

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

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MY STORY, MY DREAM

Sharing God's
power to
save and
transform

JUNE 2022



OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022

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“My people have got to hear this. My people ... the Hutterite people.” —p. 4



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HOW'S YOUR NEIGHBOR DOING?

The pandemic has kept many people closer to home. It has also created opportunities to spend more time in our own neighborhoods, taking walks and saying hello to passersby.

But do we know the people around us well enough to understand some of their needs? To have a positive influence in their lives? Do our neighbors trust us? If not, how do we build connections and friendships?

This issue of OUTLOOK is full of stories of Adventists reaching out and serving their neighbors and building friendships in their communities—whether by making sleeping mats for homeless people (p. 14), running a Free Little Pantry (p. 18), giving away clothing and hot soup (p. 15 and 20) or baking 2,300 cookies—enough for everyone in town (p. 16).

We pray you will be encouraged and inspired to continue living the gospel of Jesus Christ by meeting the needs of your neighbors and becoming their friends.



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



Musculos en el Cerebro
outlookmag.org/musculos-en-el-cerebro



Trying New Foods
outlookmag.org/10-to-15-times



Treatment for Anxiety Disorders
outlookmag.org/treatment-for-anxiety-disorders



ON THE COVER

Chris Hofer is passionate about sharing the Three Angels Messages with his Hutterite family and friends.

More on p. 4
Photo by Jody Schumacher

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MY STORY, MY DREAM

Sharing God's power to save and transform

Rev. 14:6 tells us

that the Three Angels Messages are to go to every nation, tribe, tongue and people. After hearing these messages for the first time, one of the first thoughts I had was, *My people have got to hear this.*

My people ... the Hutterite people.

Scattered throughout the Northern Plains of America and across most of Canada, there is a people group that isn't known by most of the world. Hutterites (Anabaptist Christians much like the Amish and Mennonites) number over 50,000 and live in "colonies" where, for the most part, they try to stay separated from the outside world. Generally they are known to be a peaceful people who try to stay out of the public eye and live their communal lifestyle separated from the world.

I grew up in one such colony in North Dakota. As a child it was always a pleasure to be able to go to town and "see" the world beyond the colony's borders. At a young age I rebelled against the strict religious lifestyle of my people and ended up running away from home at age 17. After that came a 10-year circle of partying, drug addiction and many mistakes, one of which was neglecting my duties to be a husband to my wife and a father to my children.

I came to hate being sober, and used every stimulant and drug I could get my hands on. My life consisted of a continuous circle of drugs, women, sex, partying and crime to support my growing habits.

I imagine at this point Satan was certain I'd be his for life. My life was like a freight train of sin barreling for a cliff. Looking back, those years seem like a blur. I remember some faces, some places and some details. It is by the grace of God that I never died or was killed during those years.

Eventually I hit rock bottom, and I believe that's what made me finally realize what I had done, who I'd become and how I had neglected my responsibilities to my wife and children. In desperation I decided to look to God for help.

It took a series of miraculous circumstances to introduce

me to Jesus, His Word and the Seventh-day Adventist Church (read the full story at outlookmag.org/my-story).

Looking back I can say that my desire to share Jesus and His Word began after attending my first full evangelistic series. Once wasn't enough, so I attended another one immediately after and then another one online. I was beyond excited about the Bible truth I was learning and couldn't keep it to myself. I had to share.

One of the ways I stayed in contact with my Hutterite family was through a family group chat—and also other Hutterite group chats—on WhatsApp. It was there that I began to type out messages on different Bible topics.

What started out as sharing with just a few family members began to grow. It went from 10 to 20, then 40, then 100. More and more Hutterites started joining the WhatsApp channel I had simply named "Bible Study." For many of these people this poses a great risk because in most communities private cell phones are not allowed, especially for women.

It wasn't long before some of my Hutterite friends introduced other messaging platforms such as Telegram and Signal. After creating "Bible Study" channels there as well I would daily share the same messages across all the platforms. Now, almost a year later, those numbers have grown to around 1,000 Hutterites studying Bible truth and receiving the everlasting gospel.

Expanding community

My local Adventist church in Lehr, North Dakota, where I was baptized in 2019, became involved when a Hutterite youth pastor made an inquiry about a book he had found called *The Desire of Ages*. He enjoyed it so much and was wanting to get copies of it for all the families of his community.

I started by asking my church family for used copies of the book that we could send to this youth pastor. But instead of sending used books, a donation came in that was big enough to buy enough brand new Conflict of the Ages sets for every single family in his community. This opened the door to expand from simply sharing words on a cell phone to sharing free physical resources such as Bibles, Bible study guides, tracts and a wide variety of books.



This opened the door to invite Hutterites to call in and participate as well, and they did. Calls started to come from Hutterites in the states of Washington and Minnesota, and the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia. During the past year, for one hour a week, we were able to completely cover the 28 Fundamental Beliefs, and then moved on to studying the book of Daniel. There are also about 20 Hutterites studying the Sabbath school quarterly.

A couple years ago when this dream of sharing Jesus with my people was first born, I never would have

imagined the progress that has happened. This outreach effort has also led several Hutterites to not only accept the message but get baptized and stay living in their communities as a light there.

I do not know how God will lead in the future but I know He has a plan. After all, He did say that this message will go to every tribe, tongue and people. That includes the Hutterite people of North America.

Chris Hofer is a member of the Lehr Adventist Church in North Dakota.



Photos: Jody Schumacher

As monetary donations to help cover shipping and expenses came in, I would offer books on the Bible Study group chat for free to all participants.

This had a huge impact in a couple ways. First, it showed the Hutterites that there are people who genuinely care about them. Second, it impacted them in a special way—knowing people cared so much they were willing to spend time and money in order for them to get these books and Bible study guides.

This is huge because individuals don't have their own money in the colony. Mailing the resources proved to be a challenge at times because all the mail for each colony gets passed through one hub. If the wrong person sees mail coming from a ministry outside the Hutterite faith, chances for it getting confiscated and destroyed are very high. This has happened more than once. Currently we are still shipping books and resources as donations become available not only in the United States, but also Canada.

Pandemic blessings

What about that dreaded word: COVID? Actually, the pandemic also turned out to be a blessing because, as churches began to shut down and people were getting increasingly wary of public gatherings, one of the changes our church family experienced was deciding to have our Wednesday night Bible study via conference call.



How the Church Works ...

and how you can make it better!

From June 6-11

this year, delegates from every union conference of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination will gather for the 61st Constituency Session of the General Conference, either virtually or in-person in St. Louis, Missouri. This session has been delayed twice due to the global pandemic, but will now proceed with the allowance of virtual participation, as voted during a specially called GC session at church headquarters last January.¹

The Seventh-day Adventist GC Session, usually held every five years, is the largest official denominational meeting in the world. Approximately 2,700 voting delegates will represent more than 21 million church members from over 200 countries. Approximately 6% of the delegates will be from North America. The sessions will be live streamed around the world from www.gcsession.org.

Why is holding a session important?

Administrative meetings might sometimes seem irrelevant or an unwise use of so much time, money and energy. What is the benefit to a local church member? Can members have any influence on what is voted? The answer lies in understanding that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is an interconnected global community of interlocking and interdependent systems that

directly and indirectly impact each other. We are like a living organism, and if one part of that ecosystem fails or dominates we will have problems fulfilling our mission.

How is church business accomplished?

The Adventist Church is run by governance committees and boards—beginning at the local congregation and weaving through all the other church segments. The most important decisions are always made by groups. Your church board uses the *Church Manual* and the *NAD Policy Book*, which is one way votes taken during the GC session could impact your local church. Another way is through votes regarding the percentage of tithes that goes “over” through the funding process and comes “back” to the conferences—not “up and down” because the Adventist Church is not organized as a hierarchy.

“Committees and constituency sessions allow for a certain amount of accountability and democracy that a top-down system wouldn’t,” said Kaleb Eisele, co-producer of a podcast called *How the Church Works*. “When our system works as it was designed, decisions around church policy are made collectively by the people we choose to represent us.”²

Who are our delegates to the GC Session?

Delegates are selected by each union executive committee around the world to represent their territory. Mid-America’s 16 delegates have been carefully chosen based on their track record of experience and service, while still achieving the ratios required by the GC of gender, race and lay member or church employee.

1. **Roger Bernard**, president, Central States Conference
2. **Ron Carlson**, president, Kansas-Nebraska Conference
3. **Dean Coridan**, president, Iowa-Missouri Conference
4. **Alejandro Dovald**, pastor, Lincoln Hispanic Church (NE)
5. **Delvin Hansen**, member, Harvey Church (DA)
6. **Debbie Jackson**, member, Denver Park Hill Church (Central States)
7. **Sharmani Long**, member, Franktown Church (CO)
8. —, president, Minnesota Conference
9. **Cynthia Mochama**, member, The Way Church (MN)
10. **Hubert J. Morel, Jr.**, vp for administration, Mid-America Union
11. **Abelardo Rivas**, pastor, Multicultural Church for the Community, (MO)

12. **Vinita Sauder**, president, Union College
13. **Gary Thurber**, president, Mid-America Union
14. **Mic Thurber**, president, Rocky Mountain Conference
15. **David VandeVere**, vp of finance, Mid-America Union
16. **Mark Weir**, president, Dakota Conference

Only delegates and invitees are allowed voice during business sessions and only delegates may vote.

This year’s agenda is typical, calling for elections, a review of fundamental beliefs and policies, and a review of the GC constitution and the *Church Manual*—items that can only be voted on during a constituency session.

What's different this year?

In addition to accommodating virtual participation by delegates, there will not be any ancillary meetings or exhibits or booths. There will, however, be a virtual exhibition hall. Delegates are encouraged to attend the session in person, if possible. Yet it seems likely that some countries will only be represented virtually.

This session will be the first time where general attendees were not actively encouraged to attend until a few months before the session, due to

the pandemic. However, the 67,000-seat stadium (America's Center Convention Complex) will be open to the public during the business meetings and on Sabbath.

Also, due to the pandemic and the change of location from Indianapolis to St. Louis, many of the community service activities and evangelistic events that usually accompany a GC session will not be happening in 2022.

Why St. Louis?

America's Center is conveniently located in the heart of downtown St. Louis, close to hotels, dining and public transportation. The city has an international airport and can comfortably house the large number of delegates. The 58th session was also held in St. Louis in 2005, and the 62nd session in 2025 is scheduled again for St. Louis. Only a handful of cities have the facilities to host the GC session, although that may change if a majority of delegates participate virtually.

How does the GC Session nominating committee work?

A nominating committee is formed at the beginning to nominate GC officers and vice presidents, departmental directors and associate directors, and officers of the 13 divisions, which are extensions of the GC. Delegates from each division/attached union meet together and select 10% of their group to serve on the nominating committee. Delegates at large (delegates

due to the GC positions they hold) select 8% of their group to serve. Around 250 people serve on the nominating committee.

- 1. Each division delegation acts as a unit** in selecting the representatives to which it is entitled. It is customary for union presidents to be elected to serve on this committee, particularly if the union is entitled to only one representative.
- 2. Election to the nominating committee** is done by the method of voting considered by each delegation to be most convenient and efficient (this year it may be done virtually).
- 3. No delegate may nominate** more than one person for election to the nominating committee.
- 4. Once established, the nominating committee elects** its own chair and secretary under the temporary chair of the GC president whose term is expiring.
- 5. In order to expedite the work of the nominating committee**, representatives from each division meet together and consider the personnel needs of their respective divisions and then make recommendations to the full nominating committee. Decisions of these groups are not binding; they are only recommendations.
- 6. The GC president is elected first** by a vote of all the delegates, then joins the nominating committee to offer recommendations on all the other nominations, which the committee may choose to accept or reject.

- 7. It is traditional practice for the nominating committee** to consider incumbents first, and then to bring only one name at a time for each position (including president) to the delegates, who either approve the name or send it back to the committee.

Where does accountability lie?

The highest level of authority at each segment of denominational organization is within the constituency session. In addition, each officer is accountable to the organization's executive committee. An executive committee (or board, in the case of institutions) is entrusted through policies or constitutions and bylaws with authority to govern between constituency meetings. However, the executive committee/board members are ultimately accountable to their constituency.³ We have checks and balances in place to help keep erratic leaders from hijacking the church.

What holds over 21 million members together?

Simply stated, the love of Jesus Christ. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another," (John 13:34). This love undergirds our commitment to our unique 28 fundamental beliefs. It also allows us to be gracious to those with whom we may not agree. Love grants us the knowledge that while we wait for Christ's return we can be stronger together in spreading the amazing news that Jesus offers hope and healing to everyone.

"Today, with more people operating across the globe, the Adventist Church's decisions must be made with increasing care for the massive spectrum of humanity they serve," concluded Eisele. "Policies, leadership and decision-making bodies are a vital part of that process in our modern-day, and they remain an important way a local church member can participate in shaping the Seventh-day Adventist Church for future generations."

If you want to change the church for the better, volunteer to serve on your local church board, your conference executive committee or the bylaws committee. These are the most powerful decision-making groups and the most effective means of creating change processes in Adventism.

How can I get updates on what's happening?

Watch the live stream at www.gcsession.org or sign up for myOUTLOOK e-news at outlookmag.org, a free email newsletter produced by the Mid-America Union communication team that will be sent daily during the session (you may unsubscribe at any time). There will also be a summary printed in the September issue of OUTLOOK magazine. **0**

Information compiled by OUTLOOK editors.

For more information go to gcsession.org/questions

1. <https://gc.adventist.org/live/2022-session/>

2. Howthechurchworks.com

3. <https://gc.adventist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Constitution-and-Bylaws-2015.pdf?searchsite=gc.adventist>

Adventist Church Segments and Roles*



LOCAL **Congregations: 165,438 worldwide (of which your local church is one)**

Your local church is the foundational building block of Adventism. You—and only you—vote your own membership, either by baptism or profession of faith. Your board votes your local leaders, your budget, oversees all ministries and operations, manages your ACS volunteers, Pathfinder/Adventurer clubs, health outreach and all other community services and events you choose to host. You support the mission of the church with your time, energy, resources, brain power and prayers.

AREA **Conferences/Missions: 732 worldwide (your local conference is one of six in Mid-America)**

The conference is empowered by its congregations to collect the tithe and hire/pay/move full-time and some part-time church pastors and teachers at denominational schools. The conference legally owns all the church buildings, academies, elementary schools, ABCs, ACS centers and summer camps in its territory. It has its own constitution and bylaws that its constituents vote during their session every 5 (sometimes 4) years. The conference executive committee has power to vote changes at the conference level between sessions. The conference also has the responsibility of planting new churches in un-entered areas of its territory.

REGIONAL **Unions/Missions: 138 worldwide (Mid-America is one of nine in North America)**

Unions are empowered by the conferences to strengthen the operation of colleges and universities in their territory, manage Revolving Fund loans for churches and schools, publish the union's official magazine, certify all denominational teachers, oversee accreditation for schools and help establish the curriculum. The union executive committee votes on recommendations for ordination from the conferences and votes the names of delegates to GC sessions.

CONTINENTAL **Divisions: 13 worldwide (of which North America is one)**

The divisions, which are extensions of the GC, strengthen the unions through special funding for projects, creating resources, managing the Adventist retirement plan for employees, and coordinating division-wide events for pastors, teachers and ministry leaders.

GLOBAL **General Conference: 1 (covers the globe)**

The GC oversees the global missionary work of the Adventist Church to un-entered countries. In addition, it strengthens the divisions and unions by providing services in areas such as religious liberty, risk management, auditing and legal counsel. It produces the *Adventist Review* and the Sabbath school lessons. The Office of Archives, Statistics and Research gathers and shares pertinent information for the global church.

*Descriptions from gc.adventist.org

Experienced Teacher Chooses Adventist Education



Courtesy Jeaneen Erickson

As an Adventist school “lifer,” my first experience with public school was as a 24-year-old, second year teacher at a middle school in Lincoln Public Schools. Honestly, at that time, I was quite grateful to have a job and to be entrusted with society’s children—not picky about the specifics of the grade, subject or building location. My subsequent public school career included nine years at a high poverty middle school and one year in elementary special education, all of which consisted of positive experiences featuring immense learning for myself as well as for my students. In fact, I was quite content there and felt like I would spend the entirety of my future career in the public school system.

During this time, my three children came along and my husband and I began discussing what educational future we wanted for our kids.

For some personal history, I attended a small, single-teacher elementary school and was homeschooled during my middle school years due to a move that put us out of

driving range of an Adventist school. It was then a boarding academy for high school and culminated in a bachelor’s degree at Union College.

With my exclusively Adventist childhood education, I just assumed that would be the choice for my children as well. However, my husband had attended a rural public school and was open to the public school option for them. After much deliberation, we decided to “take it a year at a time” at College View Academy, our local Adventist school. The deciding factor for us was the community that we wanted for our children—the overlap of church, home and school with a spiritual emphasis and familiarity with the friend groups of our kids. We know who our kids’ friends are, we know their families, and we highly value that connection and comfort level.

Fast forward to last year, the spring of 2021. CVA was hiring for several open positions and our daughter was getting ready to enter kindergarten. I had several people approach me about working at CVA, but I felt comfortable professionally in Lincoln Public Schools, and was hesitant to make that professional change. A little while later, after praying about it, I felt impressed to explore the chance to work at the same school as my own children.

Wouldn’t you know it? Here I am teaching at the CVA middle school!

At first, I wasn’t sure how I would feel with this big shift. In fact, I was approved for

a one-year leave of absence from the public school so I could return after a year if I regretted my choice and decided to come back. However, I have no doubt that I absolutely made the right decision professionally and personally to focus my energy at College View Academy.

It really hit me a couple of weeks into the school year when we were at our middle school chapel that Friday morning. All 54 of our middle school students were sitting in the beautiful high school chapel, the eighth grade praise team was leading out with their instruments and voices, and I just felt this overwhelming sense of peace about it all. I sent my husband a text message saying, “This is what it is all about. This is why we have our kids at CVA.” It was apparent to me at that moment, and became increasingly so throughout the year, that the best choice for my family is this setting: a spiritual and relationship-oriented place where we are all (students and teachers) valued for who we are. We are “somebody.” My children are flourishing academically, spiritually and socially. Even my husband will enthusiastically tell others how great of a fit CVA is for us.

Belonging, serving, succeeding

From my experience as a teacher in both the public and private settings, I have an energized sense of appreciation for our schools. I love seeing the connections that students are

able to make with each other over the years. Their friends and classmates know them for who they are, they are buddies, and they belong here. If a student has an idea, it can become a reality here!

For example, this year in a current events segment, students learned about the earthquake affecting Haiti. One of the students suggested that we raise money to help and they began making homemade comics, assembled them into books and sold them along with collecting other donations, raising over \$2,000 to support that area of need.

As a teacher, the autonomy offered to teachers is very refreshing. Our middle school team has done so many field trips, community service projects, recreational activities, vespers events and more that from my experience would not have been possible in other public school settings. It’s even as simple as praying with my sixth grade class every morning to start the day, thanking God for bringing us together, asking Him to come into our heart and help us to have a positive day together. That’s everything!

The bottom line is that in Adventist education and at CVA, we are preparing students for success academically, socially and most of all spiritually for a full life on Earth, but most of all for eternity.

Jeaneen Erickson is a teacher at College View Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mid-America Union Executive Committee Votes Special Projects for 2022

Members of the Mid-America Union Conference Executive Committee met for the first time in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic on April 21 for the purpose of receiving updates and voting the 2022 budget, recommendations for ordinations and other business. The committee, elected by constituents during the MAUC session last September, consists of 38 members representing the six conferences in Mid-America territory.

Following a devotional thought presented by MAUC Church Ministries director **Tyrone Douglas** based on Rev. 3:20 and focusing on the privilege of listening to God's voice and being in relationship with Him, MAUC president **Gary Thurber** shared an overview of priorities for 2022 and events happening around the union this year.

During the vice president for administration's report given by **Hubert J. Morel Jr.**, several committee members commented on the shortage of teachers and pastors and the challenges of attracting qualified candidates to the more rural areas of the midwest. Another item of concern was the need for an in-depth discussion on geographical "alignment issues" for local churches' conference affiliation. The committee

voted unanimously to request that the North American Division include this item on its agenda for either NAD year-end meetings or conference presidents' council.

Eight ordination requests were approved, along with four ministerial scholarship/ internship applications and four emeritus/honorary ministerial/commissioned credentials.

Funds fuel the mission

David VandeVere, vice president for finance, presented the financial report from 2021 and **Darin Gottfried**, vice president of finance for the Rocky Mountain Conference, presented the audit committee's report which showed that the General Conference

Auditing Service issued an unmodified "clean" opinion, the best opinion possible, for the union's 2021 financial statements. VandeVere, who joined the MAUC team last September, expressed appreciation to MAUC's associate treasurer, **Garrett Holmes**, and the rest of the treasury department staff for their diligent work during his transition.

Roger Bernard, president of the Central States Conference, presented the 2020 and 2021 Compensation Review Committee report.

Due to an 11.17% increase in title in 2021, the Executive Committee voted that several "set-asides for mission/ vision" projects receive funding this year, including Union College's capital campaign for

the AdventHealth Complex construction, development of its degree certificate program, an AV studio in the lower level of MAUC's headquarters, training events for staff/ conferences, the upcoming General Conference Session and evangelism events for St. Louis. Additionally, funds were provided for increased cyber-security measures for the protection of kingdom online work.

"God's faithfulness, revealed through the financial stewardship of His followers, continues to fuel mission," said VandeVere.

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



Hugh Davis

Pastors to Attend CALLED Convention in June

Pastors, chaplains, Bible teachers, seminary students, administrators and their families from across Mid-America will be joining thousands of others in Lexington, Kentucky, from June 19-22 for the North American Division CALLED Pastors' Family Convention. This event will focus on ministering to the personal and professional needs of pastors, their spouses and children.

Throughout the convention, topics that pastors and their families face (based on recent NAD-wide research) will be addressed. The study identified issues such as personal finances, marital resilience and intimacy, raising children, church conflict, unrealistic expectations and living in a perceived glass house. Each general session will offer a short, compelling focus on these and other relevant topics, as well as a variety of presentations to offer solutions and help discover better ways to create wholeness. This is part of a greater call to action on the part of many entities of our church organization to intervene and reduce stressors associated with pastoral roles, expectations and family life.

Gifted communicators of the gospel and professional speakers will address best practices through preaching and teaching. The list of speakers for the general sessions and breakouts reads like a "who's who" list of great Adventist presenters. Attendees will be encouraged



Photos: Hugh Davis



and informed with TED-talk style presentations and inspiring worship.

In strategic manner, each general session and breakout will emphasize one or more of the seven core qualities of effective pastors, explore discoveries regarding pastoral health and examine issues pastoral families face—all with the theme of resilience. There will also be testimonials from pastors who will share with their colleagues in their own words the highs and lows of their recent ministry experience.

Morning and evening worship time will be a foretaste of heaven as the whole group gathers for intentional, authentic worship and communion with Jesus. Through focused prayer, singing, praise and testimonials, this diverse gathering will seek the unified experience of the glory of God through biblical instruction and Spirit-filled fellowship. Imagine the sights and sounds of pastors and their families united in worship together

with approximately 7,000 of their colleagues and friends!

In past times, pastoring was among the healthiest of professions in America. However, there is now increasing concern for pastors regarding the mental and physical effects of stress and overwork, as evidenced by an increase in chronic diseases. In a partnership of NAD Ministerial and Health Ministries, the "pastors health and wellness initiative" will provide a comprehensive offering of education, individual and group activities, health screenings, information on diet, as well as addressing topics of grief and addiction recovery support. Known as Adventist HealthyYOU, these helpful resources will continue to support pastors and their families after the CALLED convention.

A huge highlight of the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention in Lexington will be the Evangelism Shark Tank, which will take place each night of the convention following the general session.

At the Shark Tank, pastors will present to a panel of judges their church's innovative and effective evangelism and missional outreach initiatives. A total of \$120,000 will be awarded for the top ideas and initiatives, as chosen by the panel. The awarded funds will go directly to the churches for immediate implementation, and we can't wait to see what results the Lord brings from these creative ideas.

As with any large event, there are plenty of logistical issues that can hinder or distract, so I invite you to pray for your pastor, this convention, and for the Holy Spirit to be poured out in great measure upon each presenter and attendee.

Craig Carr is ministerial director for the Mid-America Union.



For more information visit www.nadpastorsconvention.com.

Women's Ministries to Host Retreat in October

In 2021, even though we were still battling the pandemic, we pressed on from our Virtual Women's Week of Prayer in June to our first Women Elder's Retreat in October, which led to the ordination of the first woman pastor in Central States.

In March 2022, Women's History Month, we paid tribute to the seasoned women of our conference. Through chitchat with the matriarchs of our conference, we discovered where they were from, how they came to know the Lord and how they became Adventist. Some were even present before Central States became a conference.

A tribute to our pastor's spouses completed this segment. Our Women's History Month was concluded, by request from our Prayer Ministry director **Pastor Brian Irby**, with the women leading out in our conference-wide prayer meeting.

There are other planned activities that will lead up to our conference-wide Women's and Teen's Retreat with focus on women in prayer. The retreat will take place Oct. 20-23 at the Embassy Suites by Kansas City Airport. We will discover the power of prayer through lessons found in a prayer journal authored by **Sister Lori Baynham**, Central States HR

director. We will also go on a prayer journey designed by **Dr. Sherry Payne** and **Minister Laura Coaxum**, retired military soldiers, now soldiers for the Lord.

Our featured guest speaker, **Karen Abercrombie**, is an award-winning actress in many films including *War Room*, *Discarded Things* and *God's Compass*. Other presenters include **Sister Desiree Bryant**, NAD Ministerial Spouse's director; **Sister Diane Thurber**, president of Christian Record Services; **Pastor Janis Cobbs**, retired VA chaplain and co-pastor; **Sister DeeAnn Bragaw**, NAD Women's Ministries

director; **Sister Erica Jones**, NAD Women's Ministries assistant director; **Sister Britney Fatoma**, counselor and educator; **Sister Jorden Schoenhofer**, counselor and educator; and **Sister Anabelle Sahadeo**, teen ambassador and blog/Instagram manager.

Registration is open. You may register with your phone by using our QR code or web link. Vendors are welcome, and may register the same way. We pray we see you there.

Elder Donna Brown is Women's Ministries director for the Central States Conference.

WOMEN in Prayer
1 Chronicles 4:10

1 Chr. 4:10

REGISTER

AWARD WINNING ACTRESS
KAREN ABERCROMBIE
FROM THE FILM
WAR ROOM

Women IN PRAYER CONFERENCE
CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

OCT 20-23
IN-PERSON EVENT

DESIREE BRYANT
NAD MINISTERIAL SPOUSE LEADER

DEANN BRAGAW
NAD WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIR.

JANIS COBBS
PASTOR & RET. VA CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

KANSAS CITY EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
7640 NW TIFFANY SPRINGS PARKWAY
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central-states.org

REGISTER TODAY AT bit.ly/cscwomeninprayer2022

St. Louis Messiah's Mansion Sees 1,800 Visitors

Christina Coston



Benjamin, a student at Oklahoma Academy, guides a tour through the different parts of the sanctuary.

On April 9, the traveling Mosaic Sanctuary exhibit, Messiah's Mansion, opened in St. Louis. The exhibit, which could be seen through guided tours, had 1,800 visitors during its eight-day duration.

In 2020, St. Louis Central Church member **Amy Ikpeama** was inspired by a sermon about the symbolism of the sanctuary. She wondered if there was a way the church could build a life-sized replica of the sanctuary and invite the community to come see it. After discussing these possibilities with different teams in the church, the church determined it would be very difficult to build their own life-sized replica of the sanctuary.

Not giving up on the idea, Ikpeama began searching the internet. "One way or another I stumbled upon Messiah's Mansion," Ikpeama said. "The church found out

[Messiah's Mansion does] tours. They have a life-size replica that they travel with in a semi-truck."

After more research, the church decided to book a date for Messiah's Mansion to come to the St. Louis area.

"We wanted to book their dates, and I really wanted it to be at Easter time," Ikpeama said. "So, we filled out the application, we got the deposit, we sent it in and then we started working—which included [finding] a location."

Obtaining a location ended up being more difficult than Ikpeama initially thought. Since Messiah's Mansion is a life-size replica, the exhibit requires a large space. After several months of looking and research, in December 2021—just four months before Messiah's Mansion was coming—St. Louis Central found a non-Adventist church willing to hold the event on their property.

After the location was secured, St. Louis Central and other area churches—both in the Iowa-Missouri Conference and the Central States Conference—began advertising. The churches handed out letters, launched a digital advertising campaign, bought billboard advertising and conducted radio interviews.

Six churches (Agape, St. Louis Central, St. Louis Mid-Rivers, St. Louis Southside, West County and St. Louis Spanish) officially partnered together to make Messiah's Mansion possible. Members of the Northside Church and students from Sunnydale Adventist Academy also volunteered. **Carolyn Leinneweber**, assistant director for Messiah's Mansion, said the teamwork between churches was "awesome."

"It really warms my heart to see the churches working together," Leinneweber said.

Angela Powell, a member of the Agape Church, prayed at and for Messiah's Mansion every day. She said she learned something every day and saw God's hand working at the exhibit. Powell believes because volunteers from different churches came together, Messiah's Mansion was able to impact many people.

Messiah's Mansion received a lot of positive feedback about the exhibit, and many attendees said the tour positively effected their faith walk.

"The tour was so interesting, and I learned so much biblical history that strengthened my faith! Thank you for putting this on," wrote a local Presbyterian church member.

While the temporary exhibit has ended, the impact has not. About 250 individuals expressed interest in Bible studies. These individuals will be divided based on zip code, and local churches in nearby zip codes will reach out to those interested and provide Bible studies and other resources.

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

Bismarck Team Creates Sleeping Mats for the Homeless

George rolls over on the cold concrete, wrapping his shabby coat and a ragged blanket tighter around him. It is winter in Bismarck, North Dakota, and no one knows this more acutely than the homeless. The shelters around the city fill up with those who want a good meal and need a little extra care. Some people prefer to live in an unrestricted environment (meaning without four walls around them), but most are at the mercies of their circumstances and any benefactors.

North Dakota has an estimated 541 people

experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Of that total, 54 were family households, 49 were veterans, 35 were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24) and 92 were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.*

Those statistics don't really matter to George. He is more conscious of the cold seeping through his bones and the hard concrete on which he lays. There is a way to give him and others in this same predicament a little more comfort, and the Bismarck Church is doing just that.

In an ongoing project, members and friends of the church have systematically collected plastic bags from various stores. About once per quarter, 15-20 people meet after potluck to shake out bags and fold and cut them into loops. At the second stage of this assembly line, the loops are daisy-chained into a long "rope" of plarn. Plarn is the

contraction of two words: plastic and yarn. At the third stage of the line, those who know how to crochet begin weaving the plarn into a sleeping mat. Each mat requires 500-700 plastic bags. The finished mat, approximately 3 feet wide and 6 feet long, consumes about 30 hours of labor.

In November 2021, and again in February 2022, many people met to work the bags into sleeping mats, or at least prepare the plarn for those who crochet. The work cannot be completed in one afternoon, so many industrious crafters take bags, plarn and their crochet hooks home to keep the work going. One Sabbath school room is designated to hold the bags so people can continue to work through the months preparing plarn for those who crochet.

Once the sleeping mats are complete, **Chelsea Christensen**, community services director, takes them to Ministry on the Margins a few blocks away. The

Bismarck Church investigated the needs in their community and decided not to "reinvent the wheel," but to come alongside well-established organizations and learn through experience how to best help the homeless. **Jessica Eberhardt**, Bismarck Church member, met with the Ministry on the Margins director to gather information on how to help. This idea was one of the first mentioned.

George will now be able to sleep on a small, cushioned mat that will hinder moisture and cold while offering some extra comfort over the freezing concrete.

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done" (Prov. 19:17).

Reese Saxon is a member of the Bismarck Church.

*United States Interagency on Homelessness, 01-2020. <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/nd/>



Photos: Reese Saxon

Williston Members Become Vital Part of Community

Lyn Subigca



Pictured (l-r): Rudney Subigca, Michael Simpson, Felisa Barrientos, Dennis Olson, Ronica Smit, Sarel Smit, Kathy Otterness, Albert Otterness

Photos Courtesy Sarel Smit



In December 2021, the Williston Church in North Dakota gave out Christmas boxes to the elderly, students at the state college and any others who needed food and delicacies for the festive season. This project grabbed the attention of the members, showing them there is a need in the local church as well as the community.

The Williston Church soup kitchen began as an evangelistic vision by **Rose Shafer** and is now led by **Ronica Smit**. At first, church members assisted the local Methodist Church with their community outreach

program, which began five years ago. The Methodist Church was the only church organization in the greater Williston area that assisted vulnerable families with a hot meal.

The need is far greater on weekends, as children receive food during the weekdays at school. Because of this, the Methodists served on Saturdays. The vision grew to open a community soup kitchen on Fridays to assist with the evident demands and community needs, especially during COVID-19, as more families struggle in the climate of balancing finances.

The soup kitchen's goal is to address a need in the community by serving a hot meal with dessert every first and third Friday evening of the month. This follows the holistic model of evangelism and establishes relationships between the Adventist Church and its community. The objective is to not only feed the people physically but spiritually by giving tracts and Bible study flyers to individuals when they come for food. **Pastor Sarel Smit** and the local elders are available to pray with those in need.

When it first opened, just over 20 people from the

community were coming for meals. People began to form a drive-through line to be served, and some even stopped to dine in on occasion, which allowed members to fellowship with the community. After a couple of Fridays, the number of recipients grew tremendously. As attendance rose, church members began to fear the expense, but God is so good that He sent donors from the community, church and even local governing pantries to assist with the increased volume.

Members praise God for supplying the food needed for the project, as well as the hands to serve those in need. The program has allowed the church to make a real impact in the lives of the people in the Williston area and has established the Adventist Church as a vital part of the community, as there are now about 50 families regularly being served.

Ronica Smit is married to Sarel Smit, who pastors the Williston and Watford City churches in North Dakota.

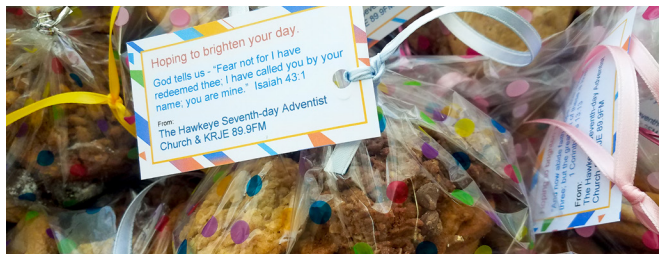
Calendar Mix-up Results in Successful Outreach

Not long ago, the Hawkeye Church in Iowa received a message from **Christina Coston**, conference communication director, asking about some upcoming events she had seen on the church's online calendar.

When the church checked to see what she was asking about, they discovered an entry that no one knew anything about.

The calendar entry was for "Random Acts of Kindness Day." Coston's inquiry started a series of text messages to church members trying to figure out who had put it on the calendar and why. No one seemed to know where the entry had come from.

The church decided since it was listed as an event on the calendar, they should take action. A plan evolved that fit with the church's witnessing



Eileen Birth

plan for this year: community friendship. They decided to make cookies—enough cookies to deliver to every home in the church's town!

The cookie project took on a life of its own. With only a few days before the Random Acts of Kindness Day, cookies had to be made, packaging decided and cookies packed and delivered. To make so much possible in such a short time, the whole church got involved.

The church baked about 2,300 cookies and delivered cookies to 210 houses and apartments.

After all the cookies were delivered, the church heard many thank yous from the community. The members received almost 30 messages of appreciation via Facebook. Church members said they have seen more smiles and positive responses from this outreach than from any other kind of witnessing and evangelism project in the past.

The church later discovered the "Random Acts of Kindness Day," a day celebrated in the U.S., was added by default. However, church members believe the inquiry about the

day was God-planned.

Previously, the church had discussed how they could do more community outreach projects, but with about 15 attending members, widely separated from each other geographically, some older and some with health problems, the members wondered what they could do to make an impact.

This cookie outreach has generated lots of enthusiasm. The Hawkeye Church plans to do it again soon. For future cookie outreaches, each package of cookies will have a special Bible verse and QR code taking recipients to the church's website.

It is amazing how one question and one calendar mix-up led to something so special.

Eileen Birth is communication coordinator for the Hawkeye Church in Iowa.

Legal Notice of the Quinquennial Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 10:00 am. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers and departmental directors for the Conference, consideration of any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Session. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each 25 members, or major fraction thereof. All regularly elected delegates from the various churches of the Conference shall be seated at the meeting. This is the regular constituency session that was originally scheduled for September 2021 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Dean Coridan, President

Robert Alfalah, Executive Secretary

Legal Notice of the Quinquennial Session of the Association of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 11:00 am. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers and a board of directors for the Association, consideration of any proposal amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Session. Delegates to the Eleventh Regular Session of the Iowa-Missouri Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates for the Iowa-Missouri Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists. This is the regular constituency session that was originally scheduled for September 2021 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Dean Coridan, President

Rhonda Karr, Treasurer



Ninety Students Attend Outdoor School in Missouri

For the first time in three-and-a-half years, the Iowa-Missouri Conference hosted Outdoor School this spring. Since this event had not recently been held, due to scheduling issues and the pandemic, many elementary students in the conference had never experienced it. Normally open for fifth and sixth graders, the conference opened Outdoor School to all fifth-eighth graders this year. About 90 students attended Outdoor School at Camp Heritage near Climax Springs, Missouri.

Students arrived Sunday afternoon and participated in an *Amazing Race*-inspired activity. They were teamed up randomly and went through different activities that required teamwork. While many students found the exercise challenging, they also formed new friendships and connections.

“Outdoor School is an amazing experience where you can make new friends and have a lot of fun,” said **Ava**, a student at Sedalia Seventh-day Adventist Church School.

Sunday evening during worship, students learned the theme for 2022 Outdoor

School: μαρτυρέω (mar-too-reh’-o). This Greek word means “I bear witness.” The theme played a role in the curriculum in the days to come.

On Monday, students took a hike from the main camp to Cowboy Camp. For several students, this was their first time hiking.

“Outdoor School is so much fun because I got to hike for the first time,” said **Ezekiel**, a student at Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist School.

Instructors taught students fire safety and fire building skills. Due to weather conditions, students and instructors headed back to camp for later day activities. In the evening, students played a hands-on role in making their dinner. They rotated through different stations to help make a complete meal in cast iron skillets. An instructor talked about cooking with cast iron skillets while the food cooked over the fires. When the food was ready, students, instructors and volunteers ate it all.

Tuesday morning started with worship, followed by a discussion on nutrition. After the presentation, students packed their own lunch by selecting fruit, making

sandwiches, and choosing snack foods. Students then hiked from the main camp to Cowboy Camp again for a continued education on fire. In the afternoon, students learned about Christian storytelling. Instructors taught the different parts of a story, what makes a story good and how to share a story with others to bring glory to God.

Wednesday concluded this year’s Outdoor School. Students and instructors met for breakfast, worship and a short reflection time before heading back to school.

Besides the presented curriculum, students were able to participate in group activities like games, outdoor camping, night hikes, chores and more.

Many students said Outdoor School was a great experience. “I like Outdoor School. We can have a great time with our friends and learn a lot. The fact that we can learn about God while we’re doing all this cool stuff is really great,” said **Daniel**, a student at Sunnydale Adventist Elementary School.

The Iowa-Missouri Conference Education Department is happy to know



Photos: Christina Coston

Students help prepare food for their Dutch Oven dinner.

that students were positively impacted by the 2022 Outdoor School. The department is thankful for all the volunteers and staff who made the event possible.

“The Education Department would like to thank the many volunteers who made our Outdoor School a reality ... Several individuals came together to provide this outstanding experience for the fifth-eighth grade students in our schools and home school families,” said **Joe Allison**, conference education superintendent.

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

Hispanic and Haitian Congregations

Refugee. This word represents people who come from their countries fleeing wars, famines, natural disasters or political situations that put their lives at risk. Refugees. The word scares us. Many people think of large groups of people invading our corner of the planet like locusts. We do not know if it is selfishness or a sense of self-protection, but when someone of another color, of another race, with another language comes into the neighborhood, it somehow

alters our peace. They have already gotten used to those hostile looks that say, *You are not from here, go on your way, you do not belong to us.*

Many years ago, God called Abram of Ur of the Chaldeans to go out and dwell in the land of Canaan. He obeyed. Ur of the Chaldeans was a good place to live; it was the land to which he and his family belonged. However, God wanted him to live as a foreigner, and that was his experience for the rest of his

life: being a foreigner.

The interesting thing about the story is that he did not come to an uninhabited land, but rather to a land that already had an owner. “Abram traveled through the land to the site of the great Moreh tree in Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were on earth” (Gen. 12:6). Abram did not come alone. It was a long caravan of those who left with him from Ur—plus all those whom he had bought and acquired in Harran—and it is very probable that the

Canaanites were standing outside their houses or on the side of the road watching over their lands and their possessions because they were afraid of this large group of foreigners who came to live in their country.

The social aspect and how they were received is a secondary aspect, and it is something that we as a conference cannot change. But the most important aspect of the story is what happened next: “The Lord appeared to Abram and said: ‘To your

Free Little Pantry Expands Community Network

Hearing how many Free Little Pantries were springing up in my home city of Lincoln, Nebraska, I tried to talk several people into having one. Eventually, in September 2020, I talked myself into having one. I had no idea how thoroughly it would connect me to my neighborhood and community.

I now feel a special closeness to my needy neighbors, even though I have seldom had a chance to speak with them personally. I strive to protect their dignity and anonymity by merely saying a silent prayer for them when I see them out my window.

But there are other connections that have developed with my donors that I would never have made without the ongoing food drive it's taken to keep my pantry supplied with non-perishables.

I couldn't help but notice that many organizations and churches besides my own

Courtesy Teresa Thompson



Teresa Thompson (in white) depends on donations from family and friends to keep her neighborhood pantry stocked.

have been faithfully putting food and hygiene products in the pantry, mostly without recognition and for no reason other than helping their less-fortunate neighbors. By chance, I have become friends with some of them.

I have not remained silent about spreading the word and begging for food—mostly in Zoom meetings, of course. I joined my neighborhood association, never thinking they would put me on their board and allow me to reach

even more people. I recently gave my little “begging talk” to a couple of state legislators—giving our cause an even wider audience.

In addition, pantry hosts in my city have joined together on social media to share our challenges and successes. This diverse group, some churched and some just having a caring spirit, has been a surprising bonus in my ever-expanding network of community friends.

Most of all, hosting a pantry has connected me in a very real

way to God. He is the one who impresses people to give just the right foods at just the right times. Not only has my faith grown, but this experience has taught me to be more patient and non-judgmental. Everyone has their own story of hardship and need. It's not my place to judge how much or what kind of foods they take or give.

If you want to build a community, there's no better way than to start a pantry, whether you're an individual, a church or a business. In any event, you can always donate and support one, by yourself or with others. No one can do it on their own.

Teresa Thompson is a member of the Piedmont Park Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Visit www.littlefreepantry.org for more ideas and information.

Share Worship Space

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference

descendants I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him" (Gen. 12:7). Abram didn't build an altar to God in Ur, neither did he build it in Harran. He built it in Canaan.

We, as a conference and as God's people, are called to build altars, or places of worship to God. And that's what we're doing. The Multilingual Department of our conference coordinates watching over and helping the less fortunate, the foreigners and refugees who come to these lands and we invite them to give glory to God and to build places of worship.

We have already heard of many refugees from Myanmar (Burma) who have come to our territory and already have a nice church in Omaha where they worship God every Sabbath. But today



I want to tell you about a new group from Haiti, who have come to the lands of Garden City, Kansas.

Due to various circumstances, one Sabbath morning a family who spoke Creolo, some Spanish and very little English, came to the Hispanic Church to worship God. There they were well received. **Pastor David Meza**, together with the church, established a program to help them and provide them with a place to worship God. The group grew, others arrived and the need for more space was

evident. Together, Hispanics and Haitians began to pray to God, and God responded.

We could write a lot about all the miracles that were seen along the way, but I must summarize. They obtained a large building—a restaurant that was abandoned and for sale for a long time. They bought it for a price much less than what it would normally cost, and the repair and remodeling work began.

The brothers and sisters of the Hispanic Church assumed the costs and the debt to achieve the objective:

a temple, a building with two places of worship, one for them and others for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

Today, a group of more than 30 Haitians gather to worship God in Garden City.

It is wonderful to visit them and see how just a few feet apart these two groups, children of Abraham, worship the Creator.

Alejandro Dovald is associate ministerial director and Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Kansas-Nebraska Calendar of Events

June

- 9-12: Parenting Solo Retreat at BAR
- 12-19: Adventure Camp (ages 7-9)
- 19-26: Junior Camp 1 (ages 10-12)
- 26-July 3: Junior Camp 2 (ages 10-12)

July

- 3-10: Earliteen Camp (ages 13-14)
- 10-17: Teen Camp (ages 15-17)
- 20-24: Family Camp
- 22-24: Central Nebraska Camp Meeting

August

- 15: First day of school
- 31-Sept. 5: KS Hispanic Camp Meeting at BAR
- 31-Sept. 5: NE Hispanic Camp Meeting at Arrowhead

September

- 6-9: Environmental School at BAR
- 11: Conference Executive Committee
- 16-18: Pathfinder Leadership Training at BAR
- 23-25: Young Adult Retreat at BAR
- 30-Oct. 2: Western Kansas Area Camporee

October

- 7-9: KS-NE Conference Women's Retreat
- 8: Pastoral Appreciation Sabbath
- 14-15: Panhandle Camp Meeting
- 14-16: Eastern Nebraska Area Pathfinder Camporee

November

- 4-6: Conference Youth Rally at BAR
- 24: Thanksgiving Day

December

- 2-4: Hispanic Couple's Retreat
- 11: Executive Committee
- 25: Christmas Day

Minneapolis First Church Helps Its Community



Every Thursday is Community Service Day at Minneapolis First Church. Through faithful supporters and very generous donors—both private and public—and some grants, items are supplied that help the community.

People in the area are encouraged to come and help themselves to a variety of articles ranging from shampoo and toiletry to day-old breads graciously donated by Panera Bread, to fresh eggs and fresh vegetables and other pantry staples. Some local grocery

stores have also donated.

Every Thursday, a lovely group of volunteers arrive to set up the items and help unload the deliveries: **Daniel Damte, Nichole Broner, Leo Price, Nellie Harris, Bojo Jada, Angela Morgan and Idalia Price**, to name just a few.

In the winter, the “store” is set up inside, and in the summer it is set up in front of the church under a canopy. While food is being given away, there is also a used clothing ministry happening on a different level of the facility.

Minneapolis First Church members volunteering in April: (l-r) Daniel Damte, Nichole Broner, Leo Price, Nellie Harris, Bojo Jada, Angela Morgan, Idalia Price



Two faithful members who have been working with this ministry for years are **Leone Morse** and **Nellie Harris**. Morse wants people to feel better about themselves due to the items given out. She recalls helping a gentleman with some clothes who later returned wearing the clothes to tell her he went for a job interview and got the job!

The goal, of course, is to help people who are in need feel welcomed, supported and as comfortable as possible. And, hopefully, ask questions about why the church does this and ultimately learn about the God who loves them.

Carol Lyons is a member of the Minnetonka Church in Minnesota.



Photos Courtesy/Justin Lyons



HOUSE CHURCH TRAINING

Workshop Intensive* ❖ June 8-10, 2022 ❖ Maplewood Academy

Minnesota
Camp Meeting

- 1 How to **START** a simple house church.
- 2 How to **FIND** secular & unchurched people.
- 3 How to **SHARE** your story in 15-seconds & God's story in 4-minutes.
- 4 How to **DISCIPLE** new believers to "go and do likewise."
- 5 How to **ANCHOR** Truth-seekers in God's story & end-time invitation.
- 6 How to **MULTIPLY & MENTOR** new leaders.

*A 3-day continuing workshop.

SDAHOUSECHURCHES.com



Remembering Gary Force

Long-time pastor and teacher in Rocky Mountain Conference



Gary Force, long-time pastor and teacher in the Rocky Mountain Conference, fell asleep in Jesus on April 5, 2022, at the age of 71.

Force was born to Clifford Clyde and Doris Naomi (Cartwright) Force on March 5, 1951, in Walla Walla, Washington.

He dedicated his life to service, spending more than 40 years in education before

transitioning to the ministry. Force taught at numerous Adventist schools, including Mile High Academy and Vista Ridge Academy.

In 2012, Force was called into the ministry when the Rocky Mountain Conference selected him to pastor a five-church district in Buffalo, Wyoming. In 2015, he transitioned to the Piñon Hills and Durango church district. In 2017, he was named lead pastor at the newly formed Durango district, including the Durango and Pagosa Springs churches.

Eric Nelson, former RMC vice president of administration, reflected on Gary Force, his friend and colleague, saying, “Gary has been a good friend since just after college

days at Walla Walla College. Although Gary served in the teaching ministry and I in pastoral ministry, we have encouraged, supported and uplifted each other in God’s service. In the latter years of working in the Rocky Mountain Conference, it was a joy to see him transition from teaching to pastoral ministry and talk often of God’s work in his life and churches.”

Nelson added, “His spiritual strength and dedication will be missed. But his legacy of faithful service to God will continue to inspire all of us who knew him.”

Force retired from full-time ministry in August 2021 when he moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, to be closer to family and grandchildren.

He returned to teaching at College View Academy and Union College for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

He is survived by his children **Darcy (Russell) Force**, **Angela (Seth) Ellis** and **Daniel (Roxanne) Force**; grandchildren **Aaron**, **Peyton**, **Enoch**, **Gwendolen** and **Lincoln**; brothers **Michael (Marsha) Force**; **Tom (Carolyn) Force**; sister **Kathy (Greg) Saunders**; and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Marirose Stanley Force.

A service was held on April 23 at the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

RMCNews

LEGAL NOTICE OF THE SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Second Quinquennial Session of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship 6200 West Hampden Ave Denver, CO 80227

The constituency theme: *Longing ~ Loving ~ Leading*

The purpose of this constituency session is to elect officers, an Executive Committee, a K-12 Board of Education, and a Bylaws Committee for the quinquennial term, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session.

Mic Thurber, president
Doug English, vice president of administration
Darin Gottfried, vice president of finance



Rocky Mountain Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

Grand Junction Community Joins Elevate Kids Fun Run

Elevate Kids, a nonprofit organization whose motto is “Helping Kids One Step at a Time,” was created by a couple of members of the Grand Junction Church. **Doug McCaw II**, board chairman of Intermountain Adventist Academy, and his wife **Melinda** are dedicated to raising money to benefit children, specifically IAA (which is expanding to grades 9 and 10 next school year) and Kids Aid. This backpack-for-kids program feeds hungry children.

On Sunday, April 10, the McCaws hosted the first annual Elevate Kids Fun Run for the community, with proceeds going to IAA and Kids Aid. The event, which included 2.5K, 5K and 10K routes, was a huge success, with 255 registrants, dozens of volunteers from the church and community and many sponsors.

Registrants received Elevate Kids T-shirts, swag bags, professional timing, online photographs, awards for all finishers and special awards for each category and overall winners. The EK team is already planning a second Fun Run for April 2023.

The event had a special significance for **Joel Reyes**, principal of IAA, who volunteered at the run. For him, Elevate Kids Fun Run meant that “the



community [was brought] together for an event like this, and the name of the school was associated with this.”

Reyes added, “It also meant support. I have a very supportive board chair, and this was very much his idea. The purpose of this is to start a junior academy in the Western Slope. That’s what we are fundraising and running and working for.”

Representing Kids Aid was **Tessa Kaiser**, executive director. “The run shows the community support for Kids Aid. Doug and Melinda wanted to do something to challenge themselves and make it about more than just themselves. They put this together to support Kids Aid and their child’s school,” she commented. “We are really grateful for that. And it really shows how much the community understands the need [to address] childhood hunger,” she added.

The Fun Run was not the

first fundraiser the McCaws have organized. In July 2020, the McCaws ran the entire Colorado Trail (490 miles from Durango to Denver) in 18 days. A documentary, *Chasing the Sky*, was created and seen by hundreds of people in local theaters. Proceeds from the film were split between IAA and Kids Aid.

In July 2022, the couple plans to rerun the Colorado Trail, attempting to break the fastest known time. Another documentary of the run will be created, which will be shown in theaters with proceeds going to IAA and Kids Aid.


“Helping the kids in our community is why we work so hard to raise funds and awareness for the kids in the Grand Valley. We want to give everyone in the community an opportunity to support the kids through our events,” Doug and Melinda said.

Dana Ñkaña is a member of the Grand Junction

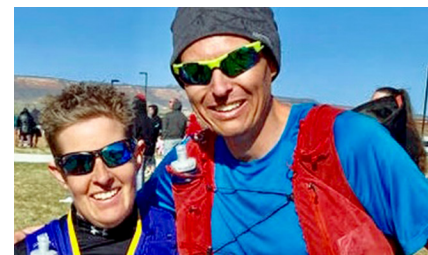
Church. For him, joining the run is supporting children’s education. “You know, we have two children and I’m always looking for ways to be where our children can be better than us,” he explained. “I grew up in Africa [and] there was nothing like this to help us when I was a kid. And so, with the opportunities that I have being here in this country, I feel that I am basically able to help other people get to where they want to be,” he added.

After completing his 10K run, Ñkaña put his award around the neck of **David Klemm**. A medical condition put Klemm into a wheelchair. “I did this because David is a very good friend and I know his heart is with children. I know he currently volunteers to help children read. If he were able to be on two feet like I am, he would have been running,” Ñkaña explained. “And so, I run, and I gave him my award.”

Sandi Adcox is a member of the Grand Junction Church and Elevate Kids Run team; Rajmund Dabrowski is *NewsNuggets* editor.



Support Elevate Kids and learn more at elevatekids.org.



Photos Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

College Board Votes to Begin Construction on New Wellness Center



The AdventHealth Complex will encompass the current Larson Lifestyle Center and the added Reiner Wellness Center to the north. The Nursing Program on the upper floor of Larson will also receive a new entrance on the south side of the building.

community members.” Union publicly launched the Fit for the Future fundraising campaign in June 2021 to raise \$13 million to help fund the project. Currently, more than \$10.8 million has been committed toward the goal.

The college leadership worked with architects, builders and other commercial construction experts to create building plans to meet the needs of the college, provide for future expansion and fit within Union’s ability to effectively steward the resources available for the project. The resulting 40,000-square-foot building connected to Larson Lifestyle Center will contain a field house with multiple sports courts, an elevated walking track and large strength training and cardio workout spaces.

The project will also provide some needed

The Union College Board of Trustees recently voted to move forward with the construction of the AdventHealth Complex and Reiner Wellness Center.

Some parts of the project will begin this summer and the building should be completed in the fall of 2024.

“This is exciting news for Union,” said Union College

president **Vinita Sauder**. “We are now one step closer to our goal of providing a greatly improved fitness and wellness facility for our students, employees and

(left) The sports courts will be configurable as one regulation college court going north and south or two side-by-side regulation college courts going east and west.

(right) The upper level of the Reiner Wellness Center will contain a walking track, cardio workout space and free workout space while the lower level holds the sports courts, lobby, offices, strength gym and a space for a turf field.



Architectural Renderings Courtesy Union College

renovations to the Larson Lifestyle Center building and a new mobility accessible entrance for the Nursing Program on the upper level.

“We are very thankful for the leadership of **Rich Reiner**, our campaign chairperson, and the rest of our board who believe in this project,” said Sauder. “With their contributions, their ideas and the vote this week, they have helped to strengthen Union and build an even better place for students to learn and grow.”

Thanks to a lead gift from

AdventHealth, the entire facility—which will house the Reiner Wellness Center, the Larson Aquatics Center, the Nursing Program and the Health and Human Performance Program—will be called the AdventHealth Complex.

AdventHealth is a Florida-based healthcare system affiliated with the Adventist Church. The second-largest private healthcare system in the country, AdventHealth operates more than 50 hospitals, including hospitals in the Orlando, Tampa,

Chicago, Kansas City and Denver metro areas.

Other lead donors for the project include Rich and **Lynnet Reiner**, Nelnet, Allo Communications, Union Bank and Trust, H&B Communications, Kettering Health, J.S. Lang Enterprises, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and **Terry and Paula Tarasenko Shaw**.

“This project would not be possible without the generous support of our donors who have given nearly \$11 million so far,” Sauder said.

“But there is still more to do. I encourage anyone who believes in wellness and in Union College to support the Fit for the Future Campaign.”

Ryan Teller is executive director of Integrated Marketing Communications at Union College.



Watch a video tour of the new facility and learn more at ucollege.edu/fit.

ScholarshipUniverse Helps Students Find a “Needle in a Haystack”

While scholarships are a great way to get free money for college, finding scholarship money from outside Union College can seem like an impossible search. “There are literally millions of dollars from foundations and corporate scholarships that go unclaimed because students don’t know how to navigate this complex field,” said **Lila Cervantes**, a financial aid advisor at Union.

As a result, many students don’t look further than the institutional scholarships offered by the college. “They get very discouraged because there are so many resources out there, and narrowing down the search is like finding a needle in a haystack,” said Cervantes. “We just want to make it easier for students.”

This is why she is thrilled to be the director of the newly launched ScholarshipUniverse program at Union College.

ScholarshipUniverse is software that quickly and easily matches students with outside scholarships, helping them find the “needles in the haystack” without all the frustration and guesswork.

Using an in-depth questionnaire, it builds a profile based on the student’s information and interests. It then narrows down the search, sorting through thousands of vetted scholarships to find the ones they are eligible for and that cater to their interests. Now, students can browse available scholarships, apply and keep track of their applications in one convenient place.

“We are hoping

ScholarshipUniverse will help students so they don’t leave Union with as much student loan debt,” said Cervantes, “That is our ultimate goal: lowering students’ bottom line. School is expensive, and we want to help our students.”

Cervantes is not the only one excited about ScholarshipUniverse. Communication student **Annelise Jacobs** was one of the first to dive headfirst into the scholarship platform. “I think it is really convenient,” she said. “It was fun to look through, and it gave me a lot of ideas!”

She was impressed with the wide range of topics that catered to her specific interests and passions. “There is definitely something for everyone,” she said. “If students get on there and start

applying, I think it will be great because it will provide them with a lot more money on top of the scholarships provided by alumni and friends of the college.”

Cervantes’ message to students is simple: get on ScholarshipUniverse and start finding all the “needles” out there. “There is work involved, but the more you apply, the more chances you have of getting a scholarship!”

Jacobs agrees. “Once you go on the website, then you get the inspiration to do it!”

Hannah Olin is a history education major from Illinois.



Learn more at ucollege.edu/scholarshipuniverse.

Finding Life's Balance



Maintaining balance in life is important for overall health. Connecting with others, exercising, getting rest and making time for prayer can all impact not only our physical well-being but our mental health as well.

But sometimes finding that balance isn't easy. When our daily lives get busy and stressful, it's hard to remember to find time for our own needs. It's important to check in regularly with yourself, as well as family and friends, to remember your priorities and keep balance in life.

The following tips include ways to help maintain a healthy balance in life that focuses on your whole health—body, mind and spirit—including how to know when you should ask for help, whether that's a friend or a professional.

Reach out to others

Being isolated can affect our mental health, as was apparent during the pandemic. People worked from home, had groceries delivered and canceled social events. This led to fewer interactions that keep us engaged with the world.

"We're created to be in relationships with other people," says **Jessica Rich**, licensed professional counselor and therapist at AdventHealth

Shawnee Mission. "When we withdraw or isolate from others, it's neglecting that part of us that needs human connection."

Connecting with families and friends regularly is not only important for mental health but our overall physical health as well. A 2017 study in the *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine* noted that daily social contact has a substantial impact on our health in areas including weight management, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and depression.

The authors concluded that the prescription should be a "dose" of human connection every day. That could be talking on the phone with a family member, making a Zoom appointment with a friend or reaching out to a coworker to have lunch. Finding group activities, such as a sport or a church group, can also help you interact with others and support a sense of belonging.

Get outside

You can boost your spirit and your health by getting outside. Studies show spending time in nature increases happiness and well-being. According to the American Psychological Association, studies have

shown that feeling connected to nature helps improve mental health, regardless of how much time you spend outside.

"Taking a walk outside can help remind you that you're not alone," says Rich. "It's a good way to engage with the world, especially in times that we're feeling isolated, like during the pandemic."

Getting fresh air and exercise helps improve your physical health in addition to your mental health. Find activities you enjoy, whether it's riding bike, playing golf or walking your dog.

Make time for self-care

Self-care means spending time doing what's important to your health. That could include getting enough sleep at night, making time to pray every day and eating nutritious foods.

"We often talk about self-care in a consumer way, like getting a pedicure or massage," says Rich. "But it's not just about spending money to do activities. More often, it's doing the things we need to do daily."

Sometimes, that might even mean doing the chores that we tend to put off, like putting away laundry.

"We may not want to do it in the moment, but it benefits us in the long run," says Rich. "It could mean going to bed at a reasonable time. We may not want to do it, but it can help us manage our mental health."

It's also important to check in with yourself and recognize when you're not feeling your best. If you feel like you're struggling, reach

out for help, whether that's talking to a family member or a healthcare professional.

"We all have our own red flags or clues we're not functioning well," says Rich. "Every once in a while it's good to take our own mental health temperature. It could be that you're feeling more anxious than usual or you're feeling more disorganized and distracted."

The National Institute of Mental Health recommends calling a healthcare provider or mental health professional if you have any symptoms that are severe or that last more than two weeks. These signs include:

- Changes of appetite
- Difficulty paying attention
- Loss of interest in things you used to enjoy
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning
- Unable to do your usual daily activities

If you have thoughts of harming yourself or others, tell someone immediately. You can call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273-TALK (8255). Starting July 16, 2022 you can also call 988 to reach the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.



For more information about mental health resources, visit **AdventHealthKC.com**.

Using the Power of Community to Improve Mental Health in Schools

At Centura Health, we believe that true wellness goes beyond the physical body to also include thoughtfully supporting emotional and spiritual health. Caring for the whole person—in mind, body and spirit—is more important than ever as we continue navigating the effects on mental health and wellness from the ongoing pandemic. This is especially true for students, as mental health concerns have intensified over the past two years.

Schools are an optimal place to offer preventive support, more intensive services and referrals to additional resources. Recognizing the tremendous need to address the mental health of students across Colorado, **Ashleigh Phillips**, who supports Centura's Community Health behavioral health youth initiatives, approached **Sarah Younggren**, LCSW, to recreate Colorado's School Mental Health Community of Practice. Younggren facilitates the virtual program in partnership with Centura Health, Partners for Children's Mental Health, Mental Health Colorado, Colorado's School Safety Resource Center and the Office of Behavioral Health.

The School Mental Health Community of Practice is a unique program that brings school mental health professionals, leaders, community partners and mental



health champions together to provide training, share learnings and build community. During the monthly virtual sessions, attendees hear a brief presentation by a professional or school district that has successfully implemented a mental health strategy within the COVID-19 school landscape. The remainder of the time is dedicated to shared learnings and networking through large group and breakout room discussions.

The program has seen tremendous success since it launched in October 2021, with 200 individuals registered and representing 52 school districts across Colorado. The diversity of both urban and rural districts and schools of all sizes has helped build community and identify ways to impact mental health in a variety of schools. Topics have ranged from crisis intervention and suicide prevention to the

development of a comprehensive school mental health strategy.

Centura Health proudly sponsors the program, made possible through a generous donation to the Rocky Mountain Adventist Foundation from a family who shares a personal passion for mental health.

"Centura Health has been a great support to the facilitation of the practices and made it possible to do something like this on such a large scale," shared Younggren.

In addition to providing the necessary funding to support the program, Centura Health has provided access to administrative resources and the expertise of its mission and ministry team to help manage the statewide collaborative program.

The School Mental Health Community of Practice demonstrates the power of community in improving the whole health of communities

across Colorado. School districts throughout the state are served by the program, including the communities surrounding Avista, Castle Rock, Littleton, Parker and Porter Adventist hospitals.

Centura Health's collective focus to care for the whole person is helping build healthier individuals, healthier families and healthier neighborhoods. The health system's involvement in this statewide collaborative effort has inspired a renewed focus on the importance of youth mental health that they hope to build upon in the future.

"Our team at Centura Health is really proud to sponsor this forum," shared **Claire Uebbing**, MD, MPH, vice president of Healthy Communities and Wholeness at Centura Health. "This year, the Children's Hospital Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a mental health emergency for children. We're hoping with these efforts—sharing knowledge, tools and techniques—this can be a support for everyone working at the school level and that we can make a difference."

Margo Christensen is a writer for Centura Health.

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Dailey, George Toral, b. July 7, 1931 in Red Lake Falls, MN. d. Aug. 14, 2021 in Red Lakes Falls, MN. Member of Thief River Falls (MN) Church. Preceded in death by wife Elsie; 1 brother; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include 6 children; 1 sister; 16 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Freeman, Keith Arlen, b. April 8, 1931 in Dundas, MN. d. June 27, 2021 in Dundas, MN. Member of Faribault (MN) Church. Survivors include 3 children; 10 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren. Served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Froemming, Angie, b. May 13, 1935 in Faribault, MN. d. April 18, 2022 in Maple Plain, MN. Member of Westview (MN) Church. Preceded in death by husband Roger; 6 sisters. Survivors include sons Daryl, Duane, and Kevin; 5 brothers; 7 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren. Worked at Minnesota Conference office 23 years.

Galbraith, Fred, b. April 20, 1929 in South Bend, IN. d. Nov. 4, 2021 in New Salem, ND. Member of the Mandan (ND) Church. Preceded in death by son Mike. Survivors include wife Dorothy; daughter Sheryl Violet; 1 brother; 1 grandson.

Gall, Martin W., b. Dec. 27, 1927 in Yankton, SD. d. April 22, 2022 in Yankton, SD. Member of Yankton Church. Preceded in death by wife Mary "Evy"; 3 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include son John; 1 brother; 2 grandsons; 3 great-grandchildren.

Hadley, Carol Ann, b. Dec. 23, 1947 in Seattle, WA. d. April 29, 2022 in Bowdon, ND. Former member of Bowdon Country Church. Survivors include children Virginia and Ricky; 1 sister.

Hansen, Vernon, b. Feb. 1, 1930 in Battle Creek, MI. d.

April 20, 2022 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bowman (ND) Church. Preceded in death by wife Darlene (Davis); son Rocky; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughter Pam Taylor; sons Brad and Scott; 3 grandsons; 1 great-grandchild.

Hume, Larry Lincoln, b. Aug. 22, 1947 in Hutchinson, KS. d. April 9, 2022 in Topeka, KS. Member of Topeka Wanamaker Church. Survivors include wife Gay; daughter Lauri.

Jacobson, Bessie May, b. May 4, 1922 in Townsend, MT. d. April 22, 2021 in Bemidji, MN. Member of Bemidji Church. Preceded in death by husband Eric; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include 5 children; 1 sister; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Klein Sr., Robert Michael, b. Nov. 18, 1936 near Hammond, WI. d. Feb. 16, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN. Member of Detroit Lakes Church. Preceded in death by 4 sisters; 4 brothers; 1 granddaughter; 1 grandson. Survivors include wife Norma; 1 daughter; 2 sons; 2 sisters; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren. Veteran of the U.S. Army.

Lubiens, Earl LeRoy, b. Aug. 3, 1949 in Aberdeen, SD. d. Oct. 31, 2021 in Fargo, ND. Member of Moorhead (MN) Church. Preceded in death by father Loren. Survivors include mother Lois; 1 sister; 3 brothers; many other family.

Pollman, Norma J., b. Sept. 27, 1933 in Lincoln, NE. d. April 15, 2022 in Prescott Valley, AZ. Former member of Franktown (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Stanley. Survivors include daughters Amy and Lorie Justice; sons Matthew and Perry; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren. Served as missionaries in Naha Okinaawa and Phuket Thailand.

Simpson, Ruth, b. Feb. 17, 1931 in Norton County, KS. d. Feb. 13, 2022 in Norton, KS. Member of Norton Church. Preceded in death by husband Lucky; 1 brother. Survivors include sons Ron and Gary; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandsons.

Spaulding, Charles E., b. Aug. 17, 1939 in Cañon City, CO. d. March 5, 2022 in Pueblo, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Preceded in death by wife Guadalupe. Survivors include daughter Lori Brasuell; son Loren; 1 brother; 1 grandchild.

Werth, Arthur, b. July 24, 1924 in Lehr, ND. d. April 11, 2022 in Wishek, ND. Member of Lehr Church. Preceded in death by wife Ruby (Miller); 5 sisters; 7 brothers. Survivors include daughter Shirley Binger; son Rick; 3 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Whitecotton, Frieda J., b. May 13, 1945 in Columbus, KS. d. April 7, 2022 in Parsons, KS. Member of Pittsburg (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband Roy; sons Phillip, Michael Orler, Jr., and Robert PaPee; 2 sisters; 1 grandson; 1 great-grandson. Survivors include children Johna Orler Pillars, Lisa Whitecotton Ballard, and Ywain Orler; 1 sister; 25 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren.

Widicker, Rodney Lee, b. Oct. 2, 1947 in Harvey, ND. d. May 5, 2022 in Bowdon, ND. Member of Bowdon Country Church. Preceded in death by father Leo. Survivors include mother Virginia; wife Linda; daughter Amy Thom; sons Rick and Ryan; 5 grandchildren.

June 2022					
COLORADO	JUN 3	JUN 10	JUN 17	JUN 24	
Denver	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:31	
Grand Junction	8:35	8:39	8:42	8:44	
Pueblo	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:25	
IOWA					
Davenport	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:40	
Des Moines	8:43	8:48	8:51	8:52	
Sioux City	8:57	9:02	9:05	9:06	
KANSAS					
Dodge City	8:57	9:01	9:04	9:05	
Goodland	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:17	
Topeka	8:44	8:48	8:50	8:52	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	8:56	9:01	9:05	9:06	
International Falls	9:09	9:15	9:18	9:20	
Minneapolis	8:54	8:59	9:02	9:03	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	8:30	8:34	8:37	8:38	
Kansas City	8:39	8:43	8:46	8:48	
St. Louis	8:20	8:24	8:27	8:29	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	8:53	8:57	9:00	9:02	
North Platte	9:10	9:15	9:18	9:19	
Scottsbluff	8:24	8:29	8:32	8:33	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	9:31	9:36	9:39	9:41	
Fargo	9:15	9:20	9:24	9:25	
Williston	9:48	9:53	9:57	9:58	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	9:20	9:25	9:28	9:29	
Rapid City	8:30	8:35	8:38	8:40	
Sioux Falls	9:02	9:07	9:10	9:11	
WYOMING					
Casper	8:38	8:43	8:46	8:47	
Cheyenne	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:35	
Sheridan	8:48	8:53	8:56	8:57	

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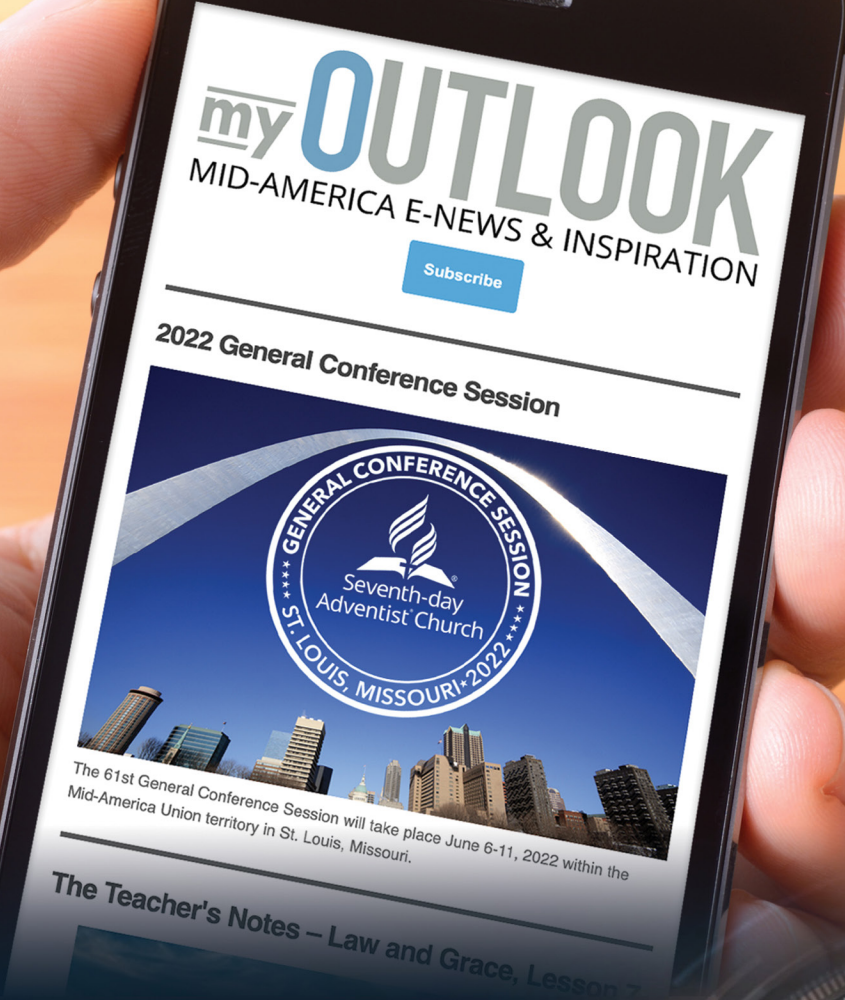
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EVENTS

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Sept. 9 and 10, 2022. Alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. The 2022 Honor Classes are: 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, and 1977. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, IA. Plan to attend. For more information: Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368 or email: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.






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