, our numbers are already on the rise,” said **Shannon Reynolds**, operations manager for L-LIFE Food Pantry.

Those involved in the center believe it is important to the community and are grateful to the Lebanon Church for providing its education center to help those in need. “The center not only provides shelter for those who need it on the worst of nights, it also has brought an element of hope that wasn’t present before,” Meredith said. “It is an inspiration to those in the community to step out and be the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Marcia Clark is communication director for the Lebanon Church. Christina Coston is communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Christina Coston



## Iglesia Abre Despensa de Alimentos en Respuesta a Pandemia

La Iglesia Española de Des Moines abrió una despensa de alimentos para ayudar a los afectados por la pandemia en marzo 2021. Hoy en día, la despensa continúa sirviendo a su comunidad local.

La despensa está abierta las tardes semanales del sábado para que los individuos recuperen cajas de comida. Si una familia o

individuo no puede conducir a la iglesia, a menudo uno de los voluntarios conduce la comida al cliente.

En su más concurrida, la despensa ha servido a más de 20 coches de personas, algunos vehículos incluyendo ordenes múltiples. Aunque hubo una disminución de clientes en los últimos meses, los voluntarios de la despensa continúan la operación con

la esperanza de servir a las comunidades americanas y hispanas y de traer conciencia a la Iglesia Española de Des Moines.

“Hay muchas agencias [en el área] para los americanos, pero no para los hispanos,” dijo **Juana Juárez**, directora de la despensa de alimentos. “Podemos llegar a la comunidad hispana.”

Juárez dijo que la despensa



Christina Coston

espera continuar sirviendo a muchas personas, tanto de habla español e inglés.



# Church Embraces Young Adults

Jazmin Nuñez

The Multicultural Church in Kansas City, Missouri, started two new groups during the pandemic to reach previously overlooked demographics. In 2020 **Abelardo Rivas**, pastor for the Multicultural Church, met with several young adults in the church to discuss how the church could better support them.

“We never had anything specifically for our age group, and we really needed it,” said **Gaby Suazo**, REACH young adult leader. After their discussions, the group ultimately decided to start a young adult group that would meet on Friday nights for activities and discussions. The group’s motto is to “Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out.” Rivas said that while anyone is welcome to attend, the programming is aimed toward young adults.

REACH young adult leader **Nataly Malma** said the group has positively impacted her spiritual life and she now feels like she belongs in the church. “At times it was hard to find contentment in going to church because the sermon topics were not necessarily aimed at youth,” Malma said. “Ever since REACH started, I feel like my spiritual life has improved and I’ve found something I enjoy being part of.”

Starting REACH inspired church members to start another ministry: BREAD. The Multicultural Church is about 90 percent Latino, 5 percent Latino-American and 5 percent Caucasian, representing an estimated 15 nations, according to Rivas. The goal of the church is to “embrace every culture,” Rivas said.



REACH participants recently celebrated Friendsgiving together.

“There is this general sense that we’re here for each other, we’re going to care for each other, despite any cultural differences we may have,” Rivas said. After seeing the success of REACH, a group of English-speaking adults created a group with three main objectives: worship together, eat together and do both solely in English.

“As immigrants, which is the case for a lot of the people in the [Multicultural] Church, we understand how one can feel when you go to another place where you feel different,” Rivas said.

The church didn’t want any group of people to feel left out, so they provided a place for the group to meet, in hopes that those individuals would feel accepted and welcome in the church, according to Rivas.

Christina Coston is communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

La Iglesia Multicultural en Kansas City, Missouri, inició dos nuevos grupos durante la pandemia para alcanzar datos demográficos antes pasados por alto.

En 2020 **Abelardo Rivas**, pastor de la Iglesia Multicultural, se reunió con varios jóvenes adultos en la iglesia para discutir cómo la iglesia podría apoyarlos mejor. “Nunca tuvimos nada específicamente para nuestro grupo de edad, y realmente lo necesitábamos,” dijo **Gaby Suazo**, líder de adultos jóvenes de REACH.

Después de sus discusiones, el grupo finalmente decidió iniciar un grupo de adultos jóvenes que se reuniría los viernes por la noche para actividades y discusiones. El lema del grupo es “Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out.” Rivas dijo que mientras cualquiera es bienvenido a asistir, el programa está dirigido a adultos jóvenes.

**Nataly Malma**, líder de jóvenes adultos de REACH, dijo que el grupo ha impactado positivamente su vida espiritual y que ahora se siente como que ella pertenece a la iglesia.

“A veces era difícil encontrar satisfacción al ir a la iglesia porque los temas de los

sermones no estaban necesariamente dirigidos a la juventud,” dijo Malma. “Desde que REACH comenzó, siento que mi vida espiritual ha mejorado y he encontrado algo de lo que me gusta ser parte.”

Comenzando REACH inspiró a los miembros de la iglesia a comenzar otro ministerio: BREAD.

La Iglesia Multicultural es de alrededor del 90% de latinos, el 5% de latinoamericanos y el 5% de caucásicos, representando aproximadamente 15 naciones, según Rivas. La meta de la iglesia es “abrazar cada cultura,” dijo Rivas.

“Existe la sensación general de que estamos aquí unos por otros, nos vamos a cuidar unos de otros, a pesar de cualquier diferencia cultural que tengamos,” dijo Rivas.

Después de ver el éxito de REACH, un grupo de adultos de habla inglés creó un grupo con tres objetivos principales: Adorar juntos, comer juntos y hacer ambos exclusivamente en inglés.

“Como inmigrantes, que es el caso de muchas de las personas en la Iglesia [Multicultural], entendemos cómo uno puede sentirse cuando vas a otro lugar donde te sientes diferente,” dijo Rivas.

La iglesia no quería que ningún grupo de personas se sintiera abandonado, por lo que proporcionaron un lugar para que el grupo se reuniera, con la esperanza de que esos individuos se sintieran aceptados y bienvenidos en la iglesia, según Rivas.





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# Kansas and Nebraska Members Celebrate, Grow and Serve



Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference

## Omaha, Nebraska

In October the Omaha Memorial Church celebrated their diversity with their annual International Sabbath. **Pastor Delmar Austin** shared, “This year we counted 34 countries represented by our members. We celebrated two themes: cultural diversity and world mission. After the worship service we enjoyed an international fellowship meal and an afternoon program.”

## Wichita, Kansas

Area churches have begun a monthly event in collaboration with their youth and young adult ministry departments. Each month they bring their young people together for fellowship and games. **Jeff Carlson**, pastor at Wichita South Church, shares, “We had a huge turnout and enjoyed building community among the churches.”



## Lincoln, Nebraska

“This year College View Church ran its tenth year of Man Camp—a weekend where dads and older men speak life, truth and strength into the hearts of young men. Young men learn skills and what the heart of God is toward them. It’s amazing watching these generations of men connect with each other, God and who they truly are meant to be,” shares **Pastor Mic Henton**.



## Overland Park, Kansas

ReNewed Hope Food Pantry (New Haven Church, Kansas) had reason to celebrate recently when a large 10-by-30-foot outdoor walk-in refrigerator, donated by Harvesters, was placed on the church property.

ReNewed Hope Food Pantry also received a grant from Adventist Community Services that allowed the church to lay a cement foundation for the walk-in refrigerator. This new refrigerator will allow the food pantry to expand its capacity for refrigerated items and help more people in need.

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### Honor Classes

Honor Classes will be those in the graduating years ending in 2's and 7's:

'47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12

### Guest Speaker

**CHARLIE THOMPSON**

**CLASS OF 1981**

For More Information Email: [ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com) or visit the Alumni Website: [ea-gpa-alumni.com](http://ea-gpa-alumni.com)

# Conference Hosts Multicultural Couples' Retreat

Last November four presenter couples from four different backgrounds (Asian, Hispanic, American and African) had the privilege to speak to 61 couples at our Minnesota Conference 2021 multicultural couples' retreat. One of the major objectives was to come together under one roof with the explicit purpose of sharing our experiences and learn how to solve the challenges the marital relationship poses.

"It was a great experience," said one of the attendees. "It is a blessing to have the opportunity to interact in a multicultural environment and

achieve unity with the purpose of learning and sharing together the many areas where marriage needs nurturing"

Another attendee said, "We need to do this more often."

As Family Life Ministries coordinator, it was great to see many couples coming

together and working to improve their marriage relationship. It was like a little time of heaven on earth because the environment was so pleasant and so positive. You could see the joy and the loving expressions between the couples.

Let's always come together in unity no matter who we are and where we come from so we can finish the work that God has entrusted to us!

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



Courtesy Eduardo Jacobo

# Maplewood Academy Raises Funds for New Cafeteria

The Maplewood Academy Board has announced plans to construct a new cafeteria to serve the needs of students and the greater Maplewood constituency.

The current building which houses the cafeteria is also home to the music department. Replacing the current facilities will come in a two-part effort with the cafeteria being constructed first and, as funds become available, a new music space will be provided. Once these new facilities have been completed, the current building will be demolished and that footprint will become additional parking space.

The new cafeteria building has been designed by

Oleson + Hobbie Architects of Mankato, Minnesota. They were selected to do this work based on their past experiences with school cafeterias and their excellent reputation.

Their plans call for a warm and inviting space that has appeal to the food staff, the students and the community at large. It will be located slightly north and east of the existing building. The new cafeteria will architecturally reflect the design of other campus buildings and will have pleasant curb appeal to the community from the Highway 15 side.

The cost of the new cafeteria is estimated to be \$3 million. A campaign committee has been fundraising

and has made significant progress toward this goal. Income for the campaign has already surpassed \$1.1 million. Many enthusiastic alumni, along with constituents across Minnesota and the community at large, are supporting this effort. Actual construction of the cafeteria will commence as funds become available.

"I'm extremely grateful to the Capital Campaign Committee for their efforts in getting momentum behind this project," said **Jeremy Everhart**, principal of Maplewood Academy.

"Taking this extremely important campus development from wishful thinking to planning out the details of an actual groundbreaking has brought a spirit of hope and expectation to the Maplewood Academy campus."

David Burghart is the capital campaign manager for Maplewood Academy.



Courtesy Oleson + Hobbie Architects

View the architect's renderings at [maplewoodacademy.org](http://maplewoodacademy.org).



## Former MWA Student Shares His One Regret

**D**o I have any regrets from my time as a Maplewood student? As a matter of fact, there is one! I was reminded of it recently while attending a Maplewood Academy Building Committee meeting. Our committee meets periodically to discuss progress and planning for the prospective new cafeteria and future music building on the campus of Maplewood Academy (see p. 22).

To date the cafeteria project has received over \$1.1 million in donations. When that amount reaches \$2 million, our committee plans to bid the project and generate a construction schedule. This is something we would like to see happen in the next few months in order to schedule a groundbreaking in 2022!

At this point perhaps you're still wondering about my original question ... regrets? Well, as I said, there was one that can be summed up in two simple words: salad bar.

More specifically, I regret overlooking (and therefore

underutilizing) Mrs. J's plenteous salad bar. **Peggy Johnson** (affectionately known to us back then as "Mrs. J") was the cafeteria director during my era ('98-'01), and she was faithful about providing a fully loaded salad bar alongside nearly every meal. I didn't take advantage of this opportunity as often as my mother would have liked.

How did all of this come to mind? Recently **Jeremy Everhart**, Maplewood's current principal, treated our Building Committee to a meal from the cafeteria prior to our meeting. **Jody Bertness (Skelley)**, the current cafeteria director, with some assistance from **Vicky Fogg (Weber)**, had similar healthy options available, including a sandwich bar full of veggies and even a "vegan quesadilla."

While many generations have enjoyed memories in the cafeteria during their time at Maplewood, little did we think about the costs and effort that were

going into sustaining the building's maintenance and energy needs.

Fast-forward to today. To consider a remodel now would likely trigger mandated compliance with modern accessibility, energy and sprinkler codes. This would be a substantial and expensive undertaking, and would still leave us owners of an old, tired building.

In recent years, an engineer was hired to provide a professional assessment of what a modernization remodel would involve. His final advice? "You would be better off to build a new building."

It was not long after this prognosis that Maplewood began fundraising for a new cafeteria building. And here we want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to passing the \$1 million line!

As I considered all of this, I noted that a cafeteria is not merely a building, but it is a place where people come together to share a meal. It is a social place. A place where

memories are made and relationships are grown. That's why, when we get to heaven, the first thing our Heavenly Father plans to do is serve us a meal—together!

"The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat" (Luke 12:37 NLT). What a picture—the God of all creation serving His children a meal! What a special time that will be!

To invest in a project like this is not merely to invest in a place to eat; rather, it is an investment in relationships, an investment in memories yet to be made, and ultimately an investment in those who will be sitting around that heavenly table someday.

.....  
Jonny Vliet is a 2001 Maplewood Academy alumni.



Courtesy Oleson + Hobbie Architects



See photos and videos of this exciting project and contribute at [maplewood-academy.org](http://maplewood-academy.org).



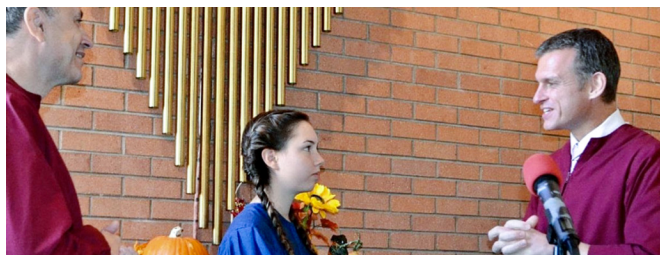
If you prefer to speak to someone in person, contact Paeter Weikum at 320.587.2830.

## Campion Academy Inspires Community Family to be Baptized

After attending public schools all her life and starting her freshman year of high school online due to COVID-19, **Lily Testardi** knew it was time for a change. She longed for a closer community, so she asked her parents if they would consider sending her to boarding school. Her father **Richard** told her, “It’s a possibility, provided it is a Christian boarding school we can trust.”

Lily searched for Christian boarding schools near where they were living in Boulder and found Campion Academy. They were familiar with the area and were excited to learn that Campion was continuing to provide in-person learning.

Richard explained, “We scheduled a tour the next



Anndrea Taylor

day, and could instantly tell Campion was different, that it was a place where people truly loved God and others.” The Testardis were not Adventists but were open to learning more about the church.

Richard continued, “Students were less distracted and less shallow than anything we had experienced recently. Kids were not constantly on their phones, were friendly to adults, and actually had jobs

in addition to school.”

In January 2021, Richard and his wife **Isobel** enrolled Lily as a dorm student at Campion Academy to complete her freshman year. “For the first time, we actually felt like we could trust a school with Lily’s well-being, even for overnight trips—even for trips out of the country,” Richard reflected.

The positive experience Lily had at the academy caused her and her parents to want to

study the beliefs of Adventists. Richard said, “We started a crash course to understand the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and found one pleasant surprise after the next. We found that everything hinged on Jesus, the Bible and love! We have been totally welcomed and never judged.”

Lily, along with her mother Isobel and her father Richard, were baptized at the Campion Church last November. At her baptism, Lily shared, “I know that God’s way is much better than anything I could have come up with on my own, and I know I am ready to enter into this covenant with Jesus.”

Muriel Indermuehle is a member of the Campion Church and Jill Harlow is communication director for Campion Academy.

## Church Plant Inaugurated in Downtown Denver

If you pass through Five Points, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Denver, you might question if a church could ever be established there. You will note the bars, warehouses, and graffiti everywhere. **Miloš Tomić**, an associate pastor for the Arvada Church, tossed out the idea to start a church there during a meeting at the conference in 2019. **Ed Barnett**, then RMC president, challenged him: “You can do this. You should get a place and start a church downtown.”

They took the challenge with a group of young Adventists from their local church, but then COVID-19 put things on hold. Yet the

idea did not go away.

The group began their involvement in Five Points by getting to know their neighbors and promoting their presence in the area. Then on Sabbath, Dec. 11, 2021, Pastor Tomić and a group of Arvada young people met for what could be seen as a seeker worship. Thus started the Five Points Life Adventist Church.

Tomić stated that the group of young people in attendance were committed to “helping this neighborhood experience something better, something bigger and something that will improve the neighborhood and just get the people over here, [to help them] understand that the spiritual aspect of life is

more important than boozing and bar hopping.”

Five Points Life has two objectives: to create an environment that is welcoming for everyone, and to promote the values of the gospel and the teachings of Jesus—sticking to the things that really matter to people, allowing them to find their path with God and find solutions in their lives.

“This is not like your usual church,” Tomić said. “This is a group of people who are not here to listen to me. People come here to share and to hear what others have to share.”

**Mickey Mallory**, RMC Ministerial director, joined the group on its inaugural day. “It thrills my soul to know we now

Photos: Rajmund Dabrowski



have a safe place in the Five Points neighborhood where young adults can connect to God and with other young adults,” Mallory said.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



# Brandon Westgate to Serve as RMC Youth Director

Courtesy Brandon Westgate



**B**randon Westgate has accepted an invitation from the Rocky Mountain Conference Administrative Committee to serve as the new youth director for RMC. Westgate, currently a pastor in the Arkansas-Louisiana conference, will be taking over the department director position vacated by **Kiefer Dooley** last May when he transferred to the Treasury Department.

“My wife and I are looking forward to contributing what we can to the ministry that is already taking place in RMC. I am impressed with the support from the conference administrators for continuing to develop the best youth program we can deliver,” Westgate said.

Westgate has been married to his wife **Dawn**, who is a nurse, for 35 years. They have two grown children, **Cory** and **Sylvia**, and two grandchildren.

Westgate has served as a pastor in many multi-church

districts throughout the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and served as their youth director and camp director at Camp Yorktown Bay for four years before returning to local church ministry.

**Jessyka Dooley**, assistant RMC youth director, welcomes a decision to have a youth director again. “First of all, I’m relieved! Our department has been without a director for six months. It will be amazing to have a full team in the office again. I am extremely excited that Brandon will be joining us as the new RMC youth director,” she said. “He brings experience, passion and vision to the team. As I’ve gotten to know Brandon more throughout the interview process, I have no doubt that he will fit in seamlessly with the vibe of the Rocky Mountain Conference, Glacier View Ranch and Mills Spring Ranch and youth

ministry as a whole.”

The process of selecting the right person for the position was a long process, according to **Doug English**, RMC vice president of administration. “This was a long process at a difficult time of year to land a youth director, but God has led us to Brandon, and we’re really excited to have him with us.”

**Brent Learned**, assistant RMC youth director, is also looking forward to working with Westgate. “I am excited to have Brandon joining our team and am looking forward to the passion, experience and fresh perspective he is bringing with him.”

Westgate, not raised a Christian, came to know Jesus and to walk with Him in his twenties after making some wrong decisions in high school which led him, in his words, “to the lowest point in my life.” Now he is involved in many activities that help spread the good news that a relationship with Jesus offers.

“I have been privileged to play a spiritual leadership role in Maranatha’s mission trips for high school teens called the Ultimate Workout since 2014. I am hopeful that we can encourage the young people in our conference to get involved in both local and international short-term mission trips as a way to potentially discover God’s calling in their life,” Westgate said.

He is also looking forward

to strengthening RMC’s presence with Pathfinders and Adventurers as the Youth Department gears up for the International Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, in 2024. He commented, “I am a huge fan of Adventurers and Pathfinders. We will be developing new ways to help any church that wishes to have an Adventurer or Pathfinder club in their church to be able to do so. With the International Camporee coming to RMC in Gillette in a few short years, it would be amazing if we had many more clubs than we currently have to represent this amazing conference at the International Camporee.”

Westgate has a B.A. in theology from Southwestern Adventist University and a master’s in pastoral ministry from Andrew University. He enjoys working with his hands and has developed skills in home remodeling and renovation. He also likes outdoor activities like golf, disc golf, cycling, hiking, swimming and has run several half marathons, one full marathon, and has also done a few triathlons. He is an avid reader and enjoys board games.

The Westgates will be transitioning to RMC in 2022.

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RMCNews

## Health Classes Lead to Lifestyle Change

If you go down to Larson Lifestyle Center on a weekday afternoon, you might meet **Katie Tahay** in the weight room. The junior English language arts education major from Colorado exercises there five days a week.

“At first I wanted to do an evening routine, but that didn’t work out. Then I realized I have this hour between classes. I thought, *I’m going to use that hour.* So within that hour, I run for 30 minutes, and then do weights for 15 minutes, and in those last 15 minutes I get ready for my next class. I do this Monday through Friday and take breaks on Saturday and Sunday.”

Tahay began her exercise habit last year when she took Concepts of Wellness from **Dr. Nancy Petta**. She credits the class with giving her the commitment to work out every day. She said, “My fitness life became a lifestyle because of that class. We had an assignment where we had to work out 30 minutes a day four days a week. Once I started there, it became a habit, something I had to do. If I didn’t, it felt like something was missing.”

Katie Tahay learned the value of exercise while taking the Concepts of Wellness course at Union College. Now she makes it a part of her daily life.

Her favorite part of exercising is the way it makes her feel. “I feel better about my body and myself. I see the changes. Exercise is also a way for me to be more alert. After I run and do my workout, I feel awake. I’m not as groggy and I have energy to finish the day.”

“My go-to exercise is the treadmill,” Tahay shared, “I also do a couple weights. I do the basics, a couple arm exercises, and some crunches. One class I’m taking now, Weight Training, requires a test on crunches, so I’ve added them to the routine.”

Tahay feels that there is a connection between education and exercise. “There’s education in the whole idea of exercise,” she said. “Exercise is a learning process. Running is self-explanatory, but when it comes to weights, you have to learn what each weight does—what

it works, what it doesn’t work. You also have to learn what you can handle.”

Although Tahay studied at the University of Northern Colorado her freshman year, she transferred to Union in August of 2020. She describes her decision to transfer as inspired by God. “I chose to come to Union College by faith. As a freshman, the idea of coming to Union showed up. I was hesitant to step out of where I was comfortable, but I also knew I wasn’t at a school where I belonged. When I got here, I realized this was where God wanted me to be. He brought me to Union eventually and it is a blessing to be part of this campus.”

Tahay believes the wellness center expansion Union is planning will be an excellent addition to the campus. “It sounds exciting, especially the indoor track and other

equipment they want to add,” she said. “The equipment they have now is good, but there could be more. It’s good to know they are trying to expand, because sometimes it gets a little crowded in there and the space would be nice.”

Stories on these pages were written by Annika Cambigue, a sophomore communication major from Ohio.



Learn more about Union's wellness center expansion plans at [ucollege.edu/fit](https://ucollege.edu/fit)



Scott Cushman/Union College



## A Fast Track to Practicing Medicine

**J**adyn Anderson is one of the busiest students on Union's campus. The junior from South Dakota balances her studies with working as a physical therapy technician, founding and leading the pre-PA club, and organizing service opportunities as a Campus Ministries volunteer coordinator. "I'm a very driven person," she said. "I like getting things done."

High on the to-do list is finishing her master's degree a year early. In just three years more years, Anderson will have finished both a bachelor's and a master's.

Anderson is a student in Union's biomedical science program, working on the advanced pre-PA emphasis. This program allows students to combine a bachelor's degree in biomedical science with a master's of physician assistant studies in only six years. In comparison, most

PAs spend seven years or more in training.

"When I graduate from the PA Program, I'll have spent three years as an undergrad and three years in graduate school," said Anderson, who will receive her bachelor's degree after the first year in the PA program.

"Growing up, I was always interested in medicine," she said. "I even thought about becoming a doctor, but there were a lot of drawbacks for me. As I was evaluating what I liked and disliked about being a doctor, someone asked if I'd considered becoming a PA, and I thought *Whoa! This has everything I'm looking for.*"

Physician assistants work closely with patients in almost all medical specialties, including emergency medicine, family practice, sports medicine, psychiatry and pediatrics, to name a few.

Unlike doctors, they do not have to take extra training to specialize in a field. Anderson chose the PA profession for its flexibility, as well as its freedom to interact with patients. "I love how closely PAs work with patients and get to have more time to interact with them. I also like the versatility of being a physician assistant. I can start in family practice, go to emergency medicine and then end up in sports medicine. I can let life happen as it happens and my career can change with me."

"We have some incredibly brilliant students who choose to come to Union," said **Dr. Christina Burden-Page**, director of the biomedical science program. "And we want to give them the opportunity to decrease the amount of time they have in school, as well as give them a fast track into our PA

program." In 2021, Union College PA graduates had a 97 percent first-time PANCE pass rate. Each year, Union accepts only 30 students to the PA program. These small class sizes allow professors and students to create the meaningful connections for which Union College is known. Union undergraduate students who apply to the PA program receive preferred status and an inside track into the program.

"When I started college, I was planning to pursue physical therapy," shared Anderson. "The thing that changed me to want to do PA was a biology class. My professor would do case studies, and I just loved the problem solving and analyzing aspect. That's what convinced me I really wanted to practice medicine. I continue to love Dr. Christina Burden-Page's classes. They're super insightful. We learn so much that when you leave the classroom, you feel like you're one step closer to your dream."

Jadyn Anderson is taking advantage of Union's accelerated pre-PA program that allows students to complete a bachelor's degree in biomedical science and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree in six years—a year less than usual.

Ryan Teller/Union College



# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Goals Prompt Community Initiatives

Addressing healthcare challenges best seen through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion continue to be ongoing conversations among leaders across AdventHealth, including in the Mid-America and Rocky Mountain regions.

Over the years, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in the Mid-America Region has spearheaded several community outreach initiatives targeted at stimulating economic empowerment among racial and ethnic minority groups. The most recent initiative is a Career Day event. In addition to addressing a need for workforce development, the move can play an important part in helping AdventHealth achieve its goal of having a team that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. In the same vein, Centura Health, whose Adventist facilities form part of AdventHealth's Rocky Mountain Region, has put a number of measures in place to address issues of health equity within its organization and the communities it serves.

## Providing career opportunities in healthcare for refugee communities

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission hosted a Career Day event last year for students from a neighborhood where many refugee families live. About 30 students, ages 13-18, came to the hospital to learn more about career opportunities in healthcare.

The students were invited through New Change for Youth, a youth group for refugee families in Wyandotte County. New Change for Youth (also known as NC4Y) was co-founded by **Anna Coridan**, RN, who was a surgical nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission and moved to the neighborhood in Wyandotte County several years ago after doing mission work in Nepal.

"The goal of the event was to help kids learn more about

the different types of healthcare careers that are open to them," said **Jeanette Metzler**, community benefit manager at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. With Coridan's guidance, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission has been working with the community to learn more about their needs. The families moved to Kansas City from various areas, including countries in Asia and Africa.

"We want to help them be successful in finding careers and providing for their families," said Metzler. "AdventHealth's goal is to look at healthcare from a holistic perspective. We want to provide support as they adjust to life in a new country."

The event was organized by **Chris Vogel**, community sourcing team lead for AdventHealth talent acquisition. In his role, he reaches out to organizations and schools in underserved areas to talk about

the different roles at the hospital. Workforce Partnership in Kansas City partners with AdventHealth to provide resources for the program.

"The students were briefed on the 20 different jobs available to 18-year-olds," said Vogel. "Some of those are clinical and some are non-clinical. Some require training and others don't."

The students spent the afternoon at the hospital learning about the different roles, education requirements and other qualifications. They also learned about logistics, including time commitment and scheduling classes.

A follow-up event was held a few weeks later in the neighborhood community center where the students learned more about interviewing and job skills. Dressed in professional business attire, they practiced their interviewing skills and had their resumes reviewed by AdventHealth Shawnee Mission human resources team members.

"They were really engaged and excited about the event, which has dominated discussions during youth group meetings," said Vogel.

With the event getting positive reviews from the students, Vogel said they hope to hold the event every year and find new ways to build on it.

"Our goal is to stay in touch with them, and for them to apply, get hired and work at AdventHealth someday," he said. "We hope that

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission hosted a Career Day last year for nearly 30 students ages 13-18 to learn more about career opportunities in healthcare.



For more information about community outreach at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, visit [AdventHealthKC.com](https://www.adventhealthkc.com).



The Veteran's Community Project is an organization that refuses to let any veteran fall through the cracks, from providing housing to offering walk-in support.

(l-r) Paul Melroy, executive director, Maria Kneusel, Diversity & Inclusion specialist at Centura Health



Photos Courtesy AdventHealth

they'll decide to start their healthcare journey here."

## Advancing efforts through first ever health equity and advancement fund

At Centura Health, diversity, equity and inclusion are more than just concepts; they are part of the way its patients, communities and colleagues are cared for. Embracing a diverse and inclusive community has always been essential for the health system, but over the past year and a half, significant efforts have been set in motion to be more intentional and strategic about building a truly inclusive environment for caregivers and patients alike.

In 2019, a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council was convened, and in 2020, Centura created a social justice framework to define the health system's guiding principles and outline its approach to addressing health disparities and expanding community impact initiatives in the communities it serves across Colorado and western Kansas. A dedicated Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) department was established to lead efforts in this area.

To better support their caregivers and create a more inclusive environment at every Centura facility, the D&I department is guiding the formation of Diversity & Inclusion councils across

the system. Recognizing the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an annual day of prayer, reflection, dialogue and service, the day was established as a paid holiday for all Centura associates in 2021. Centura is also developing a strategy to highlight other occasions throughout the year to help celebrate the diversity of its associates, patients and communities.

This framework also has a deep impact on the way Centura delivers care. Recognizing that all people are made in the image of God and so possess an equal and inalienable worth, Centura is committed to caring for and nurturing all creation as well as actively participating in its communities. This means looking at reality through the eyes of those who have been impacted by oppression and injustice and joining together to change existing structures and systems.

One key way Centura has amplified its community efforts is through the creation of the Health Equity & Advancement Fund. This series of community grants, launched in 2021, was created to extend the impact of community efforts focused on advancing social justice through initiatives that support health equity across Colorado and western Kansas. Area nonprofits were invited to apply if their

work was focused on helping address healthcare equity issues with initiatives that focus on disproportionate unmet health-related needs, emphasizing primary prevention and address underlying conditions, contributing to a seamless continuum of care, building community capacity and addressing social determinants of health to improve health outcomes in the communities Centura serves.

Last year, 19 grants were awarded ranging from \$25,000 to \$87,720 with a focus on programs that serve diverse communities and/or populations, focus on diverse caregivers and leverage collaborations with other partners to increase social impact.

Recipient organizations are doing vital community work that represents a broad range of populations and community needs: food insecurity, homelessness, mental well-being, health disparities among people of color, veterans' health needs, support for refugees, resources and hope for victims of domestic violence, support for people who have been imprisoned to leave jail and flourish, access to care in rural communities, and the specific health needs experienced by people with physical disabilities.

"The grant recipients for our first Health Equity &

Advancement Fund are truly committed to increasing opportunities for everyone in their community to live the healthiest life possible. They are advancing health equity through innovative social justice programs that address the persistent gaps that create barriers to having healthy communities," said **Oswaldo Grenardo, MD**, senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer at Centura Health. "Their programs help curate our vision to make every community, every neighborhood, every life whole and healthy. We are excited to support these organizations that inspire positive change."

Ann Muder and Amy Thompson are writers for AdventHealth.



Learn more about Centura Health's Equity & Advancement Fund and the incredible work being done by recipient organizations at [Centura.org/community-impact/social-justice](https://www.centura.org/community-impact/social-justice).

# FAREWELL

**Bietz, Hubert**, b. Feb. 16, 1930 in Scotland, SD. d. Nov. 1, 2021 in Mitchell, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by 3 sisters. Survivors include wife Linda; daughters Christy Schultz and Naomi Hasner; sons James and Steven; 1 brother; 3 grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army and Adjutant General's Corps.

**Boettcher, Ingetraud**, b. Sept. 23, 1931 in Soltnitz, Neustettin/Pommern Germany. d. Jan. 18, 2021 in Boulder, CO. Member of Boulder Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include 1 sister.

**Bradley, Merle R.**, b. Dec. 12, 1947 in Newton, KS. d. July 27, 2021 in Durango, CO. Member of Cortez (CO) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Lei; daughters Trina and Lisa; son Jonathan; 2 grandchildren.

**Dalton, Forrest Howard Sr.**, b. April 16, 1925 in Hyde County, SD. d. Oct. 31, 2021 in Eureka, SD. Member of Pierre (SD) Church. Preceded in death by wife Elizabeth (Betty); son Terry and 2 infant sons; 1 sister; 1 brother; 1 great-granddaughter; 1 great-great-granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Patricia Thell, Char Morton, Lynette Bousquet, Cindy Egeberg, Anita Dornbusch; sons Forrest Jr. and Tim; 2 brothers; 16 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; 21 great-great-grandchildren.

**Dye, Pamela J.**, b. May 16, 1964 in Houston, MO. d. Sept. 10, 2021. Member of Waynesville (MO) Church. Survivors include husband Ralph; 7 siblings.

**Johnson, Lillian R.**, b. Dec. 1, 1932 in Cambridge, IA. d. Nov. 22, 2021 in Spencer, IA. Member of Spencer Church. Preceded in death by husband Melvin; 1 great-grandson. Survivors include daughters Cindy and Sandra;

1 sister; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

**Krueger, Clarence F.F. Sr.**, b. March 31, 1928 in Pierce County, NE. d. Oct. 24, 2021 in Cozad, NE. Member of Norfolk (NE) Church. Preceded in death by wife Dorothy; son Clarence, Jr.; 2 grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Alma Hodges, Loretta Harris; Christina Hall, Bonita Harrison, Anita Krueger; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**McNeilus, Dennis G.**, b. July 3, 1936 in La Crosse, WI. d. Oct. 28, 2021 in Spring Hill, FL. Member of Dodge Center (MN) Church. Preceded in death by son Mark Dennis. Survivors include wife Marjory; children Gwen, Luonne Malone, and Linden; 2 sisters; 2 brothers; 7 grandchildren; 4 great-granddaughters. Served in the U.S. Navy.

**Miller, Theresa**, b. Feb. 10, 1966 in Independence, MO. d. Sept. 3, 2021. Member of Golden Valley (MO) Church. Survivors include husband Lonnie; daughter Tiffany; sons Michaelo and Thomas; 5 sisters; 5 brothers; 3 grandchildren.

**Nash, Donald K.**, b. June 6, 1952 in Philadelphia, PA. d. Sept. 2, 2021 in Hays, KS. Member of Hutchinson (KS) Church. Survivors include wife Del Jeane; sons Justin and Brent; 1 sister; 1 brother; 2 grandchildren.

**Ornquist, Morlyn**, b. Jan. 11, 1934 in Huntly Township, MN. d. Aug. 18, 2021 in Grand Forks, ND. Member of Thief River Falls (MN) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Debbie; daughter Jennifer Erickson; 2 siblings; 3 grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army.

**Schraufek-Forshee, Frances**, b. Nov. 19, 1939 in Kahoka, MO. d. Nov. 20, 2021. Member of St. Joseph 3 Angels (MO)

Church. Preceded in death by first husband John; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Brenda, Shuana, Leslie, and Wende; sons Scott and Darren; 1 sister.

**Schrenk, Alfred Rudolph**, b. Oct. 28, 1926 in Bismarck, ND. d. Sept. 29, 2021 in Carrington, ND. Member of Bowdon (ND) Church. Preceded in death by daughter Lynette Robinette; 2 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Evangelyn Eichele; daughter Shelda Schaffer; sons Kevin and Loren; 9 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; 2 step-great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army.

**Shepherd, Clarice A.**, b. June 6, 1926 in Chamberlain, SD. d. Nov. 19, 2021 in Highmore, SD. Member of Holland (NE) Church. Preceded in death by husband Robert; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Peggy Hansen; sons Randy, Ray, and Terry; 2 brothers; 6 grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

**Utter, Pekelder, Lois M.**, b. Dec. 14, 1931 in Mobridge, SD. d. Dec. 30, 2020 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by husband Vernon; 1 sister; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Gay Daubert, Fonda Teske, Susan Utter, and NeEtta Gillespie; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren.

**Valoissmith, Marianne**, b. May 15, 1946. d. Aug. 11, 2021. Member of Wichita Cornerstone (KS) Church. Survivors include husband Eduard.

**White, Aaron D.**, b. June 19, 1930 in Florence, MO. d. Oct. 30, 2021 in Roseburg, OR. Member of Joplin (MO) Church. Preceded in death by wife Margaret; second wife Phyllis; 3 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include daughter Carolyn; sons Aaron and David; 3 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

### February 2022

COLORADO	FEB 4	FEB 11	FEB 18	FEB 25
Denver	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47
Grand Junction	5:38	4:47	5:55	6:02
Pueblo	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:47
IOWA				
Davenport	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:48
Des Moines	5:34	5:43	5:51	6:00
Sioux City	5:43	5:52	6:01	6:10
KANSAS				
Dodge City	6:07	6:14	6:22	6:29
Goodland	5:11	5:19	5:27	5:34
Topeka	5:47	5:55	6:03	6:11
MINNESOTA				
Duluth	5:16	5:27	5:37	5:48
International Falls	5:17	5:28	5:39	5:51
Minneapolis	5:25	5:35	5:45	5:55
MISSOURI				
Columbia	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:57
Kansas City	5:42	5:51	5:58	6:06
St. Louis	5:26	5:34	5:42	5:49
NEBRASKA				
Lincoln	5:47	5:56	6:05	6:13
North Platte	6:03	6:12	6:21	6:29
Scottsbluff	5:13	5:22	5:31	5:40
NORTH DAKOTA				
Bismarck	5:51	6:01	6:12	6:23
Fargo	5:35	5:45	5:56	6:06
Williston	5:59	6:10	6:21	6:32
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Pierre	5:55	6:05	6:14	6:24
Rapid City	5:07	5:17	5:26	5:36
Sioux Falls	5:42	5:51	6:01	6:10
WYOMING				
Casper	5:22	5:31	5:40	5:49
Cheyenne	5:19	5:28	5:37	5:45
Sheridan	5:20	5:30	5:40	5:50

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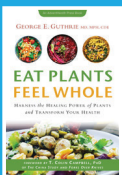
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