

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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**SPIRITUAL
MATURITY
BRINGS CHANGE**

#TUESDAYTALK
THE TEST IN TESTIMONY



EDUCATION
A CALL
FOR MORE
ADVENTIST
SCHOOLS



Confessions
of a COVID meme lord

MARCH 2022



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“Let’s open as many quality, Christ-centered schools as we can.” —p. 10





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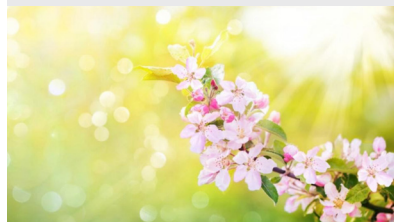
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SPIRITUAL GROWNUPS

How have you changed in the past year? Change can be hard. But not changing is harder. In fact, to stop growing is to start dying.

Some people have observed that it's not change itself that is scary, but the journey to change. With an open mind, we must ask ourselves challenging questions. *What do I keep? What do I let go? What do I alter? What do I add?*

Change is equally important in our spiritual journey. We know how to measure our mental ability (IQ) and emotional maturity (EQ). But how do we measure our spiritual maturity? Do we truly know what it means to pray without ceasing, to patiently forbear with others, to worship in the beauty of holiness, to persevere in absolute faith regardless of circumstances around us?

Physically, we have come of age. Have we grown up spiritually?



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

Shayne Vincent is a COVID-19 survivor who pastors the Casper Church in Wyoming.

More on p. 6
Photo by AZP Photography

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The Holy Spirit and Grace

I was listening to a sermon on New Year's Day where the preacher asked how many had made New Year's resolutions. Almost every hand went up. Then he asked, "How many of you have already broken them?" I would say more than half the hands went up and it was only Jan. 1!

Making changes in our lives is often difficult. Yet all of us want to grow in our walk with Jesus. So how do we make this happen?

There are many places in Scripture where we are encouraged to become more like our leader, Jesus. Here are just a few texts from the New Living Translation which extol us to be more like Jesus:

- "Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did," I John 2:6.
- "And you should imitate

me, just as I imitate Christ," I Cor. 11:1.

- "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God," Eph. 5:1-2.

One of the most common questions I am asked as a pastor is, "How do I gain victory in my life?" My one-word answer to this question has always been "Grace!"

One of the passages I used to love to hear my father preach from was Titus 2:11-14. It says: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (NIV).

When you read this passage, all you can say is that grace is even more amazing than we thought! Not only did it appear and bring us salvation, it also teaches us to say "No" to those things we want to shed from our lives. How does grace do that?



A sweeping lesson

When I was in grade school, we lived in Charlotte, North Carolina. We had a very large cement patio at our house. It made for a great basketball court, but it also collected all kinds of debris and leaves. Mom always wanted it swept on Fridays for the Sabbath. It was a big chore and one we took turns doing.

I remember one wintry Friday the patio was a mess and it was somebody else's turn to sweep it, but they were away on a trip. I had braced myself to have a strong argument with my mother that I should not have to sweep the patio since it wasn't my turn.

I kept waiting for her to come and confront me, but she never did. Instead, in addition to her very long list of things to do before Sabbath, she just put on her coat, grabbed a broom and went out to sweep the patio herself.

When I saw what she had done, it broke my heart. I went and grabbed my coat and a broom and went out to help her.

What happened to change my mind? It was the grace she showed me. Even though I really should have been the one doing this onerous task, she was doing it herself. Rom. 2:4 says, "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?" My mother's kindness—yes, grace—changed my heart and mind and I was moved to do better.

The most powerful influence for good you have in your life is to let the Holy Spirit come into your heart and remind you of how good God has been to you, and let His grace teach you to live a godly life as you joyfully journey with your Savior. 0

GARY THURBER

is president of the Mid-America Union.



Hearing God's Spirit

during Challenging Times

“Never read anything from the world until you read from the Lord first.”

I remember when the pandemic first hit the U.S. in March of 2020. I was taking classes in Lincoln, Nebraska, for my master's program in pastoral ministry. The news that week was dire as we heard horrific reports about people in Italy hospitalized with not enough ventilators for all. On Thursday of that week, our borders were closed to Europe. And the next day I heard the governor of Minnesota on the radio as I drove back home to Minneapolis initiating the beginning of a gradual lockdown.

That following weekend, all three of the churches I pastored closed and regular emails along with Facebook sermons and Zoom replaced our contacts for the next several months. I remember at that time having a compulsory feeling to read and watch everything about COVID. I wanted to find out what I could about this new, mysterious and seemingly dangerous virus.

But the more I focused on watching news broadcasts and reading articles about COVID, the more I began to fixate on the fearful circumstances around me and not on the Lord. I began to feel

dry and off balance. I knew that if this happened to me, certainly it had to be happening to my church members.

Priorities and balance

In one of my first emails to my churches I counseled them to spend at least the same amount of time in the Word of God as they were watching CNN and Fox News. I knew it would be spiritually unhealthy for me as well as for my members to fixate on these issues. This is what I wrote to them:

“As I have been home seeing all of the virus updates unfold, it is very easy to see how watching hour after hour of this can cause you to become very anxious. And no wonder, it is a very real threat and there is so much information developing almost on an hourly basis. After all, we want to be safe but when you are spending all this time absorbed in this you are apt to forget some things. And the most important thing that we tend to forget is that God is still on His throne. He is not going anywhere. He has not fallen asleep or taken a vacation. He is there for us!

Are you trusting in Him during this time? He promises in His word that He will take care of all your needs. All of them... even toilet paper. Are you fretting or are you praying to Him? The only way that God can be your strength and stronghold today during this pandemic is to turn to Him and not exclusively to the news. Yes, absolutely we need to be briefed on what is happening but not at the expense of your time with God. If you spend two hours a day with the news of the pandemic, spend two hours in God's Word. That's the only way that you will be balanced in your perspective and outlook on life. We are not to fear like those who have no hope. Our hope is in the Lord. Over and over and over He tells us not to be afraid and to be at peace.”

Since that time, the news has become even more fearful and discouraging. It's so tempting to catch up on all the details, but after a while your focus on God begins to wane. You begin to experience that sense of dryness and emptiness that comes from not spending time with God. And I don't

know about you, but that's when I get scared the most. That's when I know that I am really in need of God to put His hunger and thirst for Him back within me. That's my red flag that I'm really in need of Him.

Many people of faith follow this principle: *Never read anything from the world until you read from the Lord first.* In other words, the first thing they turn to each day is God's Word, not Facebook or the news. If there is ever a time for us to turn to God and His Word, it's now. After all, “God's mercies are new every morning” (Lam. 3:23). **U**

KAREN LEWIS

is ministerial director for the Minnesota Conference and pastor of the Pathways Church in Osseo, Minnesota.



Confessions *of a COVID meme lord*

COVID has taken so much from the lives of so many, from missed celebrations to losing our loved ones in death. But through it all we should never underestimate the presence and work of the divine Spirit.

For one pastor in central Wyoming, COVID changed his life, and his experience has given him a renewed love for the Lord and a deeper desire for knowing His presence.

Like most pastors, Shayne Vincent, who serves in the Casper district, has been dealing with the harsh realities of the pandemic for two years. Shayne explains how trying to prevent the deadly virus caused him to catch it.

“After a long year and a half of largely protecting our church family from COVID by setting up sanitizing stations, providing masks and social distancing pews (with humorous signs like “You will find Me when you seek Me... just not in this pew; keep seeking”), we thought we dodged the bullet. We only had to shut down for two months during the pandemic. The effects appeared so minimal, I must confess my indulgence in the steady stream of COVID memes making their way around the internet,” Shayne says.

“When the Delta wave was rising last fall,” he adds, “with a roll of the eyes, we decided to create an isolated ‘mask-only’ section. And, ironically, that’s how I caught COVID. During a surprise birthday party, the person who blew out the candles didn’t know they had

COVID. Well, everyone ate the cake. Mama Mia! There were nearly 30 of us who got sick. And a handful of us ended up in the hospital. And I was the worst of them all.”

“I’m not going to make it”

As Shayne’s downhill battle with COVID continued, his wife Gabriela saw how the early days of the virus started to take its toll on routine life. After his hospital stay, Shayne’s oxygen levels dropped to the 60s at home, causing Gabriela to face her fears and want to take immediate action. But Shayne didn’t want her to call 911.

Gabriela recounts how Shayne felt extremely ill with fever, endless coughing, exhaustion and sleeping for days at a time. “We tried every natural remedy available at the house, even Ivermectin, but Shayne was only nominally better,” she says. “After an overnight ER visit and a long week of failed treatments, his symptoms worsened. I had adjusted his oxygen to the maximum of 5 LPM, but his

oxygen saturation was still dropping to the mid-60s.”

Finally, through tears, Shayne told Gabriela that he didn’t think he would make it—yet he still didn’t want to go to the ER. “So, I snuck into our living room and called 911 against his will,” Gabriela states. “The ambulance showed up a few minutes later, and Shayne was placed on full-blast, 100 percent oxygen on his way to the hospital. It was a move that he later thanked me for, as it likely saved his life.”

In that moment of desperation, Gabriela found her refuge in the Lord. “As I witnessed my husband being taken away in the ambulance, I got in my car and began to cry uncontrollably. I followed the ambulance to the hospital, even knowing I would not be able to join him due to COVID protocols. When I finally returned home, I went down on my knees, and prayed louder and harder than I have ever prayed before.”

The answers to Gabriela’s questions about Shayne’s condition were slow to arrive. “His lungs were 85 percent filled with COVID pneumonia. And because I was only able to get updates from his nurses twice a day, there were times I didn’t even know if he was still alive.”

The deadly aspect of COVID is that you can’t breathe. “It feels like having a plastic bag over your head with only a pinhole to breathe through,” Shayne recalls. “And my response to slowly suffocating to death was not faith.

It was anxiety and fear. I was truly dying. And I couldn’t see past the nothingness.”

Shayne states that over the years he has had a hard time trusting God because it felt like every time he lowered his walls and handed God the steering wheel, He would veer off the road into a tree! “You see, I had come into the church from the world—a world that abused me—only to be abused again by fanaticism in the church.”

For Shayne, it took more than a decade to learn his way out of the hopelessness of perfection doctrine through to the true gospel. “And still there are always those nagging doubts that eat away at your sins,” Shayne says. “It’s one thing to attempt to believe in salvation through grace; it’s completely another world to step out into the pitch-black nothingness of death based only upon the promises of mercy from God for sinners.”

Drinking every last drop

With Shayne’s condition worsening, he was transferred to ICU. There, Shayne was calling on the Lord to save him when an unexpected visitor arrived with a message.

In his desperation, Shayne cried out to God at the top of his voice. “Where are you? I cannot sense you! I cried out through the coughing spasms, barely breathing through suffocating attack after attack. ‘Help me, Jesus! Help me, I’m dying!’ And He came! Oh, He came! And when I knew that He had not abandoned me in my darkest hour, I was at rest. I no longer cared if I lived or died. Because He was there; that was all that ever mattered.

It was then that the Spirit spoke to me and said, *Shayne, you're not going to die. But I'm not going to pull the punch at all. You're going to drink every last drop of this cup.* With a deep sigh of relief, I said to Him, "Thy will be done, Lord. I'm just happy You're here! Please stay with me tonight. And He did."

After two weeks of his condition worsening and being on a CPAP machine, Shayne's condition improved enough for him to be moved out of ICU. Within a week, he was well enough to allow a conference-wide anointing service to be held through Zoom. And that was the turning point of his recovery. Just a few days shy of a month, he was discharged from the hospital.

Yet several weeks later, Shayne still could not breathe into his lower lungs. They were shut off like a wall. And he would often wake up in the middle of the night gasping for air and coughing endlessly. That's when another unexpected visitor arrived.

"It was midnight, and my wife was there helping me in spite of having to work at 4 am. I felt terrible for her. She went into the kitchen to make hot tea. Just then, I felt a presence enter my room. A heavenly one. He walked up to my side of the bed and reached out and touched my lungs. And with a pop like a soda can, my lower lungs began to open! I could breathe again! I symbolically grabbed His hand and cried tears of joy! 'Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!'"

From nothing to everything

The COVID experience is one Shayne never dreamed he

would go through. Now his views have changed.

"I have never been of the mind that this was a fake disease. We all know it is real. But based upon percentages, it's easy to minimize just how seriously deadly it can be," Shayne admits.

Regarding vaccinations, he adds, "While I would not tell anyone what to do concerning COVID, what I can say is that everyone who had been fully vaccinated in our church had mild symptoms. The statistics from our Adventist hospitals say that less than 10 percent of the serious hospitalizations are vaccinated individuals. So, regardless of the complexities of the politicization, vaccination is still more effective than not."

Shayne explains how he currently views the pandemic: "As far as 'Would have, should have,' that point is moot. But in the now, I've been humbled

by God. And I have repented; I am no longer a COVID meme lord. COVID truly can be a life and death issue among multiple age groups. And we need to approach it with empathy, not mockery."

In addition, he believes there is an important reason God is having him drink this cup to its last drop. "The epiphany is that when you are dying, the illusions of this world fade away. Life becomes superfluous, like a vapor; there is nothing left. Your mind, your adventures, your achievements, even the people you love—they're all gone. And if you don't have the Lord, you literally have nothing. But if you have the Lord, you truly still have everything!"

Spending time in God's heart

Shayne says that the Spirit also showed him a message

from a revivalist by the name of Dennis Readier who stated that "God isn't just wanting us to hear His voice through our spiritual gift; He wants us to spend time in His heart." Shayne now recognizes that God isn't interested in our being "spiritual" as much as He is in us knowing Him.

Shayne would like everyone to consider one last thing: "It isn't in the miracles. It isn't in the gifts. It isn't in the material success. And it certainly isn't in political solutions. The only safe place at the end of life is in the cleft of the Rock, listening to His voice, looking upon His goodness as He passes by, for He knows us all by name. And in His presence, we find rest." 0

Rajmund Dabrowski is Rocky Mountain Conference communication director, and Jon Roberts is communication/media assistant.

AZP Photography



The Test in Testimony

I was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian household.

I had two parents and they are still married.

I had two brothers and a live-in Granny who was also our nanny and a devout Southern Baptist.

Sometimes it felt as if Jesus lived in our house with us. Like the popular Elf on the Shelf that shows up in many homes around Christmas time, Jesus seemed ever-present.

My impression of Jesus was not one of fear, where if I did wrong He would punish me.

Rather, Jesus was my #1 fan. When I checked all the boxes, He smiled. When I chose to be good when my brothers misbehaved, it was as if Jesus shone down on me and my imaginary halo glimmered.

I'm unsure how or where this odd growth of self-righteousness took its root, but it was an ugly thing that wrapped its choking vines around me for years.

Throughout my younger years I believed myself to be in the group. I was untouchable because I did all the right things.

Any empathy I thought I had was actually pity because I knew others were on their way to hellfire—and I wasn't.

I wish I was exaggerating even a small amount, but the truth is I believed myself to be on the right track.

The worse other people did, the better I looked to heaven—or so I thought.

This ideology crashed all around me when I was unable to do the right thing. I had spent all those years patting myself on the back and then was suddenly faced with failure.



The Test

I think all of us endure a test before we can see our testimony. It's the struggle we fight our way through and only see clearly looking back that *God fought alongside us the whole time.*

My test was a divorce at age 21.

I was sure God could not forgive me for breaking something the Bible says no man can separate (Matt. 19:6).

Because I had thoroughly destroyed my assurance of salvation, I took a trip further away from my Savior—something too many of us do.

I think somewhere in our heart, we don't want God to decide we're not good enough for heaven, so we make sure to decide for ourselves.

Stumbling into church on Sabbath mornings so hungover I still felt drunk, I was taking my salvation into my own hands.

Keeping the Sabbath by going to church was so deeply ingrained in me that I continued going to church every week despite being in deep spiritual trouble.



The Testimony

If I were to tell you I stopped drinking and making poor choices and then went right back to God, it would be a lie.

My testimony is not a straight path right to Jesus. Rather the real story is a winding road through false paradise and scary forest where Jesus ended up rescuing me from monsters and quicksand.

The test was an abusive marriage, a traumatic divorce, meeting and falling in love with someone new, an unexpected pregnancy, a hasty marriage, a year of separation due to deployment, an adjustment to married life (again).

You see it, right? The forest, the brambles, the monsters, the loneliness, the chaos and anxiety?

I'm certain you can look back at your testimony and find the forest. I'm sure you can identify the monsters.

Can you also see the Savior?

My Savior is omnipotent. He is all-powerful. He is all-knowing. He exists outside the time of this earth. His plan for my life cannot be thwarted by my own stupidity or ignorance.

I can see His work in the forest. He didn't carry me above it because then I wouldn't have all this now.

Jesus wasn't the prize at the end of the path through the forest. He was the light that shone through the darkness. He was the growth of food on the long journey. He was the drops of precious water when I was thirsty. He was the hardened earth beneath the rising, sucking sand. Jesus is the Savior—not the prize.

How does Jesus fit into your journey?

One day along my own journey, Jesus helped me to forgive someone. In teaching me how to forgive this person, I was finally able to understand God's forgiveness.

Because I finally understood, I was able to forgive myself for what I'd done years before.

Jesus taught me to forgive.

And that's my testimony. 0



Courtesy Minnesota Conference

A Call for More Adventist Schools

From time to time, I have to go into our Minnesota Conference Education Department storage room and dig through our archived files.

As I look through the file drawers, I see folders marked River Bluff, Parkside, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Northbrook. These represent schools that are no longer in existence to serve families in our conference. These schools have closed.

There are multiple reasons for a school to shut down. As churches age, we sometimes see a lack of children to enroll in the school. There are times where things have not gone well and confidence in the school program dwindles. I have seen pastors and church members look at how much of the church budget is allocated for the school and decide that there are other things they would prefer to do with that money.

Too often our priorities shift and a church loses interest in Adventist education. As a result, schools suffer and close. I am certain that every conference has files like ours—files from schools that were and are no longer.

I believe it is time for us to reverse this trend. It is time to reopen those schools and establish schools where they have not existed before. It is time to take our existing schools and provide more support for expansion and growth.

Over the past few months, there has been a growing movement of parents asking serious questions about what is being taught at their child's school. This has led to renewed interest in what is taking place in public education. Some of the things that have come to light during this time have raised concerns for many parents. Those parents have begun to seek out alternatives. They are looking for schools that align with their values and provide wholesome education.

Our schools have already started to benefit from the addition of some of these families. Unfortunately, some of our schools have had to turn families away due to full classrooms. In addition, there are many areas where there is not an Adventist school to provide this alternative.

Challenges or opportunities?

It may be a little self-serving for someone who makes a living in education, but I can't think of many better ways to minister to a community than to provide a Christ-centered Adventist school, strongly connected to an Adventist church.

A teacher, working alongside a supportive pastor, can reach out to the families in the community. They can connect them to the school family and by extension the church. When strong relationships are built, Christ can work to draw those families to Him. From my perspective, and in my experience, there is no greater evangelistic tool than a Christ-centered school.

Opening schools is not without challenges. The first question is whether there are enough students to justify opening the school. Ellen White wrote: "in localities where there is a church, schools should be established, if there are no more than six children to attend" (*Child Guidance*, 308).

Another concern revolves around finances. It's not free to run a school and the costs keep increasing. Is it possible that we need to exercise a bit more faith? Maybe instead of asking if we can afford to open a school, we should explore whether we can afford to not open a school.

Probably the biggest challenge to opening more schools is finding teachers to staff them. Each year, the process of hiring teachers has been more difficult. There is definitely a shortage.

If we step forward in faith, God will address these concerns and any others that may arise. He will bring the students who need to be in our schools. He will take care of the finances. He will work on the hearts of those He would call to be teachers and to serve His young people.

Let's take advantage of the time we find ourselves in. Let's open as many quality, Christ-centered schools as we can. Let's meet the needs of our communities, establish schools, and bring more people to Christ.

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

Association of Adventist Women Recognizes People with Mid-American Roots

Two individuals with history in Mid-America territory were among the five people who received awards from the Association of Adventist Women during its hybrid awards program held at Loma Linda, California, last fall.

Linda Becker



Charles Sandefur

Elder Charles Sandefur, DMin., received the Champion of Justice Award for his work with EndItNow. Sandefur was celebrated as a strong lifetime advocate for equal treatment of women in ministry. He has served as a pastor, chaplain, president of Hawaii and Rocky Mountain conferences, president of the Mid-America Union Conference, president of ADRA, and vice president for Mission at Adventist Health.

Sandefur cofounded the EndItNow campaign to stop violence against women, along with General Conference Women's Ministries Department director **Heather Dawn Small**. Materials for local churches to download and distribute

are on the GC Women's Ministries website.

Since 2014 Sandefur has been chairperson of the Versacare Board of Directors, a philanthropic Adventist-affiliated organization which gives grants to Seventh-day Adventist missions, schools, students and other select projects. Versacare is designed to have 60 percent female board members. Versacare gave \$100,000 to Time to Educate for Adventist Ministry for female theology student scholarships. Versacare also funded a DVD titled "Called," produced by TEAM (available at TEAM.org), to address barriers for placement of female pastors in churches.

Courtesy/Phyllis Ware Lee



Phyllis Ware Lee

Phyllis Ware Lee, MBA, CPA, received the Woman of the Year Award for Administration and Leadership for her work as treasurer in several conferences, including Central States Conference, and for being the first woman of color to serve as interim president of the Central States Conference. She was also the first woman to hold such a position since 1905.

In addition, Ware Lee, who accepted the award via Zoom, served as CFO for the Office of Regional Conference Ministry and the Regional Conference Retirement Plan. After faithfully serving God and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 35 years, she recently retired to Toney, Alabama. **0**

OUTLOOK News



Learn more about AAW's mission by visiting [associationofadventistwomen.com](https://www.associationofadventistwomen.com).

New Devotional Book for 2022

Let Justice Roll marks the collaboration of the Conscience & Justice Council and *Message Magazine* to provide a biblically based devotional on public affairs and religious liberty. In following the gospels of the New Testament and Christ's method of evangelism in the *Ministry of Healing*, we exemplify public affairs. By promoting and defending liberty of conscience, we embrace religious liberty. As a biblically based devotional, *Let Justice Roll* resists all attempts to align the Word of God in partisan terms. We believe God's word should transform us into compassionate and producing disciples who are moved by the Holy Spirit to action in loving unconditionally all men and women who are created in the image of God.

The writers of this devotional are various leaders at the local, union and division levels of the Adventist Church. The

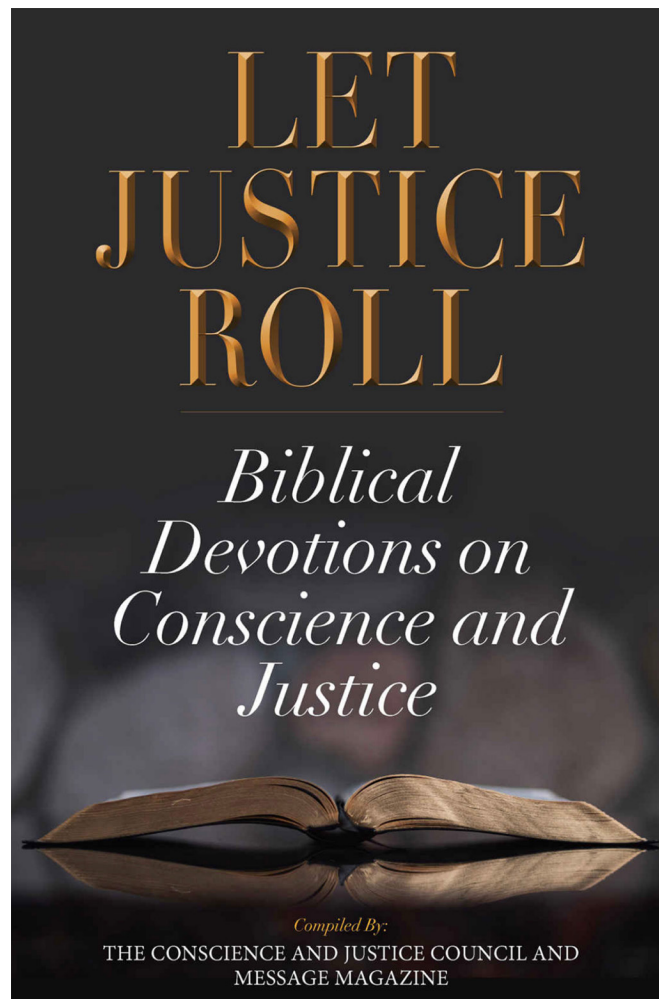
theme for each month includes the seven aspects of public affairs and religious liberty wrapped in prayer, as well as prophecy, thanksgiving, parables of Christ and biblical heroes.

As we approach these

last days, we believe that public affairs and religious liberty ministry is *the* ministry that will bring forth the latter rain and hasten the second coming of Christ. You, your family, and those within

your sphere of influence need this devotional book in your arsenal. Get your e-book at Amazon or Apple, or your paperback copy at Amazon today!

Edward Woods III is director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists headquartered in Mokena, Illinois.



Purchase the devotional at www.amazon.com/Let-Justice-Roll-Devotions-Conscience

For more information about the Conscience & Justice Council and *Message Magazine*, please visit www.cjcouncil.org or www.messagemagazine.com.

Shifting the Atmosphere

How do you turn a frustrating situation into a positive one? You shift the atmosphere around the problem. That is what the Central States Conference Youth Ministries department is attempting to do with a virtual youth worship service titled SHIFT.

“The goal of this online experience is to engage young people with God once a month,” shares youth director **Karsten Rogers**. The name is an acronym standing for Seeing Him in Frustrating Times.

During the pandemic, youth expressed frustration about the chaos that was happening all around them. Out of that frustration, God enabled our Youth Department to birth this ministry.

“We are intentional about involving our young people in this service because it is for them,” stated Pastor Rogers. There are several ways youth can participate. Some send in

Success Spotlights where they highlight academic, community, athletic and entrepreneurial advancements they are making. Others showcase their gifts and talents such as singing and playing instruments through a segment entitled Got Talent.

Additionally, we’ve added creative virtual

ministries that invite viewers to participate, such as panel discussions, Q&As and games they can respond to. SHIFT has been blessed to have amazing guest speakers share messages that are relevant, challenging and uplifting.

“By God’s grace, we want to see all of our young people drawn

closer to Christ through this ministry,” shares Pastor Rogers. “We invite you and your young people to SHIFT with us on the CSC YouTube page!”

Submitted by Karsten Rogers





(right) Faith Peterson and Leticia Venegas work on the tiny home in construction class.

The Tiny Bismarck's new home (left) is located at 3203 Wilton Lane East in Fife, Washington, and will be advertised on VRBO and Airbnb.



Photos Courtesy Tracy Peterson

Dakota Adventist Academy Sells Tiny Home

Over the past eight years Dakota Adventist Academy has developed a strong construction program which allows students to work in a hands-on environment. In this class, students participate in yearly competitions to test and refine their skills. The wide variety of projects that students build contributes to a well-rounded learning experience and gives them the tools to apply to real-life situations after academy.

One of the largest projects that Construction II and III students tackled was a

tiny house. Started in 2017, this project enabled them to work through all aspects of construction as they built the house from start to finish. Students applied skills such as layout design, tiling, plumbing, wiring and finishing. Built on an 8.5 by 24-foot trailer, the small house boasts big amenities like a corner bathroom containing a full-sized toilet and shower, a loft with sleeping quarters, a kitchen that includes a four-burner stove with a hood, a washer and dryer combination, heating

and air conditioning, as well as a utility room housing a 36-gallon water tank. The project spanned two school years, which allowed more students to gain confidence in their construction skills as well as take ownership for a job well done.

The finished tiny house was entered in the Bismarck area Parade of Homes and was also featured in the Bismarck-Mandan Home Builders Association Home Show at the Expo Center. The project has been excellent advertising to the local community and a testament to the variety and quality of classes offered at DAA.

Many people were interested in the tiny house, all loving it dearly, but it wasn't until this last November that it found its forever home. After seeing the listing online, **Aaron Royce** purchased the house to use as an Airbnb in Fife, Washington.

The tiny house—now named “Tiny Bismarck”—with its open interior and esthetically pleasing exterior is sure to entice many to stay and enjoy the hard work that the DAA students put into their creation.

Tracy Peterson is recruiter and horse barn manager for Dakota Adventist Academy.

Dakota Conference Prayer Retreat Live by the Spirit

March 18-20, 2022
Bismarck, North Dakota

Speaker: Paulet E. Howard Jr.

Come to the Prayer Retreat to experience new prayer styles, learn practical applications, and revitalize the role of prayer in your life.

For more information & to register use the QR code:



Kelli Wasmiller Accepts Role of Dakota Conference Education Superintendent



Steve Nazario

Kelli (Vigil) Wasmiller has accepted the invitation of the Dakota Conference to serve in the half-time position of superintendent for the Dakotas. Wasmiller said she is humbled and honored to be working in this role and she is excited to support Dakota teachers and advocate for the education of children.

Wasmiller grew up in

Hutchinson, Minnesota, but because her mother is from the Bottineau area they spent a lot of time on the North Dakota family farm. Wasmiller has attended Adventist schools all her life and graduated from Northwoods Elementary and Maplewood Academy in Minnesota, and from Union College in Nebraska with a B.S. in elementary education.

She went on to teach upper grades in the Dakotas in a multi-grade classroom and later moved to Washington to serve as a seventh and eighth grade teacher. After moving back to the Dakotas, Wasmiller started, and is close to finishing, a master's degree in Ministry Leadership with an emphasis in Human Services.

Wasmiller grew up in a family dedicated to the

ministry of the Adventist Church. This made her hesitant to become a teacher; she knew it would not be simply a job—it would be a lifestyle. But a variety of experiences, such as working at summer camp and as an academy assistant girls' dean, solidified God's call in her life.

Wasmiller's passion is for middle schoolers. She remembers hearing a lecture about how pivotal those years are in the development of young people. It was at that seminar she knew where God was calling her to serve.

When Jesus was 12 years old (a middle schooler), He was left behind in Jerusalem. When Mary and Joseph finally found Him, He was listening to and conversing with the religious teachers who were amazed by His education. His response

to His parents' anxiety was, "Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?"

This is Wasmiller's prayer for students. In the moments when we think they are lost, may we look and find them at the feet of Jesus.

Wasmiller's husband Stephen hails from Wahpeton, North Dakota, and is a graduate of Loma Linda University now serving as a cardiologist in Rapid City, South Dakota. The couple loves to spend time outdoors and hikes, camps, and backpacks as often as they can.

Their dog, Zeus, never meets a stranger twice and is eager to share love and cuddles with everyone he meets. He has been a blessing in the lives of her students. Wasmiller is always amazed to watch him make classroom rounds and sense exactly which kid needs him most.

Wasmiller believes education starts in the home and from there grows while attending Sabbath school, church, camp, and camp meeting. She is excited to invest in all Dakota Conference families and is thrilled to be a part of the conference team.

Her personal philosophy is to create an environment and provide the opportunities for each young person to have an encounter with the love of Jesus, so they desire a personal relationship with Him.

Jodi Dossenko is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Steve Patten Retires as Camp Heritage Ranger

In 2012, **Steve Patten** was asked to temporarily fill a vacancy in the maintenance department at Camp Heritage. Patten agreed, coming out of retirement to do so. Shortly after he began working at camp, the conference asked him to stay longer as a full-time employee. Patten said he was willing to fill the position for 10 years. In February, Patten completed 10 years as camp ranger and is now retiring.

During his time at camp, Patten completed many behind-the-scenes projects. In addition to routine maintenance around camp, Patten assisted with large initiatives like building the craft center and the tri-plex. With the help of volunteers, Patten also relocated and rebuilt Paradise Point. Patten's last major project was helping with the construction of the camp's new implement shed.

"Steve has excelled at maintaining our grounds, keeping our equipment running, and

Steve Patten helps build a structure outside Camp Heritage's kitchen.

helping to improve our facilities," said **Denison Sager**, director for Camp Heritage. "Not only did Steve fix and build things on our property, he also helped to build people. We wish Steve and [his wife] **Jean** only the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives."

Conference president **Dean Coridan** said Patten has done an excellent job at the camp and will be missed. "Jean and Steve Patten have been a great blessing for Camp Heritage over the last 10 years. He has been one of the best camp rangers by keeping camp neat, clean and up-to-date," Coridan added.

Patten said he was blessed serving as Camp Heritage's ranger and will miss seeing so many people's lives change.



Courtesy Camp Heritage

"I have seen a lot of testimonies of people who spent time at camp, and it has changed their lives for the better," Patten said. "I think keeping things functioning for [camp attendees] is probably the biggest satisfaction I received [while working there]."

Patten said he looks forward to spending more time with family during his retirement, especially with his three-year-old great-granddaughter.



The Iowa-Missouri Conference has not yet filled this position. If you are interested in learning more about this job opportunity, please visit imsda.org/camp-heritage-maintenance-position/

Prayer Quilt Ministry Thriving at Sunnydale

The Sunnydale Church in Missouri began a prayer quilt ministry a couple years ago. Since then, church volunteers have sewn more than 14 quilts for those in need.

The church started its quilt ministry after hearing of another church doing a similar ministry. Today, the ministry has 10 active

individuals, both men and women, who help make the quilts. These individuals meet in the basement of the church where they use donated sewing machines to sew together donated fabric.

When a quilt is complete, the church finds an individual in need, someone who is ill or going through a

personal struggle. Once the person is selected, the church either mails or gives the quilt to the individual in person.

Each quilt comes with the following message: *Friendships are like a quilt, stitched together tightly with love. The Lord is watching over you; I know because we asked Him to. Each part of this quilt was*

made with prayers.

"I feel a sense of accomplishment when we complete a quilt, knowing all the prayers that were said for the recipient," said **Cheryl Patterson**, Sunnydale prayer quilt ministry member.

Baby Pantry Celebrates First Year of Operation

Photos: Christina Coston



The Henry County Baby Pantry, operated out of the Golden Valley Adventist Church in Clinton, Missouri, concluded its first year of operation with gratefulness from all those involved.

The pantry is operated by the Family Resource Center of Missouri and is managed by **Sarah Dunwoody**, wife of **Kent Dunwoody** who pastors the Golden Valley Church. The Dunwoodys connected with the Family Resource Centers of Missouri after volunteering at a nearby diaper bank. There, they learned that Henry County, where the Golden Valley Church is located, is considered a “diaper desert.”

“A diaper desert is any location where the most accessible place to buy diapers is also the most expensive ... [and] a community without resources for families to receive diapers for free, if the family had no money to pay for diapers,” says **Shay Jefferson**, executive director of Family Resource Centers of Missouri.

After learning about this

critical need, the Dunwoodys asked the church if a space in the church previously used for an elementary school classroom could be used for the pantry. The church agreed and the classroom was transformed into the Henry County Baby Pantry.

The pantry opened in January 2021 and served five families the first week, as was previously reported in the April 2021 issue of *OUTLOOK* magazine. Today, the pantry serves about 25 families a month. From these families, the pantry helps provide necessities for about 40 children.

According to the pantry’s pamphlet, the pantry provides formula, diapers, food, and other necessities so families in need can “raise happy, healthy children.”

Volunteers for the pantry

Volunteers restock shelves with diapers and other donated necessities throughout the day.

Most of the furniture, which was previously used for the elementary school, now holds formula and diapers.

say they believe the pantry is an important service to the community and they are happy to be a part of the program. “I feel like I’m providing help for those that need it most,” says volunteer **Laura Hartman**.

The volunteers also feel they can help meet families’ needs by being a friendly face. “I decided to volunteer here because I want to be like Jesus,” says volunteer **Elsie Dill**. “He met the needs of everyone in the town He went through, showing kindness and love. I believe that is a need here with these mothers and their children.”

The Family Resource Centers of Missouri is grateful for the dedication of the

Henry County Baby Pantry volunteers. “The collaborative partnership between the Family Resource Center and the volunteers at [Golden Valley Church] has made an amazing impact in the lives of the most vulnerable in Henry County and the surrounding communities,” Jefferson says.

To conclude its first year of operation, the pantry gave bags to the guardians of the families they serve. The bags included items donated by members of the Golden Valley Church and the Kansas City Central Church. Each bag had shower gel, lotion, socks, gloves, a devotional book, a notebook and a pen.

According to Sarah Dunwoody, the pantry team is grateful to see the increase in families served this past year and hopes to serve even more families in the coming year.

Stories on these pages were written by Christina Coston, communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Christmas Behind Bars Serves Nebraska

Through Christmas Behind Bars, **Lemuel and Donna Vega** have initiated a God-given source of help to a very vulnerable group of individuals often dealing with the bleakest of circumstances.

My husband **Mike** and I met **Lemuel Vega** at his Christmas Behind Bars booth during an ASI International meeting. We were impressed by his testimony as he told of his history of prior incarceration before accepting Jesus Christ into his life. **Donna**, a faithful visitor from the outside, became a source of support during his time in lock-up. Their friendship blossomed to the point where after his release they continued to deepen the relationship and it culminated in a marriage which is still vibrant to this day!

Christmas Behind Bars, under the direction of Mr. Vega, has served a number of state penitentiaries over the past several years (including Indiana, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Alabama) by giving inmates a positive encounter with tangible goodies and the message that they may be “gone but not forgotten.”

Vega enlists volunteers through area churches, community groups and academies to help assemble packages of treats and snack products, along with uplifting and encouraging literature such as *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *Radiant Living* tucked inside—and always a card to request Bible studies.

These state institutions have



Photos Courtesy, Christmas Behind Bars

(l-r) **Philana Blakely**, NDCS re-entry administrator; **Nathan and Nikki**, Lincoln area volunteers; **Lemuel Vega**, Christmas Behind Bars founder (in truck); **Steve Fannon**, NDCS programs administrator; and **Debra and Mike Dehning**, Omaha area volunteers

witnessed a visible increase in the calming effect this program has on inmate behavior. Therefore, these correctional facilities have requested Christmas Behind Bars to come into their institutions for the helpful benefits realized from the program.

For some time, **Mike** and I attempted to help Christmas Behind Bars access the Nebraska penal institutions, but after numerous attempts over many weeks to work with the powers that be, the answer was always “Under no circumstances could this program come into the Nebraska

system.” With the pandemic in full swing, all previously existing programs at the penal institutions had been stopped for an undetermined amount of time.

Following much prayer and with God’s intervention we eventually received a call from the head of the penal programs administration with a complete change of attitude on the part of NDCS. Christmas Behind Bars was being asked to serve 6,000 inmates in the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services! The plan was to get a Christmastime delivery

(by Dec. 20, if possible) to 10 institutions across Omaha, Lincoln, Tecumseh, McCook, and York, Nebraska. Vega immediately saw God’s leading throughout this endeavor, and even with the short notice he committed to make this delivery of 6,000 packages of hope and healing happen.

This project quickly became an evangelistic outreach mission for the Omaha Memorial Church with **Pastor Delmar Austin** helping obtain church board support, as well as that of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference through **Virgil Covel’s** office.

Volunteers from the Amish community fill 6,000 gift bags at an Indiana warehouse for Nebraska inmates.



Vega immediately contacted an available group of volunteers from the local Amish community to help assemble the 6,000 packages needed for Nebraska, as he doesn't have packages waiting on the shelves to be used each time a prison request is received. After the bags were filled and packaged, Vega's "missionary semi-truck" was loaded with bag after bag of the donated gift packages destined for NDCS. God was moving at warp speed!

Even though 10 facilities were involved, it was decided that Vega would have a dropoff point in Omaha at the Omaha Correctional Center to deliver over 1,000 gift bags for three facilities.

The OCC warden, **Barbara Lewien**, coordinated the unloading of the Christmas Behind Bars semi-truck by a variety of staff and volunteers. Vega would then head to a second dropoff point in Lincoln on the campus of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services with 5,000 gift bags for four Lincoln facilities plus the Tecumseh, York, and McCook facilities.

At the Lincoln unloading point, a group of volunteers plus staff were coordinated to unload the gift bags with

the help of re-entry administrator **Philana Blakely** and programs administrator **Steve Fannon**. The unloading was accomplished in record time with generous opportunities to have positive interactions throughout the process.

The most-heard response to the entire Christmas Behind Bars delivery of gift bags was one of complete amazement that any program would donate all of these much-appreciated items.

Many incarcerated individuals have no family to support them or have long ago burned any previous ties with the family or friends they did have. Receiving these tangible treats, plus books and the mail-in Bible study offer, was truly a message of hope to the inmates.

Letters and cards received at the Christmas Behind Bars headquarters from thankful inmates gave weighty evidence of the degree of gratitude that existed in each facility touched by this

ministry. Many Bible study request cards have been returned with the official inmate number and return address of the Nebraska Department of Corrections stamped on each one.

It's never a slam dunk when a ministry sets out to be the conduit to bring acts of love and caring through whatever means possible to those who may need it most. It is, however, easy to see the many moving parts involved in the Christian witness that Christmas Behind Bars provides.

At the core is the dedication of one man who chose by God's grace to turn his life experience into a tremendous blessing to a population who has not always been the poster child for society to support. Over time, 3 Angels Broadcasting Network has featured the ministry Lemuel Vega and his wife founded, along with a variety of inmate interactions.

Steadfast dependence on God's leading in every effort

to reach those incarcerated while sharing the love of Christ has continued to energize Vega. Obstacles abound, but are always given over to the Lord. Vega has learned that if we humanly cannot see a way forward, God always has a plan that can move mightily. It is this fire that fueled Vega's trek across these many states and the final entrance into a once-closed Nebraska State Department of Corrections.

Because it does not have a constant funding source or institutional umbrella to work under, the generous financial support of caring persons helps Christmas Behind Bars continue to serve inmates who are facing a host of issues while incarcerated.

Debra Dehning is a member of the Omaha Memorial Church in Nebraska.



Send words of encouragement, a financial gift, or prayers of support to:

Christmas Behind Bars
PO Box 474
Bluffton, IN 46714

260.827.8835

ChristmasBehindBars.org/donate

“Flying” to the Mission Field

Engaging children in Sabbath school

Photos Courtesy Sarah Little and Patty Berlin



Teachers at The Way and Windom Churches in Minnesota have spent an inspiring quarter “flying” children to the mission field. Last year **Sarah Little** of The Way and her mom **Patty Berlin** of Windom were inspired by a story in the *Adult Sabbath School Quarterly* of a teacher in Texas who “flew” her students to various parts of the world as part of their mission-focused program.

They shared the story with other teachers at their

respective churches and everyone agreed to try it. The story didn’t give many details, but Little and Berlin started working on their own version.

Due to the constraints of renting space to worship, Little knew they couldn’t have a large plane for the children to “ride” in, so they improvised: the children each got a toy plane to “fly” to another table to learn about the mission field of the day.

Each Sabbath the children watched a video, saw pictures, and learned a fun fact to aid

Minnesota Conference

In 2021

57%

of Sabbath attendance was secular or unchurched. Learn how 🙋



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their understanding of the environment from which the mission stories came. They also did a simple craft related to what they had just learned. Afterward, they “flew” their toy planes back to Sabbath school and listened to their Bible story.

All the fun things the children learned that quarter culminated in a thirteenth Sabbath program to share their new knowledge with the adults, which was a first for The Way. Three children volunteered to be interviewed about the mission field, several children shared memory verses, and they sang songs.

Both adults and children loved the program.

“We tried the new program hoping to make Sabbath school more fun, interactive, and engaging for the children we have. We wanted to invest in them,” says Little.

The plan worked! Both churches have seen an increase in interest from children and parents. The Way has also seen a dramatic increase in attendance as new children have started regularly attending.

Submitted by Sarah Little, a member at The Way Church in Shoreview, Minnesota.

(opposite page) Children attending Sabbath school “fly” to China to make paper lanterns.

(below) Patty Berlin teaches children's Sabbath school at the Windom Church.



Minnesota Conference Constituency Session Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 3rd Quadrennial Session of the Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, will be held at the **Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN, 55430 on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the officers and members of the Board of Trustees for the Association, as well as transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates. Delegates from the churches comprising the Minnesota Conference are on the following basis:

One (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each thirty-five (35) members or major fraction thereof.

The first meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the said date, at which time all duly elected delegates shall be seated.

Justin C. Lyons
President

Brian K. Mungandi
Vice President for Administration

Gayln L. Bowers
Vice President for Finance

Campion Continues to Mourn Death of Student

The Campion Academy family continues to mourn the loss of Timothy Dien, a student who passed away from unexpected and unknown causes on Jan. 7, 2022.

Campion Academy staff have been in contact with Dien's family seeking to support them through their tremendous loss. At the time of this writing, the family was working with Campion on plans for a memorial service. To help support the family as they face unexpected funeral costs, a GoFundMe account has been established and can be found at gofund.me/bf2b8663.

Campion students and staff spent Sabbath school class time on Saturday, Jan. 8, as well as additional time

Courtesy Campion Academy



in the afternoon, coming together to pray with each other and for the Dien family. Counselors were made available to students during these times. Special prayer times were scheduled throughout the next week, as well as continued access to counselors to help students and staff process this loss.

"We are shocked and deeply saddened by this loss," said principal **Donavan Reeder**. "Timothy was a beloved member of our student body. His loss leaves a big hole in our hearts. We ask for your prayers as we seek to support the Dien family and our Campion students and staff."

The cause of death remains

unknown. Timothy was found unresponsive in his bed in the men's residence hall. Emergency life-saving procedures were immediately attempted by the dean on duty. However, when paramedics arrived on the scene, he was pronounced deceased.

On Jan. 7 he had attended breakfast, where he was greeted by fellow students. He did not report any illness to staff. An accountability room check was administered in the evening due to his absence. However, when he was checked on, he was found unresponsive. There was no apparent sign of self-harm or foul play. The autopsy report is currently pending.

Timothy, who was in his eleventh year of school, is

Avista Adventist Hospital Reopens after Marshall Fire

Just three short weeks after the Marshall fire came within four feet of Avista Adventist Hospital's oxygen tanks and covered everything inside with a thick layer of soot and ashes, the hospital reopened to serve the communities of Louisville and Superior, Colorado.

Teams of professional cleaners scrubbed the hospital as maintenance workers replaced HVAC systems and air filters throughout the building. Areas were cleaned and sanitized multiple times

before clearance was given that the hospital was ready to resume its mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ by caring for those who are ill and by nurturing the health of the people in our communities.

When Avista Adventist Hospital reopened Jan. 18, Colorado **Governor Jared Polis** toured the site and thanked the associates for the bravery and hard work in reopening so quickly.

In an interview with radio

station KOA, broadcasting live from Avista Adventist Hospital, Polis said, "It is great to see them bouncing back and reopening only three weeks after the fire when they evacuated the entire facility in just two hours. It is actually quite remarkable."

As the hospital reopened, associates and local pastors gathered in the lobby to pray a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication as they resumed their life-saving work. **Geoff Patterson**, senior pastor at Boulder Adventist Church, explained why it was vital to be at the dedication to show support to the community. "The workers are so heroic in what they did on the day of the fire, bringing everyone out of here safely, and their commitment

shows that this is more than a job to them. Secondly, there is a history with the Boulder Church and this institution that originally was part of what was behind the church. The health ministry built [the foundation of] what the Boulder Church is to this day."

The short service held in the main lobby began with chaplain **Johnathan Ward** thanking the associates for their hard work to make reopening a possibility and thanking local pastors for being present for the associates as they navigated this disaster together.

The ceremony also featured hospital CEO **Isaac Sendros** reading a poem from an associate who lost everything in the fire. In his letter to



Jon Roberts

ACS Opens Disaster Relief Warehouse in Broomfield

Jon Roberts



remembered by his teachers and fellow students as kind and tender-hearted, with a willingness to encourage others. He was a gifted student, exhibiting dedication to his studies. His sister **Tiffany** graduated from Campion in 2021.

“Our hearts break for the sudden loss of Timothy,” said Rocky Mountain Conference education superintendent **Diane Harris**. “We pray that his family and friends are enveloped by the comfort of God’s presence.”

Details on a memorial service will be shared on Campion’s website and social media as information becomes available.

RMCNews

associates on Jan. 17, Sendros said the new city manager of Louisville had one word when asked what Avista could do for the city. The city manager said, “Reopen! Avista is a pillar of hope in this community, and the fact that you are reopening as quickly as you are is sending a clear message to this community that the recovery and healing process is one step closer.”

Reflecting on having the associates back in the building, Sendros said, “It is so good to see everyone home. We’ve missed them! A lot of people have been here working, but we are excited to have them back and our patients back.”

RMCNews

Responding to the wildfires that devastated Superior and Louisville, Colorado, last December, Adventist Community Services opened a warehouse in Broomfield, Colorado. There, families can receive not only material goods but also mental health counseling and apply for assistance in the rebuilding process.

The State of Colorado reached out to **Cathy Kissner**, RMC ACS director, asking ACS to lead the state relief program and the warehouse initiative. In one short week, Kissner and her crew of ACS volunteers from various churches around the Rocky Mountain Conference were able to oversee the setup and opening of the distribution center to the public.

On Monday, Jan. 17, FEMA administrator **Deanne Criswell** and other federal officials toured the warehouse and met with Kissner and volunteers to thank them for their service. Kissner stated that Criswell was impressed with the operation and how quickly it launched.

Since opening, the center has been serving 150 individuals per day on average. Those needing assistance can browse clothing, pet supplies, hygiene

products, food, toys, and other household items. Either FEMA or the Red Cross has vetted all families.

Individuals who need someone to talk to or to help them through mental health issues that arise after loss can also find support. “We have licensed and credentialed mental health volunteers available through our partner Spark the Change,” explains Kissner. “Eventually, we will have a private area where people can schedule visits with counselors. I am working with **Mickey Mallory** to schedule pastors who can spend time in the warehouse to be available for spiritual counseling needs.”

Kissner explains that the warehouse is getting volunteers from area churches, but is daily in need of more volunteers. Volunteers sort clothing, toys, and other donations. Some volunteers may be on the main floor where families are browsing, but most will be on the second floor of the distribution center.

Assisting the community is essential for **June Spaulding**, a member of the Fort Collins Adventist Church who has been volunteering in the warehouse. “People are so emotional and thankful when we help them get and replace items that are destroyed,” she said.

Larry Brandt, a member of the Mountain View Adventist Church, views volunteering at the center as a mission. “I have a heart for missions, and this is [one]. When you give of yourself, it is better to give than to receive. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.”

The response for donations has been overwhelming. However, some items not in general donation requests are in great need. “We are in need of pallets to store the unsorted and sorted donations,” Kissner stated.

Kissner explains that money is also needed. “Cash donations are ideal because there is equipment we need to buy. An example would be if we are short on mouthwash, we can purchase 10 bottles of mouthwash till we receive some donations of mouthwash.” She adds that the rent and power for the building are being supplied by the state, and donations are never used to pay salaries.

The ACS warehouse is open 9 am-7 pm seven days a week for the next few months.

Jon Roberts is communication/media assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Learn more

www.rmcsda.org/marshall-fire-relief-and-support/

Volunteer

www.volunteer.coloradoresponds.org/opportunity/a0C2500003H35c1UAF

(volunteers under 18: email cathyk@rmcsda.org)

Give

adventistgiving.org (choose Rocky Mountain Conference Church and select line item ACS DR)

Mail donations to RMC Treasury Department, 2520 S. Downing St, Denver, CO 80210

Place donations in the offering plate at your local church. Mark all donations ACS DR.

Administration Building Lobby Renamed for John and Lilya Wagner



Courtesy Union College

When John Wagner's time as Union College president is remembered, his leadership by example comes to mind first. "If we had a program in the gym, John Wagner would be the first one to take his coat off, roll up his sleeves, and start picking up chairs," shared Rich Carlson, who was chaplain during both of Wagner's terms as college president. "John didn't say, 'Everyone else come help me.' He'd just start picking up chairs. Everyone would see him and say, 'Oh, Dr. Wagner's picking up chairs; we should help him.' And all of a sudden, everyone would be helping. He has an uncanny way of leading people by example."

Union has named the lobby of the Everett Dick Administration Building the Wagner Lobby in honor of Drs. John and Lilya Wagner. John Wagner served as Union's president 1986-1991 and 2011-2014, and Lilya served as vice president for institutional advancement 1986-1991.

"We're deeply, deeply honored," said Lilya Wagner. "We truly love Union. It was a privilege to serve such a fine institution, to help it in difficult times, and to enjoy the positive times."

The Wagners' relationship with Union began in 1980 when John accepted a call to become academic dean, a position he held until 1983. During this time, he created the personalized degree program, which still exists today. He left to accept a call to become president of Southern College, now Southern Adventist University. Three years later, Union asked the Wagners to return—John to be president and Lilya to be vice president for institutional advancement. The couple accepted and moved back to Nebraska.

In 1986, Union College was facing a financial and enrollment crisis. Much-needed upgrades to the school's infrastructure had come at a high price, and fewer and fewer students were enrolling each year.

"We were millions of dollars in debt," said Carlson. "Lilya raised money for this school like you cannot believe. She was committed to the goal of paying down the debt. John's strength and his gift was caring for people from a sacrificial perspective. He would sleep in his van that had over 300,000 miles rather than rent a hotel when he would go out to talk to donors. He would go into a truck stop to brush his teeth and clean up before he went to see a potential donor."

When the Wagners left Union in 1991, they had led the college in reducing the debt by half. Over the next 20 years, they continued their careers in various fields.

Lilya Wagner served as associate director of The Fund Raising School at Indiana University, before working as vice president for development at the National Association for Community Leadership and vice president for Counterpart International, a global development organization in Washington, D.C.

She also served as the director of Philanthropic Service for Institutions at the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Over her career, she worked as a consultant and trainer in over 80 countries.

John Wagner worked for a number of nonprofit organizations around the country, then became founding president of a corporate foundation. Later, he became CEO

of Prevent Blindness Indiana.

In 2011, Union asked John Wagner to return as interim president for a year. He agreed, although he was partially retired and serving as assistant administrative pastor at Sligo Adventist Church in Maryland. One year as interim president became three years as full-time president, as Wagner led the college through the completion of the Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics. He served Union as president until 2014.

"John Wagner is one of my greatest spiritual mentors," said Carlson. "He was known for affirming, encouraging, and supporting people. At least once a week, I would walk into my office and there would be a note on my chair. People who worked at Union while he was president still talk about notes from John Wagner on their chair thanking them for something, affirming them for something, and telling them how much they were appreciated."

Union College is deeply grateful for the philanthropic generosity, the sacrificial leadership, and the steadfast commitment the Wagners have shown through the years, and is proud to commemorate their service to the school. In the words of Rich Carlson, "John and Lilya gave so much to Union personally and financially, but more than that, they gave their hearts."

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

The Basis for a Strong Base

Scott Cushman/Union College



Between attending classes, coordinating community service for Campus Ministries and being a captain for Union College's gymnastics team, **Adam Anderson's** schedule is packed. However, the junior international rescue and relief major from Randolph, Alabama, always finds time to go to the gym.

"Fitness is so much more than staying fit for me," he said. "It makes me happy and gives me a goal and satisfaction in life. I just really enjoy doing it. It brings people together. If you do gymnastics with someone, you can build close friendships. I plan to never stop working out in some shape or form."

As a captain for Union's acrosport gymnastics team, the Gymnaires, much of the exercise Adam does is to improve his gymnastics abilities. "My main job in gymnastics is being a base, lifting girls up and stunting. You have to be strong to do that. So that's why I

incorporate a lot of overhead pressing, squats, and deadlifting. Gymnastics is more skill-based, but being strong helps you get those skills faster. I don't do gymnastics to stay fit; I stay fit to do gymnastics. I also love tennis, basketball, football, and volleyball, but the sport I do the most is gymnastics."

Adam's exercise journey began at age 15 when he got his driving permit. "I'd drive myself to the gym," he said. "I got a job as a lifeguard at the YMCA so I could work out for free. I started working out five times a week. As a senior in high school, I joined my school's gymnastics team. I've been doing gymnastics for four years now. I used to just do weightlifting and bodybuilding stuff; now I do gymnastics power workouts and body weight workouts. I've done Crossfit and running. Any of it is fun; I enjoy all of it."

Adam's love of exercise isn't just a hobby; he plans to make it his day job. "I'm doing the pre-PT route with a degree in international rescue and relief, so I plan to become a physical therapist," he shared. "I would love to go into sports medicine for a while because I'm interested in sports. I'm also very interested in geriatrics and making people's lives better as they get older. But I also love kids, so I could do pediatrics. I don't want to just stay in one job my whole career. I want to do lots of different things."

Adam thinks the new wellness center that Union is planning to build will be just what the campus needs. "The Larson Lifestyle Center is super small and it's crammed full. You can't fit a lot of people in there. I don't go there at night because there's too many people there to get a good workout. A lot of people here have to buy memberships at local gyms because this gym is just

inadequate for what they do. They need more space, or need better hours of operation. For gymnastics, having another gym would be huge, because we could potentially have our own space. Having a new facility would be a big deal on campus."

Learn more about this new project at ucollege.edu/fit.

Drawing Friends

Graphic design major Ed Barboza sat down to sketch all his friends for his senior exhibition. That's when he discovered two things: First, he didn't have time to draw them all; and second, he had come a long way from being the friendless freshman who first arrived at Union.

Watch him share the story at ucollege.edu/barboza-video



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Hospital Chaplains Provide Healing Presence in Times of Need

Hospitals are places where people come for their physical health. But in times of illness and stress, many find themselves in need of spiritual care.

At AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, hospital chaplains provide this care as part of the hospital's mission of *Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ*.

The chaplain's role often varies depending on the patient and their religious traditions. It could mean finding a rosary for a loved one to hold. Or reading a Bible verse or singing a favorite hymn for a patient. It might also mean just asking them what kind of support they need.

"We're here to journey alongside you in your faith, no matter whether it's Catholic, Adventist, Muslim, or someone without a religion," says **O'Donavan Yarde**, chaplain and manager of Spiritual Wellness at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. "No matter what your beliefs are, we're here to help support your spiritual and emotional health."

The chaplains may simply sit and listen to the patient or families and be a calming presence in some cases.

"As a Christian, I believe in the power of God's presence, even when I can't perceive how He's working," says **Elizabeth Marin**, M.Div., chaplain at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. "It reminds me of the ministry of presence and how important it is to just be there for someone."

In 2020, the COVID pandemic changed the way chaplains were able to serve

patients and families. While the chaplains usually go visit the departments, COVID regulations limited the number of patients they could see.

"When it first started, we had to talk about what spiritual care was going to look like," says Yarde. "We weren't able to visit with patients in the same way. We saw fewer patients, but we were able to spend more time with them."

COVID restrictions also limited the number of family members who were able to visit. When the pandemic first started, the chaplains would help with putting people in touch with loved ones through FaceTime, Skype, or other platforms. As time went on, they were able to bring more family members in.

"While we have COVID policies in place for visitors, our team members know the importance of having loved ones there," says Yarde. "They do everything they can to bring in family when possible."

Those moments are significant at the end of life. If loved ones can't be there, the chaplains help ensure that someone is in the room with the patient to help bring comfort.

Yarde remembers one patient who was dying, but her daughter couldn't be with her. He stayed with the patient in her room while she was passing. "She loved hymns, so I sang to her while holding her hand," he says. "It's a sacred thing to be with loved ones when families aren't able to be there."

The chaplains are also there for hospital team members



Courtesy AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

Chaplains from AdventHealth Shawnee Mission (l-r): Terry North, CPE chaplain resident; Steven Smith, Ph.D., ACPE certified educator; Elizabeth Marin Rodriguez, staff chaplain; O'Donavan Yarde, BCC, manager of spiritual wellness; Bryan Mann, staff chaplain; and Michael Larson, staff chaplain

dealing with their own anxiety or grief. "COVID added another layer to our ministry," says Marin. "Our attention has always been to patients and families. We were also noticing that our team members were feeling exhausted, not only physically, but emotionally."

They regularly check in with team members to ask how they can support them and care for them. In some cases that might mean taking a walk with them, letting them vent, praying with them, or helping with patients.

"In one case, one of our nurses hadn't had dinner, so we told her to take a break while we talked with the family for the next hour," says Yarde. "We visited with the family in the chapel and brought 'mission bags' with fruit, snacks, and beverages. Then we invited them to share stories of their loved one."

In addition to checking on team members, the chaplains

meet regularly to discuss their day and check in on each other. "Being there for patients at the end of life can be emotionally draining," he says. "I'm really proud of our team that they're able to be present with families in difficult moments, but also to check on fellow team members and each other."

"We have each other's backs, and often ask each other how we can help," says Marin. "I'm just blessed beyond words to be part of such an amazing team."

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.



For more information about AdventHealth Shawnee Mission and its focus on spiritual wellness, visit **AdventHealthKC.com**.

Baby Stevie: Praying for a Miracle

Courtesy AdventHealth Rocky Mountain Region



Today, baby Stevie is a healthy, smiley baby. She is pictured here with mom Kaitlin and brother Adam, who are grateful every day for their miracle.

Caregivers at Centura-Avista Adventist Hospital in Louisville, Colorado, know that healthcare is more than medicine. Treating their patients means caring for the whole person—mind, body and spirit.

When **Kaitlin** and **Brian Schmidt** found out in February 2021 they were expecting their second child, they were overjoyed at what seemed to be a miracle. The Schmidts had undergone three failed IVF attempts in 2020, and had come to accept that their son, **Adam**, would be an only child, even giving away all of their baby gear in an attempt to start fresh in the new year.

Kaitlin's pregnancy proved to be far from easy, however. Between a miscarriage scare in her second trimester and the need to move to hospitalized bedrest at 34 weeks, baby **Stevie** seemed determined to keep her parents on their toes. With just a month left to go until her due date, though, Kaitlin was off of bedrest, back at home with her family, and everything seemed to be progressing toward a healthy delivery.

Then, just a few days later, an ambulance rushed Kaitlin to Avista Adventist Hospital. Kaitlin was hemorrhaging, and Stevie was safely delivered via emergency C-section thanks to the quick work of the Avista labor and delivery team.

"It was so chaotic—it seemed like every person in the hospital rushed into that triage room," Kaitlin recalled.

Stevie came into the world with a loud cry, and her nurses

quickly dubbed her one of the spunkiest, sassiest babies they had delivered at Avista.

"I was so groggy and out of it when I finally met her," Kaitlin said. "But we were just so relieved that she was here, and that she was okay. But then she started to not be okay."

Stevie began to show signs of what her caregivers suspected to be an infection, or worse. After a barrage of tests, a head ultrasound showed Stevie had a life-threatening bilateral brain bleed.

"It was devastating," Kaitlin said. "Her prognosis was bleak, and there was nothing I could do to help her. I kept wondering, *Why is this happening to her?* It's so miraculous that she came here; we had to overcome so many obstacles just for her to come into this world, and it was really difficult to think, *Was it all for nothing?*"

Shortly after Stevie's diagnosis, as the family waited tearfully for a Flight for Life helicopter to transport Stevie

to a local children's hospital, the Schmidt family met **Johnathan Ward**, director of Mission Integration and Chaplaincy at Avista. Ward recognized the family's feelings of fear and helplessness. He asked Stevie's nurses to pause, and parents and caregivers prayed together.

"We knew we had done all we could medically, and as we waited for transport the only thing left to do was ask God to do His best and heal the child, and let Kaitlin and Brian know they were not alone," Ward said.

Stevie had a long journey, spending the next 45 days in the NICU. "We didn't know for a long time what the outcome would be. In the beginning of our stay we had to have end-of-life conversations, and part of me was so angry. It was hard to have faith in a bigger picture," Kaitlin said. "But we just took it day by day, and I was constantly praying, every day, every moment. And at the end of the day I would tell God,

Thank you for today, but now I need help for tomorrow."

The Schmidt family was finally able to welcome baby Stevie home in October 2021. Now, she is a healthy, smiley baby—still sassy and full of spunk—and absolutely adored by her older brother.

Kaitlin called Ward, who had kept in touch with the family, to express their gratitude and update him on Stevie's progress. The caregivers at Avista had not known Stevie's outcome after she was transferred out of the hospital, and Ward was able to share the news of her homecoming, bringing good news to the labor and delivery team at an especially needed time as the hospital navigated yet another surge of the ongoing pandemic.

The team again paused with Ward to pray, this time sending up a prayer of thanks for God's healing and the miracle they had witnessed in baby Stevie.

Ward has kept in touch with the Schmidt family and recently sent baby Stevie a welcome home gift: her very first Bible. "Stevie's journey really demonstrates the power of prayer, the power of positive thinking, and of maintaining faith that God is present," Ward reflected. "As a chaplain, it is my great honor to help sustain our patients' connection with God's presence in their times of greatest need, and seeing an outcome like Stevie's, against all odds, is truly incredible."

Amy Thompson is a writer for Centura Health.

Akin, Nancy I., b. June 12, 1923 in Claire, IA. d. Dec. 2, 2021 in Spirit Lake, IA. Member of Spencer (IA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Robert; 1 son; 8 siblings; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild. Survivors include daughters Roberta and Linda; sons William, John, Stan, and Steven; 2 siblings.

Alexenko, Llewellyn, b. Aug. 3, 1927 in Dickinson, ND. d. Nov. 21, 2021 in Killdeer, ND. Member of Grassy Butte (ND) Church. Preceded in death by son Brad; 1 sister. Survivors include wife Sharon Dickhaut Alexenko; daughter Tiffany Thomas; son Brad; 6 grandchildren; 1 step-grandson.

Butcher, Scott, b. Dec. 13, 1952 in Central City, NE. d. Jan. 21, 2022 in Omaha, NE. Member of Aurora (NE) Church. Survivors include wife Karen; daughter Jessica Stanphill; sons Christopher and Michael; sister Jacque Stutheit; brothers Larry and Russ; 4 grandchildren.

Davis, Luella (Meidinger) Foerderer, b. Aug. 23, 1924 near Zeeland, ND. d. Dec. 2, 2021 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by husband Edward Foerderer; husband Delton; daughter Eunice; 7 brothers and sisters. Survivors include sons Roger, Steve, Bob, Barney, and Jim Foerderer; 19 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Dittberner, Dean "Ditty," b. April 28, 1943 in Mankato, MN. d. June 17, 2021 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View (NE) Church. Survivors include wife Beverly, daughters Sherri Cash and Terri Tanner; son Brian; 1 sister.

Force, Marirose, b. Feb. 3, 1957 in Porterville, CA. d. Dec. 7, 2021 in Lincoln, NE. Survivors include husband Gary; children Darcy, Angela, and Daniel; 1 sister; 1

brother; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Forshee, James F., b. April 22, 1940 in Rifle, CO. d. Dec. 15, 2021 in Centralia, MO. Member of Sunnysdale (MO) Church. Preceded in death by wife Kay; wife Margaret. Survivors include daughters Shaunna and Brenda; sons Scott and Darren; 3 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Frank, Michael, b. Oct. 20, 1982 in Rapid City, SD. d. Nov. 20, 2021 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Preceded in death by father Robert Beyak. Survivors include mother Jan; 1 brother; grandmother.

Goley, Arloene Rentfro, b. Sept. 26, 1930. d. Dec. 22, 2021 in Grand Junction, CO. Preceded in death by infant son David; sister Elaine. Survivors include husband John; daughter Brenda Morris; son John; 6 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Hannum, David Leroy, b. Sept. 5, 1952. d. Dec. 10, 2021 in Clifton, CO.

Hanson, Roger A., b. Sept. 4, 1961 in Neligh, NE. d. Nov. 3, 2021 in Neligh, NE. Member of Neligh Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include 2 sisters; 1 brother.

Jean, Jean C. B., b. Feb. 22, 1953 in Les Cayes, Haiti. d. Nov. 3, 2021 in Missouri. Member of Kansas City Central (MO) Church. Survivors include children Nacha, Mackenson, Makenzy, Mak-enley, and Judith; 13 siblings; 1 grandchild.

Johnston, Harry Kenneth, b. Jan. 14, 1952, in Arnold, NE. d. Oct. 18, 2021. Member of Kansas-Nebraska Conference Church. Survivors include children Tessia, Trisha Christensen, Wyatt, and Teri; 2 sisters; 6 grandchildren.

Johnston, Malinda Sue, b. Jan. 4, 1955 in Broken Bow, NE. d. Oct. 16, 2021. Member of Broken Bow Church. Survivors include children Tessia, Trisha Christensen, Wyatt, and Teri; 4 siblings; 6 grandchildren.

Little, Dorothy I., b. Jan. 10, 1923 in Paris, AR. d. Dec. 5, 2021 in Englewood, CO. Member of Fort Smith (AR) Church. Preceded in death by husband Lyle; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Cassandra Kerr, Dee Dee Foxworth, Barbara Angelopoulos; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

McClain, Betty Jean, b. Feb. 24, 1928. d. Dec. 4, 2021. Member of Beaver City (NE) Church. Survivors include daughter Joann Hawley; sons Dan and Jerry. Sisters Norma Romjue, Elaine Portenier, and

Karen Jacobson; 7 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Scheresky, Diane Radomski, b. June 5, 1941 in Minot, ND. d. Dec. 7, 2021 in Velva, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include husband Jim; daughters Carmen Grimm, Shannon Kittleson, Teresa Funk, and Cheryl Evandenko; sons Greg, Craig, and Michael; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Sturges, Hubert, b. Sept. 14, 1927. d. Nov. 27, 2021. Member of Grand Junction (CO) Church.

		March 2022				
		MAR 4	MAR 11	MAR 18	MAR 25	
COLORADO	Denver	5:55	6:02	7:10	7:17	
	Grand Junction	6:10	6:17	7:24	7:31	
	Pueblo	5:54	6:01	7:08	7:15	
IOWA	Davenport	5:56	6:04	7:12	7:20	
	Des Moines	6:08	6:16	7:24	7:32	
	Sioux City	6:19	6:27	7:35	7:43	
KANSAS	Dodge City	6:36	6:43	7:50	7:56	
	Goodland	5:42	5:49	6:56	7:03	
	Topeka	6:18	6:25	7:32	7:39	
MINNESOTA	Duluth	5:58	6:08	7:18	7:28	
	International Falls	6:02	6:13	7:23	7:34	
	Minneapolis	6:04	6:14	7:23	7:32	
MISSOURI	Columbia	6:05	6:12	7:19	7:26	
	Kansas City	6:14	6:21	7:28	7:35	
	St. Louis	5:56	6:04	7:10	7:17	
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	6:21	6:29	7:36	7:44	
	North Platte	6:37	6:45	7:53	8:00	
	Scottsbluff	5:48	5:56	7:04	7:12	
NORTH DAKOTA	Bismarck	6:33	6:43	7:53	8:02	
	Fargo	6:17	6:27	7:37	7:46	
	Williston	6:43	6:54	8:04	8:14	
SOUTH DAKOTA	Pierre	6:33	6:42	7:51	8:00	
	Rapid City	5:45	5:54	7:02	7:11	
	Sioux Falls	6:19	6:28	7:36	7:45	
WYOMING	Casper	5:58	6:07	7:15	7:23	
	Cheyenne	5:53	6:01	7:09	7:16	
	Sheridan	5:59	6:08	7:17	7:26	

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Great Bend, KS 67530
620.793.9247 | greatbend22.
adventistschoolconnect.org

High Plains Christian School

2710 N. Fleming St., Garden
City, KS 67846 | 620.275.9356
high23.adventistschool
connect.org

Omaha Memorial Adventist School

840 N. 72nd St., Omaha,
NE 68114 | 402.397.4642
omahamemorialadventist-
school.org

Platte Valley Adventist School

636 S. Shady Bend Rd.,
Grand Island, NE 68801
308.384.1480 | plattevalley
adventistschool@gmail.com

Prairie View Adventist School

1812 W. Hwy. 20,
Chadron, NE 69337 | PO
Box 351, Chadron, NE
69337 | 308.432.4228
prairieviewadventistschool.
org | pvaspronghorns@
gmail.com

Three Angels Adventist School

4558 N. Hydraulic Ave.,
Wichita, KS 67219
316.832.1010
threeangelschool.org

Topeka Adventist Christian School

2431 SW Wanamaker
Rd., Topeka, KS 66614
785.272.9474 | topeka22.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Valley View Adventist School

415 W. 31st St., Scottsbluff, NE
69361 | 308.632.8804
valleyview25.
adventistschoolconnect.org
valleyview@actcom.net

Wichita Adventist Christian Academy

2725 S. Osage Ave.,
Wichita, KS 67217
316.267.9472 | angf96.
adventistschoolconnect.org
wacapincipal@yahoo.com

Minnesota Conference**Maplewood Academy**

700 Main St. N., Hutchinson,
MN 55350 | 320.587.2830
maplewoodacademy.org
info@maplewoodacademy.org

Anoka Adventist Christian School

1035 Lincoln St., Anoka,
MN 55303 | 763.421.6710
anokaacs.org

Blackberry SDA School

25321 Dove Ln., Grand Rapids,
MN 55744 | 218.326.2263
blackberryschool.org

Capital City Adventist Christian School

1220 S. McKnight Rd. S., St.
Paul, MN 55119 | 651.739.7484
ccacschool.org

Detroit Lakes Adventist Christian School

404 Richwood Rd.,
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218.846.9764 | anglil5.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Maranatha Adventist Christian School

414 3rd Ave. SW, Dodge
Center, MN 55927
507.374.6353 | angi65.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Minnetonka Christian Academy

3520 Williston Rd.,
Minnetonka, MN
55345 | 952.935.4497
minnetonkachristian.com

Northwoods Elementary School

95 Academy Ln. NW,
Hutchinson, MN
55350 | 320.234.5994
northwoodselemetary.org

Oak Street Christian School

2910 Oak St., Brainerd,
MN 56401 | 218.828.9660
oakstreetchristian.org

Rochester Adventist Elementary

1100 37th St. NW, Rochester,
MN 55901 | 507.289.2589

Southview Christian School

15304 County Rd. 5,
Burnsville, MN 55306
952.898.2727 | scsmn.org

Stone Ridge SDA Christian School

115 E. Orange St., Duluth,
MN 55811 | 218.722.7535
christianschools.com/schools/
stone-ridge-christian-
school-27012.htm

Rocky Mountain Conference**Campion Academy**

300 SW 42nd St. SW,
Loveland, CO 80537
970.667.5592 | campion.net
info@campion.net

Mile High Adventist Academy

1733 Dad Clark Dr.,
Highlands Ranch, CO
80126 | 303.744.1069
milehighacademy.org | info@
milehighacademy.org

Adventist Christian School

612 23rd Ave.,
Greeley, CO 80634
970.353.2770 | greeley22.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Brighton Adventist Academy

820 S. 5th Ave., Brighton, CO
80601 | 303.659.1223
baaconnect.org | info@
baaconnect.org

Cornerstone Christian Academy

313 Craft Dr., Alamosa, CO
81101 | 719.589.2557 | cca.
alamosa@gmail.com

Cortez Seventh-day Adventist School

540 W. 4th St.,
Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.8257 | cortez22.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Delta Seventh-day Adventist School

762 Meeker St., Delta, CO
81416 | PO Box 91, Delta, CO
81416 | 970.339.3232 | school.
deltasda.org

Farmington Discover Christian School

5509 Sagebrush Dr.,
Farmington, NM
87402 | 505.325.5875
discoverchristianschool.org
discoverchristianschoolk8@
gmail.com

Fort Collins Christian School

2040 Nancy Gray Ave.,
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970.222.6437

Fort Morgan Lighthouse SDA Christian School

PO Box 860, Fort Morgan,
CO 80701 | 970.370.2275
lighthousesda-

christianschool.org | office@
lighthousesda.com

Four-Mile Adventist School

3180 E. Main St., Cañon City,
CO 81212 | 719.275.6111

H.M.S. Richards Seventh-day Adventist School

342 SW 42nd St., Loveland,
CO 80537 | 970.667.2427
hmsrichards.org

Intermountain Adventist Academy

550 25½ Rd., Grand Junction,
CO 81505 | 970.242.5116
iaagj.com | grandjunction
christianschool.com

Mason Christian Academy

723 Storey Blvd., Cheyenne,
WY 82009 | 307.638.2457
lemca.org

Mile High Elementary School

1733 Dad Clark Dr.,
Highlands Ranch, CO
80126 | 303.744.1069
milehighacademy.org | info@
milehighacademy.org

Mountain Road Christian Academy

2657 Casper Mountain Rd.,
Casper, WY 82601
Mail: 2946 Prairie
Ln., Bar Nunn, WY
82601 | 307.235.2859
mountainroadchristian
academy.com

SonShine Academy

660 S. 17th St., Worland,
WY 82401 | Mail: PO
Box 433, Worland, WY
82401 | 307.800.1022
sonshinebrightly@
gmail.com | worland22.
adventistschoolconnect.org

Springs Adventist Academy

5410 E. Palmer Park Blvd.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80915
719.597.0155 | saak8info@
gmail.com | saak8.org

Vista Ridge Academy

3100 Ridgeview Dr., Erie,
CO 80516 | 303.828.4944
vistaridge.org | hello@
vistaridge.org

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Color Key

Grades 1-8

Grades 1-9

Grades 1-10

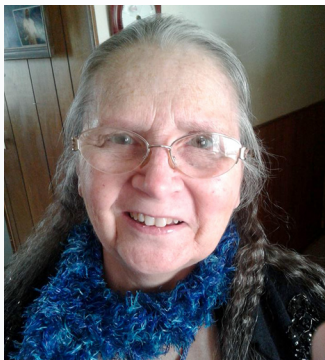
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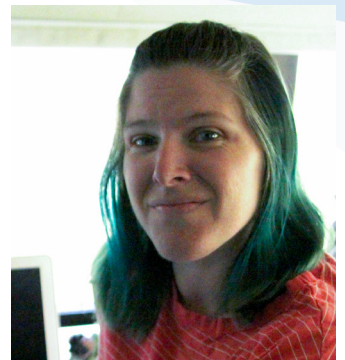
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Sabrina Riley is an independent researcher and consultant in Northern Virginia. Her current research interests include the Adventist military experience and her family's genealogy.



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Es un espacio en el cual queremos crecer juntos, ser inspirados y motivados para cumplir con la misión que Dios nos dejó en el corazón de los Estados Unidos.



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Ed Dickerson is a lay pastor, church planter, writer and speaker. His passion is to do everything in his power to see that, if the Lord tarries, there will be an Adventist church that his children and grandchildren want to belong to.