

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

OUTLOOKMAG.ORG

## Adventist Education

safe, supportive,  
collaborative



JULY/AUG 2022



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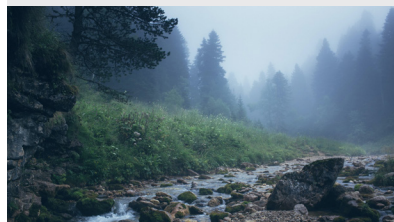


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## ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

### Good news, bad news

This issue of OUTLOOK takes a look at Adventist education in the Midwest, with an eye toward discovering the strengths and challenges we are facing in today's educational environment.

As MAUC director of education LouAnn Howard points out on p. 4, there is both good news and bad news. The good news is that student enrollment is up, partly due to the pandemic. The bad news is that there is a serious teacher shortage.

Teaching is a tough career, made harder by COVID-19, and we need to intentionally express more appreciation and encouragement to all our teachers—both those who are retiring and those who are willing to continue or begin their ministry as first-year teachers.

The future of Adventist education may be dependent on how well we all work together in creating the necessary culture in our schools and communities that is safe, supportive and collaborative.



**BRENDA DICKERSON**  
editor



## ON THE COVER

**Florence Hall is a substitute teacher at V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Kansas City.**

More on p. 8  
Photo by Joseph Ikner

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# Adventist Education

## Safe, Supportive, Collaborative

### *Who's responsible for creating this culture?*

A

At the heart of true Adventist education is the creation of a safe, supportive, collaborative culture where learners will choose to accept Christ as their Savior and demonstrate their commitment to Christ through service. The objective of Adventist education is for learners to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's creation and creatively apply their spiritual, physical, intellectual and

social-emotional learning every day.

This results in the balanced development of the whole person—spiritually, physically, intellectually. The Adventist school partners with parents and local churches in this education.

Some might ask, “*What is a safe, supportive, collaborative culture?*” A safe culture is the creation of an environment with procedures, routines and policies where learners, parents, teachers and the community feel the school is safe and maximizes learning.

Safe is where students feel they can ask questions, seek answers and collaboratively discuss without feeling minimized, bullied or scared. They feel supported. There is a relationship of trust and respect among everyone (parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders). An attitude of collaboration is encouraged as everyone works together. The school environment is safe, orderly and supports learning.

### A new challenge

Adventist schools today face a challenge that is not a lack of students. This past year we were blessed and experienced a growth in our

student population in Mid-America. Many schools have community students enrolling in our schools. We have many churches who have applied to open a school in their area. The challenge we face is too few teachers.

Many teachers are retiring and we do not have large numbers of graduating teachers in our colleges and universities. The challenge we face today is attracting young people to the ministry of teaching in Adventist schools and then retaining them in the profession. Teachers, as well as students, need a safe, supportive, collaborative work environment.

It is time to recognize that there are many stakeholders who play key roles in developing schools where

students and teachers will thrive. Here are a few of those stakeholder groups: the constituency (church community), parents, pastors, school boards, students and teachers/principals.

In the next few paragraphs, I'd like to review the various roles each group plays in the health of the school.

### Role of constituents

The constituency is members of the church(es) who support the school. The primary functions of a constituency are to establish and adopt a school constitution, provide adequate financing for school operations, approve financial plans for major capital improvements, and encourage the

#### LOUANN HOWARD

is director of the Office of Education for the Mid-America Union.



Photos: LouAnn Howard



development and maintenance of a strong Home and School Association.

More importantly, it is giving the students and teachers the sense that the school is important, supported and a vital part of the church program.

## Role of parents

Parents are also vital to the success of the school. They have chosen to place their child in an environment where they expect him or her to meet Jesus daily and grow academically, socially and physically. Consistent parental support is crucial in this. When parents and teachers talk to each other respectfully—even when they disagree—and listen and collaborate together, the child benefits.

The child also observes this positive relationship, which models the important skill of communication. In addition, teachers feel supported and know that they are working with the parents to positively impact the learner.

## Role of pastors

The pastor plays another key role in the success of the school. I had the privilege when I was an elementary school principal of working with two pastors who were foundational to the school's success. These pastors recognized that the school was an important ministry. We worked as a team supporting each other's programs and planning together for the success of both the school and church.

As a principal/teacher, I attended church events regularly, participating where I could. The pastors attended school events and promoted the school. The pastors connected with the students through providing regular worships, offering encouragement and sometimes even playing with them on the playground. The positive collaboration between the pastor and teacher lends itself to the creation of that safe, supportive, collaborative environment.

## Role of the board

School boards exist to inspire the creation of a safe, supportive, collaborative environment through many avenues. They ensure that the school operates in harmony with the policies and plans of the Union Education Code and local conference Office of Education. They develop policies of local concern, create strategic plans, prepare a balanced school budget for constituency approval and then operate according to the budget.

The board supports the Home and School Association and prepares a school handbook, along with many other duties. School boards that are effective know their role and function and work collaboratively with the teachers, parents and constituency to ensure that the school environment is safe, supportive and collaborative.

## Role of teachers and principals

Teachers and principals are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. They create a classroom/school environment in which students are free to question and seek answers, where learning is encouraged and, most importantly, where students meet Jesus throughout the day in every class or subject.

Teachers and principals encourage collaboration with and among students; they work together with parents to provide a quality Adventist education; and they work

closely with the school board to ensure the philosophy and mission of the school is clearly communicated. They also work with the pastor(s) to create a church and school collaborative program where each supports one another. They are active members of the church and positively promote the school whenever they can.

## Role of students

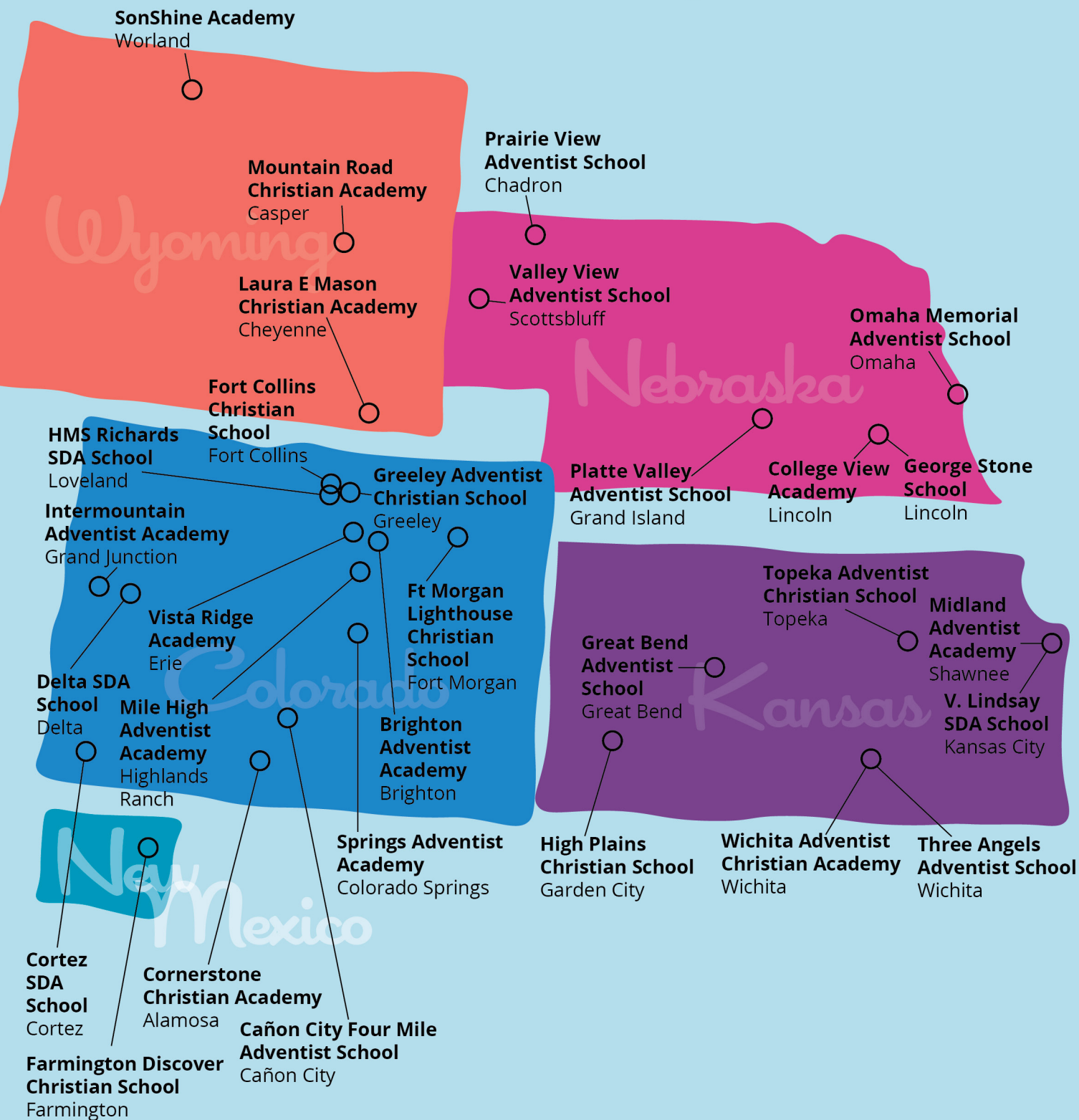
Finally, the students are the reason for the school. All the other stakeholders work together to create a school where students can grow spiritually, academically and physically. In appreciation of this, students need to be willing to apply themselves and truly become learners. They need to develop attitudes that value cooperation and be willing to openly collaborate in their work. In doing so they not only learn the skills needed for success today, but can develop that personal relationship with Jesus that will lead them to eternity.

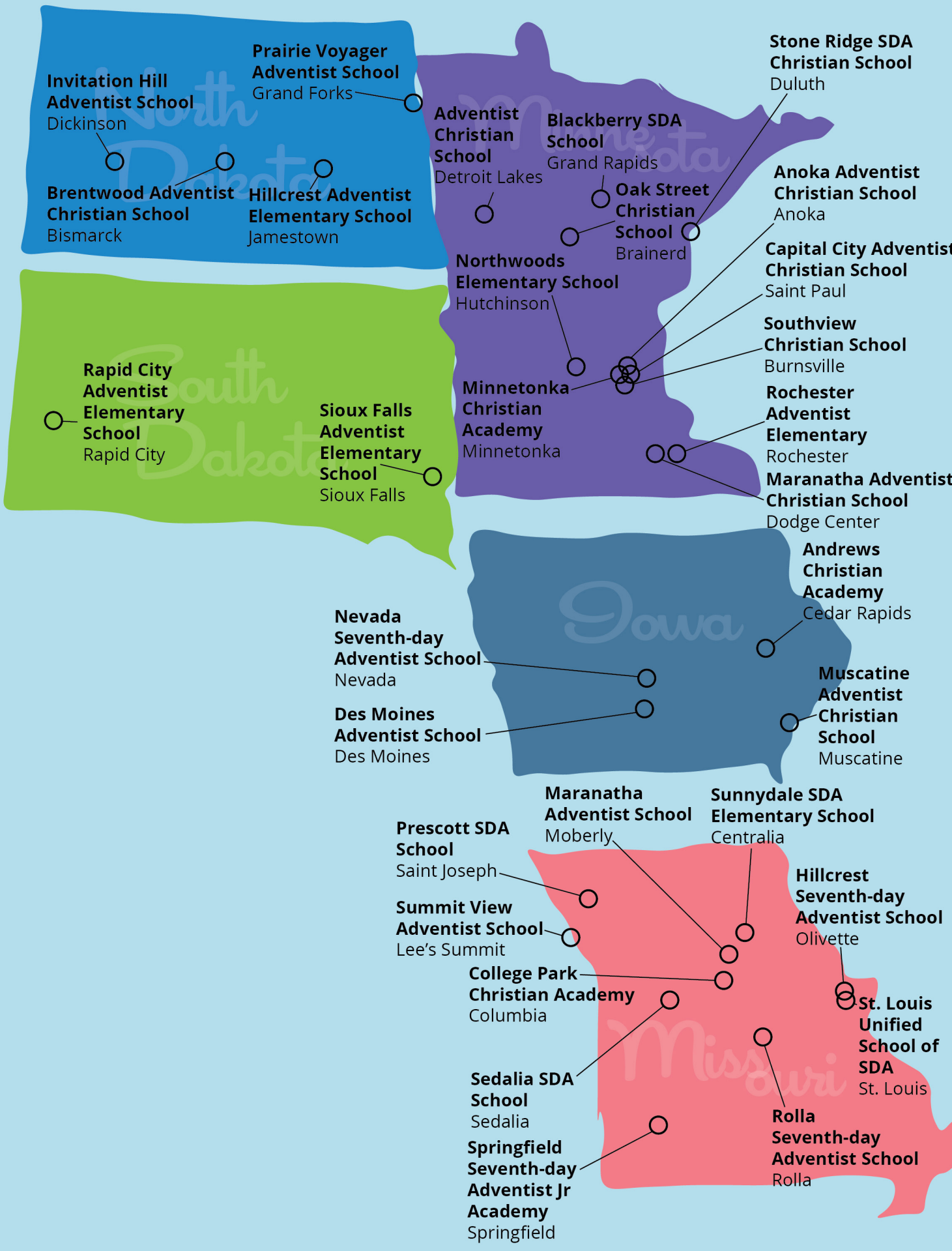
## Fulfilling the mission of Adventist education

It is when all the stakeholders faithfully fulfill their role that the school can truly have a safe, supportive, collaborative culture and then fulfill the mission of Adventist education “to enable learners to develop a life of faith in God, and to use their knowledge, skills and understandings to serve God and humanity.” ([adventisteducation.org/abt.html](http://adventisteducation.org/abt.html)). 0



# Mid-America Union Elementary Schools





# Creating

a safe and collaborative environment

## Sy-ne-rgy \('si-ner-jē:

the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, etc.; synergism.

That's the definition Dictionary.com gives, but as the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. At V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas, synergy is a living reality in the collaborative and supportive relationship between local pastors and school staff.

Pastors Joseph Ikner, Greg Fontus, Pedro Vargas and Gary Collins (who just recently joined the KC team) are the pastors of the Kansas City metro area Central States churches. Though they could be satisfied that their churches faithfully send monthly financial support, they willingly go the extra mile to give of their time and talents to the school's program.

Ikner, pastor of the Linwood Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Temple, is the area pastor with the longest relationship with V. Lindsay. His enthusiasm and passion to foster a thriving school spring from his own experience with Christian education, which he shared

with Central States and Kansas-Nebraska educators at the August 2021 Teachers Convention. A child whose mother was a member of the Holiness Church and whose father was Baptist, he did not initially grow up in the Adventist faith. However, during his elementary and middle school years through two years of high school, he attended an Adventist school—Ramah Jr. Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, which he says changed the trajectory of his life. After majoring in theology at Andrews University, he entered the gospel ministry. Before his father's death, Pastor Ikner experienced the joy of seeing both his parents become members of the Adventist faith. He and his wife, Nordia, are now the pastor and First Lady at Linwood, and he also serves as the ministerial director for Central States Conference.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, Pastor Ikner led V. Lindsay's school board in the effort to look at all aspects of the school program and create a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. The planning committee faithfully met monthly, despite the challenges and disruptions of COVID. V. Lindsay's strategic plan was completed in time to present it to the school's constituency in April.

When Dollars for Scholars was announced (an initiative to celebrate a conference-wide Education Day, boost Central States' scholarship matching monies and bless our schools with funds) Pastor Ikner's church was the very first to respond to the call. The congregation's generosity was a much-appreciated blessing on top of their previous assistance when the school was unfortunately burglarized last school year.

Linwood not only opened its hearts but its doors to the school for an education emphasis Sabbath in the fall, when the children sang praises to God in music ministry, and Judge Kevin Harrell presented the

morning message.

Ikner and Fontus have also assisted V. Lindsay in a special online project called Faith Talk Fridays—God Loves Me: 28 Ways. Student hosts Jada Harlin and Isaiah Lewis have been sharing the 28 fundamental doctrines of the Adventist Church with other children. Both pastors have contributed to the online discussion during the Facebook Live events.

Prayers and words of encouragement have been offered to educators when they, students or their family members have been ill or when trying circumstances arise. Additionally, all pastors take time to be present and lend their counsel at school board meetings.

We're so thankful for this dynamic pastoral/educator synergy that, combined with God's blessing and provision, provides scholars an atmosphere of academic support and spiritual care. 0

Joann M. Herrington is superintendent of education for the Central States Conference.

Jessica Jacobs is the principal at V. Lindsay Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas.



Joseph Ikner





# May I Pray?

*It took me by surprise. Not the prayer. His prayer was short and simple.*

“Lord, bless us today and thank you for our food.” There were a few more words I don’t remember because at that point I was profoundly grateful for his simple prayer.

Sam\* had come to our school four years earlier. He had never seen a Bible before, but on the first day of school, he brought one as part of his school supplies. He had a hard time making sense of the book. It had lots of pages, and some strange words, but he seemed to like the stories.

One day, as the class wrapped up morning worship, Sam raised his hand and asked, “Can you pray for my grandma? She is sick.” Soon, he was talking about Jesus, and His death on the cross for our sins.

It is customary in our classroom to pray for our meal before making our way to the cafeteria. Students are invited to pray, but only a few will occasionally volunteer; the majority are too shy. On this particular occasion, Sam raised his hand. “May I pray?” he asked.

The reason this moment

was so significant for me is that Sam’s family are all Buddhists. They did not bring him to our school because of their Christian beliefs.

Before entering our school, Sam knew nothing of the God we worship—nothing about Christ, or how to find books, chapters and verses in the Bible.

But on that day, Sam had chosen to participate in one of the most cherished practices of our faith: prayer. Talking to God, as to a friend. Then I thought about Sam’s journey through our school, and the mission of our little Adventist school.

## THE MISSION OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

We frequently refer to the goal of Adventist education as one of “redemption,” and when we talk of redemption, we talk of evangelism—to bring mankind into a relationship with God.

“In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in

redemption, other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ,” (*Education*, p. 30).

But how many times do we see elementary schools as centers of evangelism?

Many years ago, I attended a meeting of pastors and principals in the conference where I was serving. One of the pastors addressed the assembly, expressing his opposition to his church deviating precious funds to support the local school rather than investing in church evangelism.

That was many years ago, and I am glad most of my pastor friends see our schools as centers of evangelism, yet I still wonder how many well-intended church members continue to see Adventist schools as financial burdens, rather than the centers of evangelism they truly are.

Two years after enrolling Sam in our school, the family enrolled his younger sister as well. One day, Sam learned about Pathfinders and wanted to join the club. His parents

agreed. Not long after, his sister followed him there too.

Sam’s story sheds light on an Adventist reality: our existence. We are here for a reason, and that reason is to take the gospel to all the world. In other words, our *raison d’être* as Adventists is evangelism. To bring others to the knowledge of the three angels’ messages. What better place to start than our schools?

It’s not a secret that our churches are aging, and we are struggling to replace the members we are losing. Some churches are becoming empty buildings, sparsely occupied once a week on Sabbath mornings. It is time that our education and ministerial departments come together and realize that we are one, and in order for our churches to thrive, we need to grow together. And for that we need to invest in evangelism of the young. **0**

Joel Reyes is the principal at Intermountain Adventist Academy in Grand Junction, Colorado.

\*Not his real name

# Caring Heart

2021-22

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



**Robyn**  
Quillin

**Campion  
Academy**



**Daslyn**  
Suarez

**Sunnydale  
Adventist Academy**



**Marcus**  
Henry

**Mile High  
Adventist Academy**

**T**he administration, chaplain's office and staff at Campion Academy have chosen Robyn Quillin to be this year's recipient of the Caring Heart Award. Robyn has consistently demonstrated compassion and service. Through her cards of encouragement to staff and students alike, she radiates a joy that instantly brightens the receiver's day. Whenever there are service opportunities, Robyn is the first one to sign up. Furthermore, she herself takes initiative in meeting the needs of all those around her when she can. She is the type of caring servant leader who leads by example, and is selfless in her service to others.

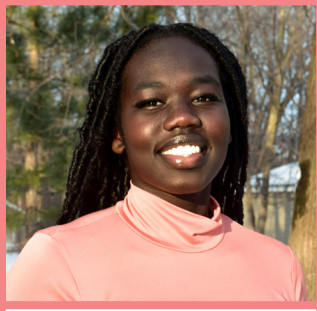
**D**aslyn Suarez's four years at Sunnydale are an example of servant leadership, beginning in her freshman year being a class officer followed with ASB leadership positions during her junior and senior years. During her ninth and tenth grade years, she preached the gospel message in India. Her willingness to help when asked, sharing her musical talent through special music performance, praise team leadership and singing with Sunnydale's Chorale are examples of Daslyn making this world a better place.

**A** caring heart is evident in Marcus Henry. As Marcus walks the halls of Mile High Academy, he is a friend to all. He is both a loyal friend and a natural peacemaker among our student body. As the Student Association's spiritual vice president, Marcus plans and leads spiritually at this school. He is involved at his local church both musically and artistically. Above all, if you spend time with Marcus, his willingness to be used by God and his loving spirit become evident. Mile High Academy is honored to have Marcus as a student, and we are proud of the person he has grown to be.

# Awards



**Adventist Education**  
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE



**Shudear Cort**  
Ruach Trana

**Wylee**  
Gareau

**Jayda**  
Tamaleaa

**Maplewood Academy**

**College View Academy**

**Dakota Adventist Academy**

**Midland Adventist Academy**

Maplewood Academy is excited to announce that Shudear Ruach is the recipient of this year's Caring Heart Award. We are incredibly proud of this young lady. Her hard work, compassion for others, and focus on Jesus have been an inspiration to us. While there is so much we can say about the ministries, teams and leadership roles Shudear has served in, her time at Maplewood is summed up well in a quote from one of our teachers: "I appreciate that it is important to her that anything she is involved in reflects Christianity well." Congratulations, Shudear!

The day-to-day life of Cort Trana exemplifies the true meaning of Christian love, and therefore the faculty and staff at College View Academy have chosen him to receive the Caring Heart Award. Cort has a passion for helping others and has a keen sense of when to step in and help without being asked to do so. He has been involved in student leadership, community service activities through Campus Ministries, birthday parties for homeless children, basketball and soccer. By putting the needs of others before his own, Cort embodies the spirit of the Caring Heart Award.

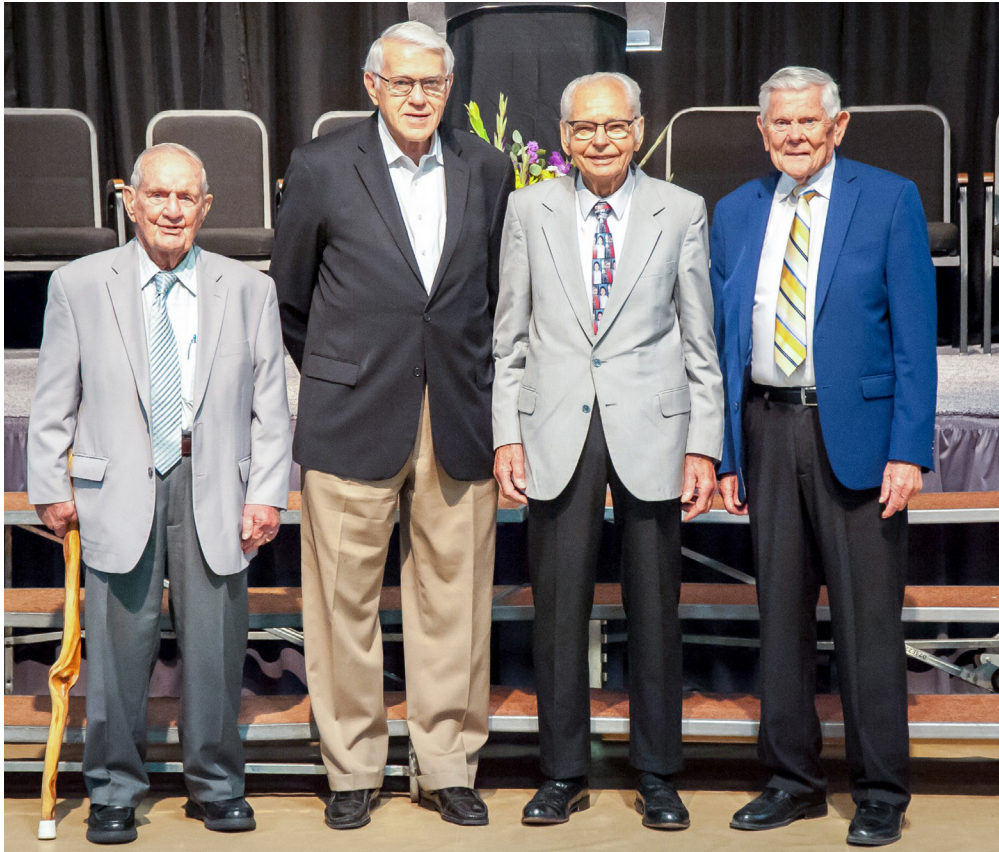
Wylee Gareau has been making his influence felt at Dakota Adventist Academy since his sophomore year. Wylee leads through his willingness to serve. Among the places where Wylee's Christian influence is felt, the basketball court looms large. His influence is such that coaches on opposing teams and referees know him by name. He has participated in international mission trips, Pathfinders and 4-H. Wylee, who serves as a senior class officer, will graduate with an enriched diploma in science and math, as well as a vocational endorsement for both construction and autos.

Jayda Tamaleaa's smile lights up the room. That's the kind of person Jayda is. She is an encourager. She makes you better by being on your team! Whether it is being on the praise team at the New Haven Church or at Midland Adventist Academy playing varsity basketball or volleyball, singing in the choir or in Diversity, Jayda's example makes people push themselves to be better. She is always willing to lend a hand in community service projects like making Thanksgiving baskets with volleyball teammates or volunteering at the New Hope Food Pantry. We are pleased to honor Jayda with the Caring Heart Award.



# Welcome Home!

## Why do we go to class reunions?



(l-r) Maplewood Academy alumni Robert Parry, Loren Dickenson, Julian Denler and Jerry Pettis are members of the class of 1950.

Courtesy Maplewood Academy

Coming home, even if it's one's own high school, is no ordinary venture. After coming home 20 times, I've often wondered why I pay huge airfares and rent large cars to show up.

Save the hundreds. Stay home. Eat out for three days and count it good. Would that do it? Hardly. So why do we go?

It must be the people—good people. What would you trade for your friends from Maplewood Academy?

I thought I'd be the only class of '50 ancient one to trek to Minnesota to show up. Not so. Jerry Pettis, the Twin Cities painter, said he'd join me. So did Bob Parry, the Orlando dietician, and so did Julian Denler, Hutchinson tradesman who is famous for his musical saw.

Sabbath morning shone bright, and the four of us sat near each other so when the roll was called we'd stand tall. We were, after all, the midcentury clan—the oldest class honored. And the four of us stood a second time.

I can see us now, representing all our colleagues, standing at attention when the school's VP for finance announced the awesome news: Our '50 endowment, begun 20 years ago for staff enhancement, had just passed \$100,000! It was, I must admit, an electric moment of honest pride.

Where have all our colleagues gone? Out of 50 grads in 1950, about half have passed away. Another large percentage are hobbled or weary. Probably both. Who would blame them for saving their huge travel dollars and their weary bones from a trek to the memorable school? But we missed them nonetheless.

There's another reunion left, the Grand One in the skies. No huge airfares, no large rental cars. Just good people for all time hearing the words, "Welcome home." 0

Loren Dickenson is a Maplewood Academy graduate from the class of 1950.

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# OUTLOOK Interviews Denver Businessman

Photos Courtesy Central States Conference



## Rafael Small, what church do you attend within the Central State Conference?

I am a member of Denver Park Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church. My family and I have attended DPH for 15 years and we've been blessed to be a part of such a wonderful fellowship.

## Are you involved in any ministries within your church or the conference?

Yes, I was elected to serve in two capacities: local elder and audio-visual ministry lead.

## How has serving in ministry been a blessing to you?

I grew up a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, but as a young adult, somewhere along the way, I stepped away. I got into the world or perhaps the world got into me. But either way, I was not living the truth. I was still going to church on occasion, but also doing what I wanted to do. But God knew His plans for me and by His grace, led me back to Himself. A couple of the Deacons at Park Hill

noticed that my fiancé, now wife, and I were attending quite regularly and asked me if I was interested in serving as a deacon. After praying and fasting, I accepted God's calling. As time progressed, I was elected as a local elder and also part of the A/V team. Serving now puts me in the position to introduce or reintroduce someone to God. I enjoy being part of the ministries that helps to distribute the message of Jesus.

## When and why did you decide to become an entrepreneur?

Entrepreneurship chose me. As a child, I had "hustle." There is always a problem to solve—why shouldn't I be the one to do it? In high school, I had a gym class right before lunch, and I noticed that we were all very hungry after gym and struggled to make it to lunch. Soon after, I went to the store and bought all the snacks I could afford and sold them to my classmates. This business worked until the school principal found out and put an end to it (I think he wanted a cut :)). The point being we are not short of problems and if I can solve them, I do what I can.

## Why did you decide to start CarGari?

For over 10 years I was a technology consultant which required 100 percent travel. As an example, I would fly out of Denver International Airport on Monday mornings with a return trip on

Thursday. That meant hotels, restaurants and rental cars. The worst of the pinch-points was the rental car pick-up/drop-off and the associated expense of renting the car, which of course the client would have to absorb. As I saw it, there had to be a better way of providing value to my client. If my expenses were less than my competitors, all things equal, I could provide added value for my services. After doing significant research, analysis, focused queries, etc., we (I enlisted the assistance of a very talented technologist—**Auden RovelleQuartz**) decided we could provide a better service for travelers—business and leisure travelers alike—while at the same time providing a financial opportunity for entrepreneurial minded people. In the U.S., vehicles remain unused 62 percent of the time. Why not turn that depreciating debt into a financial asset? Enter – CarGari.com!

## What vision do you have for your business?

Our vision at CarGari.com is to be the leader in the Peer to Peer car rental market. Our mission is to connect people that own vehicles to those needing mobility.

## What skill sets are essential to being a successful entrepreneur?

There are many, so I'll only share the one I rely on the most: perseverance. Yes, perseverance is a skill. And like any skill, it must be developed. Starting or running a business will grant you plenty of opportunities to develop that specific skill set. The axiom "If you do what you love, you really won't work a day in your life" is true, in essence. I wake up every day with joy in my purpose! And my purpose is the fuel to my perseverance. It's my love for most anything cars and tech that

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keeps me pushing through those tough days and by God's grace, my team and I persevere.

### How do you balance work and ministry?

Creating and maintaining balance can be a challenge. I love the work of developing a platform that is useful and that creates financial blessings for those involved, but what grounds me is the work of ministry. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

## CSC Pastor Publishes "Strategic Warfare: 5 Steps to Defeat the Enemy"



Life brings us to certain battles that we are unprepared to fight spiritually. Consequently, Pastor Marcus Hayes of the Claremont and Palace of Peace congregations in Colorado

has written *Strategic Warfare* to help give believers the tools they need to fight against Satan.

This book provides five steps Jesus took before He began his ministry and how He defeated Satan in the desert. Additionally, it reveals the plan that God left us through the examples and interactions of Jesus.

Using practical applications that every Christian must do daily, readers will learn how to defeat current issues in life with Christ. "I wrote this book so all believers may be

able to identify the spiritual attack and know how to fight with what God has given us. These steps come from God through the life of Jesus for the victory of His people," share Pastor Hayes.

Hugh Davis is associate communication director for the Mid-America Union.



*Strategic Warfare* can be found in paperback or as an ebook on Amazon.

## Central States Calendar of Events

**July 21-23** | CSC Youth Summit

**Aug. 5-7** | CSC Hispanic Men's Retreat (Estes Park, CO)

**Aug. 6** | *Message Magazine* Drive Ends

**Oct. 6-9** | Global Campus Ministry Day

**Oct. 21-23** | CSC Women's Retreat (Kansas City, MO)

**Oct. 28-30** | CSC Hispanic Marriage Retreat (Estes Park, CO)

For more information on these events, contact the Central States Conference at 913.371.1071 or [contact@central-states.org](mailto:contact@central-states.org).

## Teaching: It Takes a Family

In my years at Hillcrest, I have witnessed the lifeblood of this support system carry our school through times of need, help us flourish in the good times and aid in ways that are impossible to quantify. I've seen retired teachers step back into the classroom when needed, volunteers mow the school grounds in the summer and others clear snow in the winter. Parents step in to carry the responsibility of massive fundraisers, drive and assist on field trips and pick up hours as school janitors. I've also seen church members step into roles of substitute teachers and maintenance crews, while other volunteers

Tabitha Coto



and school board members brilliantly tackle bulletin boards, help with grading, organize hot lunches and maintain the school library, among other responsibilities.

I could also detail how monetary donations and church budget allocations make it possible to operate. But for now, I will just say thank you to the entire group

of people we call the Hillcrest family, and thank you to our brothers and sisters who support and bless all the other church schools across our conference. We could not do it without you!

I would also like to encourage you—wherever you are—to reach out to a school or children's ministry near you, especially if you have never

had the privilege of volunteering your time or skills. In the past two years, the pandemic has taken an extra toll on an already burnout-prone career group. Your help and support might be the lifeline a teacher needs to continue impacting lives for Jesus. We are God's family and it takes the whole family, working together in Christ-like love, to raise our precious children for Him.

Tabitha Coto has served the Dakota Conference for the past four years as lower grade teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, North Dakota.

## Passion Restored

### One teacher's journey to the Dakotas

I learned through teaching that a career given to God takes you on more adventures than a life controlled by oneself. From my very first job out of college, I learned God has both a plan and a sense of humor. I swore from the get-go that I would never work in the Seventh-day Adventist system, never teach in elementary school and never work in California.

Well, wouldn't you know it, my first job out of college took me to California where I taught at Armona Union Academy and had the best year of my life. I grew closer to God and began a relationship that would lead me to my wife.

Osiris Roberts



From there I taught at several other schools, but always in large school settings teaching fifth and sixth grades with 20-32 students in a class. To be

honest it became a bit routine, as routine as teaching can feel. So I started asking God where He wanted me to teach.

My wife and I were sure

that God was pointing us to Texas with its warm beaches and hot summers. At the last minute, I saw a job listing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a city my sister had moved to a few years prior. This was not a place we had ever considered living (and most certainly not the year-round warmth of Texas my wife was seeking). Oddly enough, it was my wife who encouraged me to pursue the position.

God once again took control and guided us to Sioux Falls, where I have the honor of teaching a group of five students between Kindergarten and eighth grade. The transition from teaching only two grades to teaching all nine has opened my eyes like never



# Teacher Serves in Backyard Mission Field

Courtesy Laurie Foerderer



“Tell me what your heart’s desire has been—explain what’s in your soul,” said **Jim** to his wife, Laurie.

She sighed, closed her eyes and responded, “To teach art.”

“Then that is what you must do,” Jim said. And with these words of encouragement,

before. I can now appreciate my fellow educators for the unique challenges each grade level presents. But more than that, being able to spend so much one-on-one time with my students has rekindled the joy of teaching. Most surprising is the joy I get from teaching Kindergarten. They LOVE to learn and are always so excited to ask questions and try new things.

I think all good teachers love to learn, and it is this passion we wish to share with others. God knew this passion needed to be relit in me and He knew exactly how to do it.

TJ Roberts teaches at the Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary School.

Laurie set off on an adventure that kept her happier, more fulfilled and more “off-balance” than anything else could have done. Fifteen years later she is closing that chapter to retire with her husband.

Teaching is one of the hardest jobs (next to parenting) in which a person can engage. Teaching in a high school elevates that challenge, and teaching art in a high school pushes one’s creative endeavors to the extreme.

Yet **Laurie Foerderer** rose to the challenge with aplomb. She had the opportunity to go into a non-teaching, non-artistic career, but fortunately God—and her husband—guided her where she needed to be: Century High School in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Being an Adventist teacher in a public high school system is akin to being a missionary in a foreign country, and you better learn to speak that language. Laurie did.

In her classes she draws from her many experiences as a child sitting with her grandmother (also a teacher) and making crafts seemingly from nothing. These projects inspired her love of making

things from sewing to watercolors, and as a youngster she taught Vacation Bible School and children’s Sabbath school. Early in life, she thought she wanted to work for a large, well-known greeting card company, and eventually she pursued a degree in Fine Arts from Indiana University. Instead, she was offered a teaching gig in Dickinson, North Dakota, even before she earned her teaching credentials from Bismarck State College.

“I have surrounded myself with some of the greatest educators I’ve ever met,” said Laurie, speaking enthusiastically of her past few years. “The opportunities we have as a Christian teacher are overwhelming.” She has prayed with her students, wept with them and encouraged them to come talk to her any time. It’s 4 pm and her office is still filled with students. “Hey, you guys,” she says, “you need to go home! I need to go home!” And reluctantly they leave, even the student who has been crying on her shoulder until his nose is running.

These kids come from a diversity of situations. Some are “A” students, sporting a 4.0 GPA; some are special needs. Some have almost every material thing they could desire; others are barely surviving. However, they have one thing in common: a teacher who loves them and looks out for them. Laurie states, “My hope and prayer is that my students know I care.”

Some students have horrible things happen to them—and this is true no matter which

school they find themselves in—so they need teachers like Mrs. Foerderer. She cares for all 125 students who pass through her door daily. Imagine being responsible for the education and care of so many students and the effort to be available to each of them on their terms. That is a true missionary!

Over the years, things evolve. One truism is that the students grow into adults and move on. But Laurie has been invited to and attended their weddings, baby showers and other momentous events, demonstrating that she is making a lasting impact on these students’ lives. When asked how teaching itself has evolved, she mentions that there are more computers, computer programs and virtual classrooms incorporated into the teaching schematics. This can be a good thing, but like all progress, some of it doesn’t improve the teaching stage.

When asked how the community and parents can help teachers, Laurie states, “Come to the class and see what’s going on. Don’t be quick to judge if you haven’t stepped into a classroom.”

She has two student trips happening even after she retires: one to the east coast of the U.S. and one to Greece. Then what? She’s not sure. Maybe a small group art class?

Certainly Laurie has embodied the quote she chose to live by: “Kids don’t care what you know until they know that you care.”

Reese Saxon is a teacher, artist and member of the Bismarck Adventist Church.

## Conference Music Festival Returns with a Bang



Christina Coston

The Iowa-Missouri Conference Music Festival brought together 86 elementary-aged students from nine conference elementary schools on May 5-7 at Sunnydale Adventist Academy. There were 67 students in choir and 19 students in band.

Students practiced Thursday and Friday. On Sabbath, festival participants performed four songs

during the church service. An afternoon concert included 10 songs evenly split between band and choir. The final two songs of the concert featured both band and choir and earned a standing ovation from the estimated 200 attendees.

Following the concert's conclusion, students signed each other's T-shirts. Each year, the T-shirts for Music Festival feature artwork submitted by

students and a student-submitted Bible text that follows the theme. This year's theme was "iWitness." The winning art was designed by **Bryan**, a student at Sedalia Adventist School. The selected Bible text was 2 Peter 1:16, submitted by **Cecile**, a student at Andrews Christian Academy.

The choir clinician, **Leandro Bizama**, is currently the associate pastor of worship and evangelism for Campion Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church, and previously worked as a music and Bible teacher at several institutions.

Bizama prayed with students and discussed service and witnessing. He said he selected music not only because of how it sounded, but for the spiritual message

behind the songs.

"During the rehearsals—the many hours that we rehearse for a music festival—we talk about why those songs were chosen, we talk about what the songs say and what it means for the singers," Bizama said.

The band clinician was **Joseph E. Choi**, music director at SAA. Choi has held various conducting positions in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to leading the Music Festival band, Choi helped coordinate the entire event.

"Music Festival wouldn't have been as successful as it was without having Mr. Choi there to figure out the logistics of the practices and the final performance," said **Joseph Allison**, education superintendent.

## Sunnydale Evangelistic Series Brings Multiple Students to Baptism Decision

The Sunnydale Church, in conjunction with Sunnydale Adventist Academy, recently completed a 10-day evangelistic series for SAA students. As a result of these meetings, 13 students expressed interest in further Bible studies and 15 expressed interest in baptism or rebaptism.

Each night, an SAA student presented on that night's topic to their peers. In addition to presenting, some students acted as table leaders who helped facilitate discussion and

guide other students through It Is Written's "Revelation Today" study guide.

"This evangelistic series really helped me because it was an opportunity to spread what I learned [at Sunnydale] about God," said **Jinelle Gallen**, evangelistic series presenter and junior at SAA.

The event was not mandatory but, according to Sunnydale pastor **Lou Alfalah**, up to 60 students attended at one time. Because of when the event was held, many seniors were unable to attend, as it

conflicted with their schedules.

"We are at a disadvantage because the series was held at the end of the year. We don't have a lot of time left to work with them on campus," Alfalah said. "The plus side is that most of the attendees were juniors and sophomores, [so they will be returning next year]."

According to **Victoria Tobing**, SAA assistant chaplain, SAA will be contacting the churches in home areas of students who expressed interest in baptism or Bible studies.

Victoria Tobing



"We are going to try our hardest to get [the interested students] connected to someone who can study with them over the summer," Tobing added.

# Allison to Retire After 43 Years of Service

Christina Coston

After serving 43 years in the Adventist education system, **Joseph Allison**, Iowa-Missouri Conference education superintendent, retired on June 30.

Allison has served in several conferences in various positions during his career. His first official job after graduating from Union College with his bachelor's in elementary education was as an elementary teacher in Davenport, Iowa, in the Iowa Conference in 1979. After two years in the conference, Allison moved to the Illinois Conference where he taught and held principal positions for a few years.

He then accepted the position as vice principal for Spring Valley Academy in Ohio. He remained there until 1998 when he accepted the position as principal for Sunnydale Adventist Academy.

After serving in this position for five years, Allison returned to his alma mater, Union College, as a department head, professor and division chair. In 2009, Allison accepted the position of Iowa-Missouri Conference education superintendent and has since served in this capacity.

Simultaneously, Allison continued his education and holds a master's in Educational Administration and Supervision, doctor of Educational Administration and Supervision and Education Specialist degree. Given Allison's



Joseph Allison celebrates during his retirement party at Music Festival.

for both the North American Division and the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

“Joe has served in the elementary, secondary and university levels of education which gives him a unique perspective of education that we will greatly miss. Under his leadership in our conference, our educational system has prospered,” Coridan said.

Allison said he is going to miss regularly interacting with teachers, students and conference staff. He said he will not miss having to get his oil changed every month.

“I travel about 40,000 miles a year. You know, getting to the conference office, visiting schools, going to school board [meetings], doing evaluations and those kinds of things,” Allison said. “The Jiffy Lube guys from my local chain—they know me well.”

In retirement, Allison said he plans to “do what I want to do when I want to do it.” This includes going on camping trips with his wife **Cindy**, visiting different states, and volunteering as God leads.

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

experience and education, Allison was asked to serve on several committees including the Adventist Accrediting Association, Nebraska Council on Teacher Education and North American Division Education Advisory.

Allison said he has enjoyed several aspects of his career. He said music festivals and teaching in one-room schools are among his fondest memories. In his role as education superintendent, he said one of his favorite things has been hiring elementary teachers whom he previously taught.

Administration in both

the conference and union have expressed their gratitude toward Allison's work in the Adventist education system and say he will be greatly missed.

“Dr. Allison has been an invaluable member of the Mid-America Education team... We will miss him and his insights but wish him God's blessings in retirement,” said **LouAnn Howard**, Mid-America Union director of education.

**Dean Coridan**, Iowa-Missouri Conference president, said Allison has made an impact on the Adventist education system

## Hispanic Women's Retreat Themed "Nothing to Fear"

"Nada que Temer!" – "Nothing to Fear!" – was the theme for this year's Kansas-Nebraska Conference Hispanic Women's Retreat held in Junction City, Kansas, April 29-May 1.

Leticia de los Santos shared a variety of hope-filled messages with our ladies:

- "When we put ourselves in God's hands, His plans for us are fulfilled."
- "All of us go through many difficulties, but God is always there to help us."
- "When we recognize our fears, and ask God to help us, He is willing to help."
- "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3
- "Life is full of difficulties that

we can't avoid, but God is the only one who can help us in times of fears."

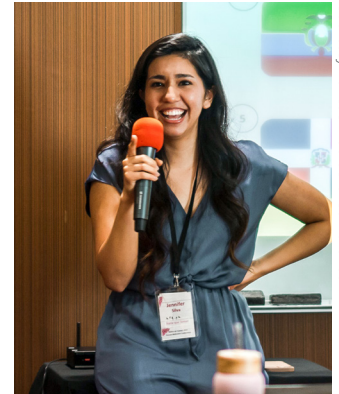
Of the 218 ladies in attendance, 33 were teen girls. The teens enjoyed their own special sessions with their speaker, Jennifer Silva. Jenny shared some alarming statistics regarding Hispanic teen girls which showed that they have the highest rates for low self-esteem, teen pregnancy, intimate partner violence, mental health issues and suicidal ideation.

Jenny shared the story of Esther, and how she was brought to the palace for "such a time as this" when her people were facing great oppression. Jenny challenged the girls to look at these statistics with the

Jennifer Silva encourages the teens during the retreat.

same faith Esther had and to believe that perhaps they were called for such a time as this, in order to be used by God to bring the needed changes to their own families and people.

To conclude the weekend, Jenny encouraged the girls to seek Christ daily, and to not remain silent, just as Esther was called to speak out. She encouraged them not to go it alone but, to find a trusted mentor to talk over the things they were experiencing. She also encouraged the girls to find strength within each other



Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference

by becoming involved in their youth groups and becoming leaders within their own local churches and communities.

Sue Carlson is Women's, Children's and Family Ministries director; Miriam Dovald is administrative assistant for those departments.

## Easter Sermon Series Presented by Nebraska Women

For the first time in the Northeastern Nebraska District, Easter was celebrated by having a preaching series fully created and presented by women every Sabbath during the month of April. It was titled "I Have Seen the Lord."

The idea and title for the series came after reflections by **Pastor Sandro Sandoval** on the book of John. "This is how I imagine things happened on that Sunday," says Sandoval. "The door was probably still swinging open when Mary Magdalene entered the room and screamed with great excitement: 'I HAVE SEEN THE

LORD!' That was the first evangelistic cry after Jesus' resurrection, and it came out of the mouth of a brave young woman who was ready to serve Jesus while everyone else was hiding."

Five women of diverse backgrounds and ages were invited to share the gospel in their own words and experience. The series started on April 2 with **Cristina Medina-Muñoz's** presentation. She invited everyone to listen to God and to each other.

This was a new experience for most of the presenters. "I was nervous, and I was not sure if I would do it," shares

**Tidalire Lindani**, a high school student from Norfolk. "But when I got behind the pulpit, I had a confidence that I didn't know where it came from. I think it was God."

For **Taurayi Oberhauser**, a nurse and Tidalire's mom, this invitation was sacred. "I felt it was God's call for me to preach and whatever the Lord asks me to do I will humbly obey," she says. Her sermon titled "Turning Points" reflected on the transformational power of God seen in critical moments.

**Perla Catalán**, a newly admitted student at Southern Adventist University, was aware of the magnitude of this challenge. "When Pastor Sandro asked me to speak at church, I wanted to say 'No.' Public speaking is my biggest fear. Even though it was scary, I learned a lot about myself. It was a rewarding experience, and I am thankful for the opportunity."

"I was surprised and a little scared when my dad asked me to preach," shares **Stella Sandoval**, an 8-year-old from Columbus, Nebraska. "I liked being able to make my own sermon and organize my own ideas. When I stood there, I felt nervous but after a while I felt better especially after people laughed a little. Some even said that my sermon was 'short and sweet.' My dad (Pastor Sandoval) says they have never said that about his sermons," says Stella with a big laugh.

Representatives from the University of Nebraska, Norfolk Public Schools, First United Congregational Church, Immaculata Monastery and others came on the last Sabbath of the series to celebrate the church's diversity and empowering of every church member.

Sandro D. Sandoval pastors the Northeastern Nebraska District.



Sandro Sandoval

# Tour of the Seven Churches of Revelation Brings Scripture to Life

Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



(left) The tour group visits Laodicea.

(below) Ron Carlson shares a short meditation at Corinth.

The Kansas-Nebraska Conference tour of the seven churches of Revelation began on May 2 with 35 individuals departing from various locations, eager to arrive in Istanbul, Turkey, to begin the 10-day tour. The first few days were spent visiting the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum and taking a boat trip on the Bosphorus, which connects Europe and Asia. Visiting these sites offered a deep appreciation for Turkish culture and history. The strategic placement of Istanbul provided the perfect crossroad for the gospel message to be shared in all the world.

It is within this context that the group began to visit each of the seven churches for the next four days. While the exact location of the seven churches is not known, the tour group visited the historic

location of each city. At each location the group read the letter addressed to that specific place, conference president **Ron Carlson** presented a short meditation and individuals were invited to share their thoughts and insights of each letter while standing in that historic location.

Lastly, the group sang a song and prayed together. Acts 19 was read when the group arrived at the Theatre of Ephesus and, after meditating on the events that Paul experienced, the group took center stage of the theater to sing a few songs to the enjoyment of the crowd. These worship experiences brought Scripture to life and challenged participants to not just go through the motions of ministry but to consider the motive of each heart as being just as important.

After visiting the seven churches, the tour group

took a ferry to Patmos, where John was exiled, and received the vision that is written in the book of Revelation. Many were impacted on the ferry ride to Patmos, as they meditated on John taking a similar journey. He perhaps thought that his ministry was coming to an end as each wave brought him closer to his exile. Yet he would never have imaged how necessary it was for him to receive this

vision and to share it with the seven churches.

As the tour neared its end, the group made their way to Athens, Greece. They were able to visit the Parthenon and Mars Hill, where Paul preached in Acts 17. The two final locations of the tour were Mycenae and Corinth, churches to which Paul wrote two letters.

For most participants, the most impactful aspect of this trip is knowing that the God who spoke to the churches of Revelation is the same God who deeply cares for and speaks to His church today. "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches," Rev. 2:29.

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Saul Dominguez is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.





# Minnesota Delegates Vote Leadership, Conduct Other Church Business

Delegates from across Minnesota met on Sunday, May 15, 2022, for the 109th regular session of the Minnesota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists for the purpose of electing leadership, receiving reports and conducting additional church business. This constituency session, originally scheduled for May 2020, has been delayed multiple times due to the pandemic.

Before the session officially opened at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, students from Maplewood Academy provided multiple musical selections under the directorship of **Clinton Anderson**. The choir and handbell music created a worshipful atmosphere for the devotional thoughts offered by **Hubert J. Morel, Jr.**, vice president of

administration for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Morel reminded delegates that “a new day is dawning” and believers in Christ need to “wake up” from spiritual apathy, “wash up” by exercising spiritual hygiene, and “dress up” by putting on the full armor of God in preparation for standing during the perilous times we face. Morel concluded the devotional period by leading the delegates in a season of prayer together in small groups.

More than the required percentage of delegates to establish a quorum were in attendance when the session officially opened after an explanation of usage of the digital voting devices. Electronic “clickers” were distributed to the nearly 350 registered delegates who attended. Non-voting representatives from the

Mid-America Union Conference and the North American Division were on hand to assist with the proceedings.

Early in the day delegates voted to receive the conference’s administrative and departmental ministry reports, which had been sent to delegates in video format in advance of the session. The reports were also included in written form in the delegates’ packets. All video reports are currently available online.

Later the audit report was presented by **Paula Aughenbaugh**, representing the General Conference Auditing Services. Aughenbaugh stated that the Minnesota Conference received an “unmodified opinion” on their recent audit, which is the highest level possible to receive.

After lengthy

consideration, delegates voted on the names brought forward by the 24-member nominating committee chaired by **Gary Thurber**, Mid-America Union Conference president. The vote was 51% in favor of extending an invitation to **Elder Craig Carr** to serve as president of the Minnesota Conference. Delegates also voted by 63% to invite **Elder Eric Mokuia** to serve as vice president for administration. **Galyn Bowers** was re-elected by 96% to serve as vice president for finance, a position he has held since Feb. 1, 2021.

Before the nominating committee report was presented, Thurber spoke of the importance of displaying gracious Christian love. “The way you know God is in the room is if the fruits of the Spirit are being shown—graciousness and kindness and love. We’re never all going to see things the same way. What’s important is how we treat each other, especially when we disagree,” Thurber said.

After the votes were tabulated, delegates voted again unanimously to express appreciation to **Elder Justin Lyons**, outgoing president, and **Elder Brian Mungandi**, outgoing vice president for administration, for their eight years each of service to the Minnesota Conference. Delegates also gave a standing ovation for both Lyons and Mungandi.

Carr, an experienced pastor and administrator who holds a Master of Divinity

degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and a Doctor of Ministry from Denver Seminary in Littleton, Colorado, has served as ministerial director for the Mid-America Union since Jan. 1, 2022. He is currently considering the offer of presidency. Should he decline, the Minnesota Conference bylaws call for the Board of Trustees to meet with the nominating committee to select a new president.

Mokua, who holds a

bachelor's degree in Theology, a master's in Religion and a master's in Leadership, currently pastors the Faith Church International in Brooklyn Park. He has accepted the vice president of administration position and will begin his work as soon as is feasible.

"We want the gospel of Christ to reach Minnesota," said Mokua. "There is work to be done here. Let us come together regardless of ethnicity... We need to be our brothers' keepers."

After lunch, delegates

voted on proposed changes to the Minnesota Conference constitution and bylaws. Some minor changes recommended by the constitution and bylaws committee were approved; a number of other proposed changes were referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Before the meeting was adjourned, delegates elected members to standing conference committees including the Board of Trustees, Board of Education, Articles and Bylaws, Plans Committee, Maplewood Academy Board, and Finance Committee.

"The processes are complicated," said one first-time delegate. "But I support my

church." Another delegate said he was impressed with the services the conference personnel provide. "I've been in this church since 1981 and I'm impressed with how things ran today," he added.

The Minnesota Conference is comprised of 10,903 members (as of Dec. 31, 2021) in 114 congregations, including 24 new church plants during the past quadrennium. They currently employ 39 pastors.

For more photos visit Minnesota Conference's Facebook page.

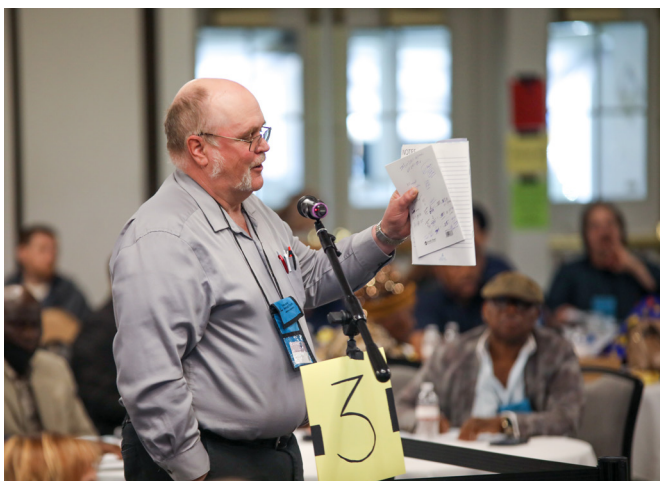
Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union.



(left) Throughout the day a number of delegates voiced their views on a variety of topics.

(below) Galyn Bowers was re-elected to serve as vp for finance.

(below, right) Eric Mokua, pictured with his wife Damaris, was elected to serve as vp for administration for the next quadrennium.



Photos: Hugh Davis

# Mile High Robotics Team Scores Big in Florida

**R**oboStangs, the robotics team from Mile High Academy, recently won second place at the First Tech

Challenge Adventist Robotic league competition at Forest Lake Academy in Florida.

Robotics is a year-long

elective class where students work together to build a robot to compete in this competition. The task given the robot this year was to move blocks and other objects to a three-tiered tower. The teams could also earn points by spinning a horizontal wheel that could be loaded with rubber duckies, and each rubber ducky they successfully got into the arena earned them points.

Reflecting on the event, MHA junior Seth said, “It was a really fun experience driving the robot, meeting other robotics teams, and talking to them about their

designs. Our team did so much better than I could have imagined, and I am proud of the work we did.”

MHA went up against 11 other teams from all over the United States—from California to North Dakota. In the qualification round, MHA came in fourth, and from there, starting with first place, each team chose another team to form an alliance. MHA formed an alliance with the Senjus team from Raleigh, North Carolina, and worked together to place second in the overall competition.

The Robotics tournament was not the only exciting



Photos Courtesy Mile High Academy

# Seven Baptized at Mountain View Church

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

**T**he Mountain View Adventist Church in Longmont, Colorado, recently concluded a three-week outreach series with seven individuals publicly declaring their commitment to Jesus through baptism on April 23.

The series, sponsored by the Hispanic group at the church, featured **Daniel Miranda** from Colombia.

The gatherings included several community members, some of whom learned about the meetings by passing by the church. **Tim Jones**, Mountain View Adventist Church pastor, recalls such a visitor.



“We had a gentleman walk by the church a week before the meetings started and he came inside where we were having a prayer meeting. This gentleman said he felt impressed to stop and come in. He was a practicing Baptist, but had recently had

difficulty reconciling the Sabbath with what he had been taught.”

Jones continued, “This gentleman came to the meetings—every one of them—and decided to accept the love of God that is demonstrated in His word and

become a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a privilege to baptize him.”

Church members are studying with five additional individuals who attended the series in preparation for a future baptism.

The Mountain View members plan to hold several community outreach gatherings and another series of Bible meetings in the fall.

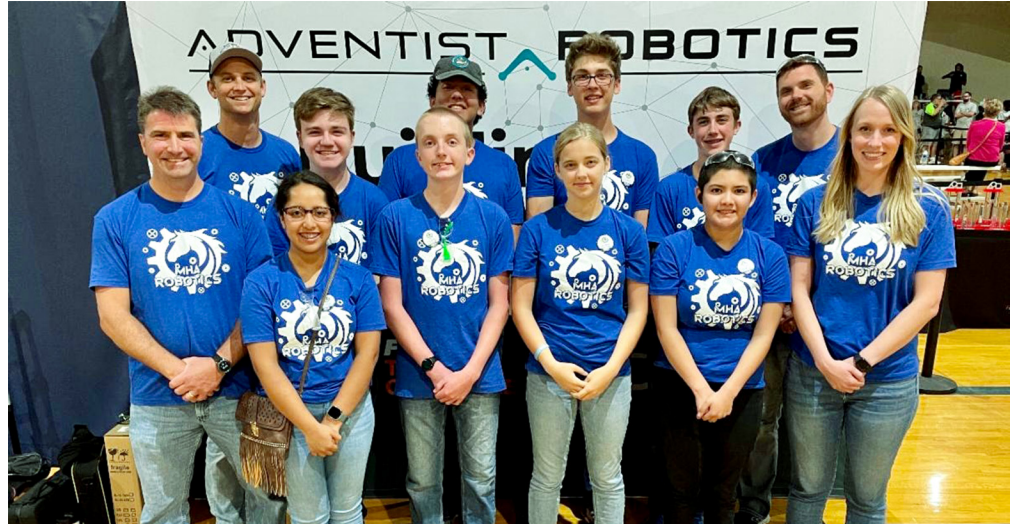
“We are praying for God’s grace to be extended and accepted by the people in our community,” Jones added.

RMCNews with Tim Jones, pastor of the Mountain View Adventist Church district



experience students had in Florida. They also spent time at AdventHealth Celebration, where doctors showed them new robotic technology that is revolutionizing the health industry. A favorite was the Davinci Robot, which allows doctors to do precise surgeries using robotic tools controlled outside the operation room. Students were able to try out the technology by playing a game of Operation using the robot. The Mustangs from Oregon won first place in this competition.

During the Lockheed Martin tour, students learned about the Orion capsule, among other space technology. That was followed by an afternoon at the Space Kennedy Center. Of course, there was a trip to the beach, where students played volleyball, played in



the waves, and witnessed the Falcon Nine launch.

Remarking on the Orion capsule, Seth said, “Besides the competition, I really enjoyed seeing the Orion capsule up close and visiting the Kennedy Space Center. I am looking forward to the competition again next year.”

Trip sponsor Rebecca Berg, high school teacher and chaplain said, “I am unbelievably proud of the hard work and perseverance these students showed. Their fun spirits and positive attitudes made this trip enjoyable and memorable. As competitors, they were the epitome of

our CHERISH core values, helping and cheering for the other teams. I look forward to next year, seeing them take on the next robotic challenge and the different challenges it will bring.”

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 RMCNews with Rebecca Berg, MHA high school teacher and chaplain

## 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

# Faith Soars Over the Tumbling Floor

“My life doesn’t have purpose without God in it,” said junior business administration and mathematics major **Devin Schlisner**. “I can study all I want. I can get good grades. I can do well in sports. But my life doesn’t have meaning unless I put God in my life and I form a connection with Him.”

When Schlisner came to Union College as a freshman, he struggled to feel spiritually connected to God. “I don’t know why I was having such a

big problem, but I was,” he said.

Things began to change when he joined the Gymnares, Union’s acrobatic gymnastics team. “I love anything to do with gymnastics,” he said. “I did it for two years in high school and couldn’t get enough.” Not only did joining the Gymnares give Schlisner the opportunity to juggle and tumble, but also to make new friends. Soon several of his friends on the team decided to begin a Bible study and invited him to join.



Photos: Scott Cushman/Union College

Devin Schlisner found a new perspective on his connection to God through a Bible study group with his fellow Gymnares.

For more than a year, the small group has been meeting together after each gymnastics practice to read a chapter of the Bible and discuss it. “Our Bible study has been a really big blessing for me because it’s totally changed my relationship with God for the better,” said Schlisner. “I don’t think I would have joined if the people at Union weren’t as friendly as they are.”

Schlisner credited the community aspect of the Bible study group with showing him new perspectives. He said, “One of the best things about Bible study in a group is that all of us have different viewpoints on each verse we read. When we’re sitting there, I’ll see something and say, ‘Hey, this is really cool,’ and then someone else will see something totally different that I wouldn’t have noticed if they weren’t there.”

Although Schlisner was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist, his faith didn’t become personal until he grew older. He said, “When you grow up Seventh-day Adventist, you can sometimes end up just going with the flow. You go to church, you go to chapel, but it doesn’t become an important part of your life until you realize that it’s meaningful.

Spirituality went from one of the last places in my life to my first priority when I realized that this world has a bunch of things that try to satisfy me, but don’t mean anything.”

This past year, Schlisner was one of the Gymnares team captains. When he graduates, he plans to begin his career in the business world. “I want to work as an actuary for the first few years,” he said. “But I don’t want to do that my entire life. Eventually I want to come back to Union and get a degree in education, so I can be a high school math teacher. I think that would be a very fun job to spend the rest of my life doing.”

Whenever he can, Schlisner encourages others to spend time in Scripture. “I think sometimes people can be a little scared to dive into the Word of God to try to answer the questions they have. But I definitely think more people should try it because it can lead to a lot of blessings. God isn’t just going to leave you alone; He is going to be there to get those questions answered and pull you to a better place.”

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





Jeremy Jacob/clearsummit.co

## Global Health Nursing Provides a New Perspective on Patient Care

As the departure date for the Union College Global Health Nursing trip grew closer, **Olivia Jacobs** began to consider backing out. The level five nursing major felt overwhelmed as she prepared for her finals and her graduation in less than two months. Although she was excited to travel to Peru and provide medical care, she was worried the busyness of the trip would leave her no time to rest before exams.

“It was true I didn’t get to rest over break,” said Jacobs. “But the trip had such a different energy and it was so encouraging. I came back feeling better, happier, calmer.”

The Peru trip was the culmination of the Global Health Nursing class. In this elective, level four and five

nursing students learn how to provide sustainable healthcare in low-income regions around the world. Over spring break, 19 students from the class went to Iquitos, Peru, where they partnered with the People of Peru Project to host clinics throughout the city and in the jungle. During the six clinics, they were able to serve more than 1,000 patients.

The group of students, professors and volunteer nurses left Lincoln early Thursday, March 10, and arrived in Iquitos on Friday. On Sunday, the clinics began. The students took turns examining patients, providing care and working in the pharmacy. Although People of Peru Project had translators available, several students also spoke Spanish fluently, which helped the group see more patients at once. A local dentist also came to the clinics to provide free dental care. As patients began to arrive, Jacobs and her

classmates had the opportunity to put their nursing training to good use. “We got to apply all these skills we’d been practicing,” she said.

“One of my first patients on the first day had breast cancer,” said Jacobs, who called her professor over to confirm. They were able to give the woman pain relievers, but had to tell her they had nothing more that would help. Jacobs said, “Knowing there was nothing we could do was sad. That feeling of frustration sat with me for a while.”

Jacobs continued, “On our second day of clinics, we had six patients with diabetes come in. My classmate **Carlise Hanson’s** mother, **Marcella Hanson** came with us, and she’s a nurse practitioner who specializes in diabetes treatment and education. She helped us talk about how to control diabetes and how to properly manage diet, exercise and hydration. It was a ton of education, and patients were saying, ‘Oh, that makes sense. That’s not really what I’ve been doing.’ We felt we were able to help a lot of people that day, which was nice after the day before.”

Many of the patients were

The Union College Global Health Nursing class spent spring break providing health care to local residents in makeshift clinics across Iquitos, Peru.

suffering from the same common ailments. “If it wasn’t dehydration, it was parasites,” said Jacobs. “You’d have a patient come in saying, ‘I have back pain, I’m not urinating, I have low blood pressure, I’m tired,’ and you’d say, ‘Ok, you sound dehydrated.’ So you’d figure out how to educate them on how much they should be drinking each day, and then your next patient would come in with the exact same complaints.” The students rotated through positions at the clinic so they wouldn’t become burned out and begin missing important symptoms.

The work Jacobs did at the clinic reminded her why she chose nursing as her career. “It put my reason for being in the nursing program back into perspective,” she said. “School matters, yes, but ultimately caring for others is why I’m here. At some point, you can lose your drive and just want to get through so you can get out into the real world, but this trip reminded me that caring for others is what I want to be doing.”

The class returned to Lincoln on Monday, March 21. They spent 11 days working closely together to serve twice as many patients as expected.

“The relationship building I experienced over the trip helped me see God,” Jacobs concluded. “I saw Him in people: in patients, in the people I talked to, in the conversations I overheard. I’ve been telling the nursing students in the lower levels to go, because you learn a lot and it’s so good for you.”



Rich Carlson

For Olivia Jacobs, the spring break in Peru providing medical care to those who need it most “helped me see God.”

# Internship Promotes Growing in Leadership

Courtesy AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

**C**amille Kaldahl knew she wanted to work in healthcare when she graduated from college. But she couldn't have imagined she'd be managing the opening of a 193,000 square foot hospital just a few years later.

Kaldahl is one of the residents in AdventHealth's Emerging Leaders Program, a three-year residency program for college graduates interested in a career in healthcare.

Residents can work alongside leaders at all levels, including two executive mentors that provide guidance during the program. They also receive leadership development training that aligns with the organization's mission-focused culture.

Kaldahl had always considered working in healthcare but wasn't sure in what capacity. During her college years at Union College, Kaldahl was drawn to leadership roles. She was involved in sports, serving as captain of the Union College women's basketball team, and other leadership roles at the school.

While at Union College, AdventHealth representatives came to recruit students for their internship program.

"My professor tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'You should interview with AdventHealth,'" Kaldahl said. "She said it would be a good interview experience either way and if I got it, great."

Kaldahl interviewed and was accepted in the internship program. She held summer internships at AdventHealth Orlando in Florida and then at AdventHealth Shawnee



Mission in Kansas. During this second internship, things began to change dramatically for her.

As part of her work, she developed a detailed guide for opening a new hospital. Her work impressed **Robin Harrold**, vice president of the ambulatory network, and he offered her a position as ambulatory network analyst at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. Kaldahl worked in that role from 2018 to 2020 and took on bigger responsibilities, including managing the opening of the AdventHealth College Boulevard ER in the south side of Kansas City.

When she started as a management resident in 2020, she knew she wanted to be a part of the new hospital opening project. At the time, plans were underway to open AdventHealth South Overland Park, the first full-size hospital with comprehensive services to open in the Kansas City area in 15 years.

She shared her interest with **Alan Verrill, MD**, president and CEO at AdventHealth South Overland Park. He suggested she take on the role of project manager for the AdventHealth South

Overland Park hospital slated to open October 2021.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of that project, not fully grasping the extent of what it would involve," she said. "But I wanted to be there to see it through. How many people can say they were part of opening a hospital?"

As project manager, Kaldahl oversaw all the details and logistics of the opening, including managing equipment, furniture and artwork installation. She also helped develop marketing materials, hospital policies and procedures and project documentation.

"We really had to build everything from scratch," she said. "There are so many things we take for granted when a facility has been there for years. We didn't have phone directories, marketing materials—needed resources that had to be created."

Timing was also a challenge due to the pandemic. Much of the planning happened in 2020 and 2021, under stringent COVID-19 safety guidelines and restrictions.

"We couldn't get furniture in the waiting room because of supply issues, so we ended up having to rent furniture,"

she said. "It was a constant 'one step forward and two steps back' process."

But while it was a stressful time, Kaldahl thinks back fondly of the camaraderie between the team and the sense of mission.

"During those last three months of opening, we leaned on each other," she said. "We were checking in with each other, and I know we succeeded because of the teamwork we had and the strong leadership with Dr. Verrill."

Today, Kaldahl is continuing in the residency program, working on strategic business development for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. In this new role, she helps with data analytics, market share, opportunities for partnerships and more.

"There's a lot of growth in our region, and I'm excited for the potential of what that can be," she said. "I'm hoping I'll be able to help our team continue to grow our business."

For Kaldahl, the most rewarding part of the leadership program has been the connections she's built with people. "From the beginning here, it's felt like family, and a culture that really wants you to succeed and grow," she said.

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission



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

Andrew Shaw



Albreny Chavez and Savannah Watson

## Re-igniting Faith, Forming Connections and Finding Purpose

within the AdventHealth University nursing program

“If I had followed my timeline and not God’s... I wouldn’t be here,” said **Savannah Watson**, AdventHealth University Denver nursing student. “As cliché as it may sound, you need to let go and let God.”

Since 2009, Centura has partnered with AHU Denver, located on the Centura-Porter Adventist Hospital campus, to provide the next generation of caregivers with the tools they need to compassionately care for the whole health of their future patients—mind, body and spirit. Centura Health holds faith as a sacred foundation and believes in spreading inspiration through behaviors and actions.

Savannah Watson and **Albreny Chavez** are nursing

students at AHU Denver. As they work through the nursing program and their clinical rotations in Centura hospitals, not only have they acquired the skills needed to become future nurses, but they have found reasons to re-ignite their faith and live out their true purpose.

As first-generation college students, the road to finding their way after obtaining their Associate of Science degrees was bumpy. With help and support from the AHU staff, coupled with a passion to give back to others and a calling to get closer to God, Watson and Chavez pursued the AHU Denver nursing program.

“Coming to AHU, one of the classes we had to take was the Philosophy of Health

Care with **Pastor Seth Day**. The class touched on the healing ministry of God and how to incorporate that into our everyday care. At that time in my life, I was very lost and wanted to find guidance. The school brought my faith back to light and gave me hope,” said Chavez.

To further cement their faith, Chavez was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in July 2021, which followed Watson’s baptism in November 2020—marking the first two baptisms in the history of AHU Denver.

Throughout high school, Chavez learned how to help her mom work through many health issues, including struggling with diabetes. Later in life, her then-boyfriend had brain surgery, and Chavez was there to help with his post-operative care.

“That’s where I found my passion for wanting to become a nurse. I want to help other people and have a healing ministry within myself,” said Chavez.

For Watson, her call to nursing was solidified when her little brother, now 16 years old, was born with a double nuchal cord, which occurs when the umbilical cord wraps around the baby’s neck twice. After almost dying during birth, he recovered in the neonatal intensive care unit—a floor that Watson strives to work on someday.

“I have a passion for people, human science

and wanting to help other families like the nurses who helped save my little brother,” said Watson.

As Watson works toward her goal of becoming a NICU nurse, she also wants to obtain her graduate degree and would love to come back to AHU Denver as a nurse educator. Chavez has set her sights on becoming a nurse practitioner with the hopes of guiding other nurses along the way. The collective goal to mentor comes from the same mentorship and support they’ve received in their classes and during their clinical rotations in Centura’s hospitals.

“The staff was so welcoming and supportive, always willing to pull us in and hold our hands through every experience,” said Watson.

As they fondly recall their time spent with Centura caregivers, they attribute their positive experience to the attentive, hands-on training they received while on-site.

“At Centura-Avista Adventist Hospital, the clinical instructor would start every clinical rotation with a prayer and ended with one as well. It was so grounding and really helped you get into the right mindset to care for your patients,” said Chavez.

Thanks to their decision to “let go and let God,” Chavez and Watson’s unique paths have led them to one another and to AHU Denver where they are able to re-ignite their faith, form connections and find purpose.

.....  
 Brianna DiPilato is a writer for Centura Health.

**Boyko, Shawn**, b. Aug. 28, 1966 in Turtle Lake, ND. d. April 28, 2022 in Belfield, ND. Member of Fargo (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 1 nephew. Survivors include wife Hollie; parents Shirley and Gene; daughter Amber Hendrickson; son Zack; 3 stepchildren; 1 sister; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 2 nephews.

**Christensen, Sylvia Elizabeth**, b. March 29, 1930 in Slayton, MN. d. April 25, 2022 in Pipestone, MN. Member of Pipestone Church. Preceded in death by husbands Dean Christensen and Bob Roderick; daughter Linda; son Steve; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Kathy Erickson; sons Larry and Ken; 2 siblings; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

**Deschner, Robert D.**, b. Feb. 1, 1936 in Newton, KS. d. May 8, 2022 in Cheyenne,

WY. Member of Cheyenne Church. Survivors include wife Mildred Edwina; daughters Judy and Jan; son Jeff; 4 grandchildren.

**Haase-Rabine, Bonnie J.**, b. June 29, 1948 in Kulm, ND. d. March 21, 2022 in Aberdeen, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Survivors include husband Ronald; daughter Melissa Bock; son Sam Haase; 5 stepchildren; 1 sister; 5 grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; 5 step-great-grandchildren.

**Hamilton, Verna Lee**, b. Sept. 18, 1930. d. May 11, 2022 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church.

**Israel, Frank Lloyd**, b. March 17, 1924 in Kansas City, MO. d. May 6, 2022 in Lampe, MO. Member of Kimberling City (MO) Church. Preceded in death by son Allen Wayne;

stepson Mitchell L. White; 3 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include wife Dorothy; daughter Rebecca L. Davis; son Frank; stepsons Michael D., Dale L., and Lonnie D. White; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren. Church pianist extraordinaire.

**Nies, Betty Joan**, b. Jan. 4, 1936. d. May 20, 2022. Member of Wichita South (KS) Church. Survivors include husband Clifford; daughters Cherie Cowgill and Patty McCullough; 1 brother; 7 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

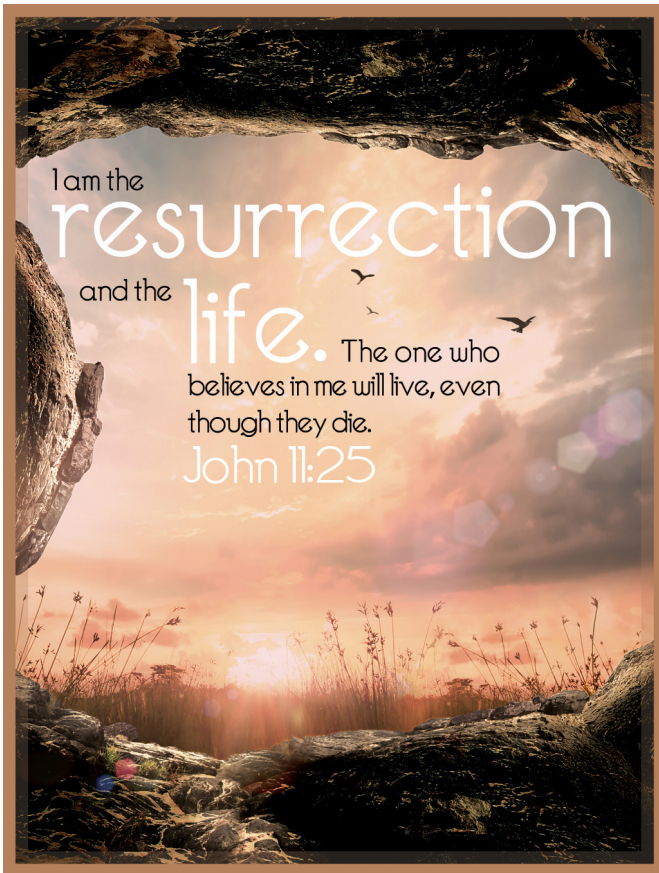
**Richards, Eunice (Armstrong)**, b. July 23, 1928 in Oberlin, KS. d. Dec. 8, 2021 in Oberlin, KS. Member of McCook (NE) Church. Preceded in death by husband George; 1 sister. Survivors include daughter Georgia; sons Steve and Ken; 1

brother; 7 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

**Rodman, Nina**, b. Aug. 21, 1948 in Fairbury, NE. d. Jan. 13, 2022 in Strafford, MO. Member of Springfield (MO) Church. Survivors include husband Darrell; sons David, Kevin, and Curtis; 5 sisters; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren.

**Tasche, Max Louis**, b. Dec. 1, 1935 in Hutchinson, MN. d. Jan. 3, 2022 in Brainerd, MN. Member of Brainerd Church. Preceded in death by brothers Rex and Roy. Survivors include wife Rita; his children's mother Beverly Kosek; children Vince, Bruce, Gwen Wilcox, Heath, David Eisele, Jon Eisele and Karl Eisele; 1 sister; 16 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

**Voegele, Darlene Fern**, b. June 24, 1929. d. May 17, 2022. Member of Wichita South (KS) Church.



July 2022					
COLORADO	JUL 1	JUL 8	JUL 15	JUL 22	JUL 29
Denver	8:31	8:30	8:26	8:22	8:15
Grand Junction	8:44	8:42	8:39	8:34	8:28
Pueblo	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:10
IOWA	8:40	8:38	8:34	8:29	8:22
Davenport	8:52	8:50	8:46	8:41	8:35
Des Moines	9:06	9:04	9:00	8:55	8:48
Sioux City	9:05	9:04	9:01	8:57	8:51
KANSAS	8:17	8:15	8:12	8:07	8:01
Dodge City	8:52	8:50	8:47	8:43	8:37
Goodland	9:06	9:03	8:58	8:52	8:44
Topeka	9:19	9:16	9:11	9:04	8:55
MINNESOTA	9:03	9:01	8:56	8:50	8:43
Duluth	8:38	8:37	8:34	8:29	8:23
International Falls	8:48	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:32
Minneapolis	8:29	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14
MISSOURI	9:01	9:00	8:56	8:51	8:45
Columbia	9:19	9:17	9:14	9:09	9:02
Kansas City	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:16
St. Louis	9:01	9:38	9:33	9:27	9:18
NEBRASKA	9:25	9:22	9:17	9:11	9:03
Lincoln	9:58	9:55	9:50	9:43	9:34
North Platte	9:40	9:38	9:33	9:27	9:18
Scottsbluff	9:25	9:22	9:17	9:11	9:03
NORTH DAKOTA	9:58	9:55	9:50	9:43	9:34
Bismarck	9:29	9:27	9:22	9:17	9:09
Fargo	8:39	8:37	8:33	8:27	8:20
Williston	9:11	9:09	9:05	8:59	8:52
SOUTH DAKOTA	8:47	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:29
Pierre	8:39	8:37	8:33	8:27	8:20
Rapid City	9:11	9:09	9:05	8:59	8:52
Sioux Falls	8:47	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:29
WYOMING	8:35	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:18
Casper	8:57	8:55	8:50	8:44	8:37
Cheyenne					
Sheridan					

## SUNSET CALENDAR

### OUTLOOK

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SERVICES

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

EVENTS

**Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Sept. 9-10, 2022.** Alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. The 2022 Honor Classes are: 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, & 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](mailto:allaynemartsching@gmail.com).

August 2022					
COLORADO	AUG 5	AUG 12	AUG 19	AUG 26	
Denver	8:08	7:59	7:50	7:40	
Grand Junction	8:21	8:12	8:03	7:53	
Pueblo	8:03	7:55	7:46	7:36	
IOWA					
Davenport	8:14	8:05	7:55	7:44	
Des Moines	8:27	8:18	8:07	7:57	
Sioux City	8:40	8:31	8:20	8:09	
KANSAS					
Dodge City	8:44	8:36	8:27	8:17	
Goodland	7:54	7:46	7:36	7:26	
Topeka	8:29	8:21	8:12	8:02	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	8:34	8:23	8:11	7:58	
International Falls	8:44	8:33	8:20	8:07	
Minneapolis	8:34	8:23	8:12	8:00	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	8:16	8:07	7:58	7:48	
Kansas City	8:25	8:17	8:07	7:57	
St. Louis	8:06	7:58	7:49	7:39	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	8:37	8:28	8:18	8:08	
North Platte	8:54	8:45	8:35	8:25	
Scottsbluff	8:07	7:58	7:48	7:37	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	9:09	8:58	8:46	8:33	
Fargo	8:53	8:42	8:30	8:17	
Williston	9:24	9:12	9:00	8:47	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	9:00	8:50	8:39	8:28	
Rapid City	8:11	8:01	7:50	7:39	
Sioux Falls	8:44	8:34	8:23	8:12	
WYOMING					
Casper	8:20	8:11	8:00	7:49	
Cheyenne	8:10	8:01	7:52	7:41	
Sheridan	8:28	8:18	8:07	7:55	

OUTLOOK

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