

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

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STRENGTHENING OUR  
SPIRITUALITY THROUGH  
CREATION CARE

OCT 2022



## Building Community

around  p. 6

heirloom  
plants,  
sustainable  
growing and  
pure food





# OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

OCT 2022

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“When I first started my sustainable living journey in 2018, I made a lot of mistakes.”—p. 9



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**Are You Called to be a Caregiver?**  
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**HOW'S THE WORLD DOING?**

As we continue our theme of Strengthening our Spirituality we take a broader look this month at some questions that impact our church members around the globe. How are people faring on our planet? We've been through a lot lately and unfortunately, things aren't looking good for Planet Earth.

We know that for many communities their reality is war, sickness, death and deep fear—all serious concerns. In addition, according to researchers like Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, "the climate is starting to spin out of control and is probably already reaching some irreversible changes."

We may not be able to extend our influence in all these situations, but one area where everyone can do something is by taking care of God's creation in the spaces where we live.

**(continued on p. 5)**



**ON THE COVER**

**Jere Gettle started Baker Creek Seeds (now the largest heirloom seed company in the United States) when he was 17.**

More on p. 6  
Photo by Laura Stilson/  
Baker Creek Seeds

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**OUTLOOK STAFF**

- Editor:**  
Brenda Dickerson
- Managing Editor:**  
Barb Engquist
- Digital Media Manager:**  
Hugh Davis  
[outlookmag.org](http://outlookmag.org)

**DESIGN**

Hallock Writing & Design  
[brennanhallock.com](http://brennanhallock.com)

**CONFERENCE NEWS EDITORS**

**Central States**  
**Cryston Josiah**  
josiah.c@central-states.org  
913.371.1071  
central-states.org

**Dakota**  
**Jodi Dossenko**  
j.dossenko@gmail.com  
701.751.6177  
dakotaadventist.org

**Iowa-Missouri**  
**Christina Coston**  
communication@imsda.org  
515.223.1197  
imsda.org

**Kansas-Nebraska**  
**Saul Dominguez**  
785.478.4726  
ks-ne.org

**Minnesota**  
**Savannah Carlson**  
scarlson@mnsda.com  
763.424.8923  
mnsda.com

**Rocky Mountain**  
**Rajmund Dabrowski**  
rayd@rmcsda.org  
303.733.3771  
rmcsda.org

**UNION COLLEGE**

**Ryan Teller**  
ryteller@ucollege.edu  
402.486.2538  
ucollege.edu



# How Eco-happiness boosts well-being

## Nature calms us, reducing feelings of stress, anxiety and anger,

says Sandi Schwartz, author of *Finding Ecohappiness: Fun Nature Activities to Help Your Kids Feel Happier and Calmer*. “It also improves focus and attention, as well as reduces blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and the production of stress hormones. It even makes us friendlier and more apt to reach out to others in our community.”

Wow! Those are some wonderful healing powers nature offers us! When was the last time you spent some time camping, hiking or sightseeing (without your smartphone!)?

I loved working as a director at one of our camps. I witnessed young people from the city—who had never been in nature—become overwhelmed with joy as they walked around the lake, rode horses and earned honors in nature. This is why I love our camps! I hope you are sending your young people to them each summer. Better yet, sign up for family camp and experience nature together.

When you see firsthand the incredible transformation spending time in nature can have on a life, one can also begin to understand at a deeper level why the Lord made us stewards of our planet. We are supposed to be the caretakers of God’s amazing creative handiwork. We can show respect and appreciation right now for God’s work of creation by valuing the natural world around us that He has made and continues to sustain by His life-giving power.

### A healing balm

We know there is healing power in being immersed in nature. Gardens and natural landscapes have long been recognized for their therapeutic and restorative value to our health. According to Dr. Winston J. Craig, professor emeritus at Andrews University in Michigan, more than 100 studies confirm that spending time in nature is beneficial for reducing one’s stress, both physical and emotional. In addition, “we observe that nature is a healing balm for depression and mental disorders,” says Craig.

Some universities now offer horticultural therapy degrees where therapists design gardens that assist people with physical, emotional or mental disabilities to develop coping

methods that enhance their lives. “These programs recognize the therapeutic benefits of gardening for people with chronic illnesses,” explains Craig. “People who learn the names of plants are more likely to value them. Giving a name to something is a way of making the plant a part of your community. As a result, we see a more responsible stewardship of nature.”

These types of activities are a strong counter to nature deficit disorders in both children and adults. In fact, NBC News reported that in recent years physicians nationwide have started writing actual prescriptions for their patients to spend more time outdoors in local parks and green spaces. These are often written recommendations in lieu of prescribing antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications. There’s even a nationwide initiative dedicated to the cause: ParkRx.org.




### Protecting what we love

But can we really make a meaningful difference in our global environmental crises—either as individuals or as a united church body? And if so, how?

Every great movement begins with one or more individuals who are passionate about something they believe is truly important. They are willing to think about it and dedicate time and energy to it. As Christians, we are committed to praying about what we should do and how we should use our resources.

God’s second book should not be ignored. Just as there is power in reading, studying and memorizing Scripture, doing the same with God’s second book will yield amazing changes in our lives. So, please don’t just read this short article without action; plan today how you are going to spend more time enjoying and protecting nature, walking hand in hand with your Creator.

Here is one final comment to help entice you to reap the marvelous benefits of spending time in God’s creation:

“God has surrounded us with nature’s beautiful scenery to attract and interest the mind. It is His design that we should associate the glories of nature with His character. If we faithfully study the book of nature, we shall find it a fruitful source for contemplating the infinite love and power of God” (Ellen White, *My Life Today*, 294). 

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





# Caring for Creation

## in our own spaces

(continued from p. 3)

Ecotherapy, sometimes called nature therapy or green therapy, stems from the concept that people are part of the web of life and provides individuals with an opportunity to explore their connection with their natural environment. There are many ways to do this, from taking occasional baby steps (like having a picnic), to making giant leaps on a daily basis (major lifestyle commitments to eco-thriving).

So how can we consistently make a difference from our own little corner of Planet Earth?

An article in *Mother Earth News* explores how those who are aiming for lower-waste lifestyles often look beyond the common 3 R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and add two additional R's: Refuse and Rot. The idea here is to refuse what you don't need and compost whatever you can. Reducing food packaging by using refillable containers and cloth shopping bags makes a big difference, as does reusing or recycling items whenever possible (see p. 9 for more green living tips).



### Adding new habits is key

It doesn't have to take a lot of time, money or effort to connect with nature and "live green." Everyone can find some way to make a difference, no matter his or her level of eco-interest.

The Billion Acts of Green campaign offers many suggestions for environmental friendliness. Or you can look up Earth Day to find a list of celebrations or activities in your community. Many communities celebrate Earth Week in the spring—an entire week of activities focused on environmental issues.

As with establishing any habit, choose something that's interesting to you, and something that can be done fairly quickly and easily. Then just do it...and keep doing it until it's a habit.

Each season try to add something new. Whether it's using cloth produce bags or recycling tin cans or putting fewer chemicals on your lawn, you can know that you are helping to protect our earth and thereby bring honor to the One who created it.

Additionally, if you want to go beyond your own home, there are community nature opportunities for all ages and levels. You can get involved through an organized group like a nature club or a school activity, or check with your county or state Department of Natural Resources for ways to volunteer.



### Here are five nature-friendly projects to check out:

**1. Audubon Christmas Bird Count ([audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count](http://audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count)):**

This is the nation's longest-running citizen bird count. It goes from Dec. 14 through Jan. 5 every year.

**2. Frog Watch USA ([aza.org/frogwatch?locale](http://aza.org/frogwatch?locale)):**

This project with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums allows participants to report the mating calls of local frogs and toads.

**3. Monarch Watch ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)):** This activity involves tagging and tracking monarch butterflies during their annual migration in North America.

**4. National Geographic BioBlitz ([nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz](http://nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz)):** This event focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time to gauge biodiversity.

**5. Budburst ([budburst.org](http://budburst.org)):** This project involves monitoring the leafing, flowering and fruiting of plants.

Seeking out such projects can help you, your family, your neighbors and the planet to flourish. Based on multiple studies, there is plenty of evidence that being in (and caring for) nature promotes our wellbeing. And, according to research reported in Rodale's *Organic Life: The Innovation Issue*, 2017, it even makes us more creative and compassionate, like our Savior Jesus Christ. 0

Read Brenda's 4-part series on green living starting at [outlookmag.org/living-green-your-home](http://outlookmag.org/living-green-your-home)

**BRENDA DICKERSON**

is communication director for the Mid-America Union.





# Baker Creek Seeds

## Building Community

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pure food



By Brenda Dickerson

There are two major areas where I believe the windows are currently wide open in the world for more robust conversations and information sharing: human health and care of the environment.

When I learned about Baker Creek Seeds a few years ago and how they are so skillfully and graciously combining these two areas, I was fascinated and began the process of requesting and scheduling an interview with the founder/owner, Jeremiaht Gettle.

While I waited, I learned all I could from their website: [rareseeds.com](http://rareseeds.com). Located

in the rolling Ozarks near Mansfield, Missouri, the Baker Creek village includes trial gardens, greenhouses, an old-time mercantile, herbal apothecary, natural bakery, vegan restaurant and many breeds of historic poultry and livestock—all on the homestead where Jere started the business as a teenager.

There are also two barns used for old-time music and modern presentations during their summer heritage festivals, started in 2000 as a way to bring gardeners, homesteaders and natural foods enthusiasts together to exchange ideas and seeds and learn from renowned experts.

The stated mission of Baker Creek is to “provide the seeds of a sustainable food supply for everyone and keep heirloom varieties alive for future generations.” Since they sell only heirloom varieties, all their seeds can be saved, shared and traded.

Finally, the day arrived for which I had been eagerly waiting. It was warm and sunny when my husband and I arrived at Baker Creek. We were met by Jere’s assistant, Kim, who said Jere would be ready for our interview shortly. Kim told me Jere

travels the world, always looking for new seeds. She also said they have gardens that are exclusively for photo shoots for their seed catalogs, of which they printed 1.4 million copies for 2022.



### From seeds to sprouts

Jere Gettle, barefoot and wearing a T-shirt and shorts, walks carefully and calmly among a swath of assorted blooms in the “tile garden” as he talks on his cell phone. The space—inspired by a trip that Jere and his wife Emilee took to Italy—is divided into many square planting boxes

by assorted ceramic-looking tile borders.

A few minutes later when I shake Jere’s hand he flashes a ready smile and asks if I’d like to sit in the gardens while we talk. He moves an iron bench into the shade and we settle in for a conversation I have been looking forward to for over a year. Jere talks easily, and answers all my questions, plus.

As we talk about seeds and pollinators Jere’s bare toes are absently brushing the plant closest to where we sit. “What is that one?” I ask. He hops up and checks the tag. “Gaillardia, Double Sunset. An old native variety from the 1800s that makes a big

Laura Stilson



Jere Gettle (pictured) and his wife Emilee are the authors of two books published by Hyperion: *The Heirloom Life Gardener* and *The Baker Creek Vegan Cookbook*. Emily and Jere were both homeschooled and they are homeschooling their four children.



puffy flower.”

When I ask about his earliest memory of gardening Jere says, “I grew up gardening. My grandmothers and my parents all gardened. My aunts and uncles gardened, the neighbors gardened—pretty much everyone I knew gardened. When I was two-and-a-half, I started planting things and watching them grow.”

Did this early start fuel his passion for the heirloom seed business? I wondered. “When I got older I started joining seed organizations like Seed Savers Exchange and when I was 17 I started sending out a catalog that I created in my bedroom. Little by little, the business has taken off and now it’s the largest heirloom seed company in the United States.”

Jere tells me they have over 100 employees now, counting seasonal help in the gardens and the workers building new greenhouses. Every single employee I meet during the day smiles and is friendly and helpful.



## Very good neighbors

Charitable giving is a foundation of Baker Creek’s thriving business. Working with nonprofit organizations, a significant portion of their annual profit goes toward providing food, emergency aid, sustainable development and education to people in the U.S. and abroad. “My goal is to fund more projects through ADRA or ASAP ministries in southeast Asia, supporting missionaries and teachers and wells for local villages there,” Jere explains.

“We also donate a lot of different seeds to school gardening projects here in the U.S. and to prison gardens and community gardens and orphanage garden projects.”

I’m incredibly interested in how Jere describes the link between human health and heirloom seeds. “A lot of people aren’t connected with what they are eating. It’s so processed, not healthy and nutritious. When you are gardening, you are out in nature with fresh air, and eating more fresh fruits and veggies. And you get to care for the environment in a good-for-yourself, good-for-your-neighbor way without spraying chemicals. In a few weeks these gardens where we are sitting will be filled with

butterflies—monarchs, swallowtails and various others. The more diverse our landscapes, the better our natural environments will be.”

When I ask about the cookbook he and his wife Emilee co-authored over 10 years ago, Jere replies that it’s a bit dated now and revising

it is not a high priority. “Lots of people are doing vegan cookbooks these days,” Jere casually observes. “It’s not unique anymore.” However, he seems pleased to tell me that the seed catalogs went like hotcakes and they are currently out of stock.



Brenda Dickerson







## A longer table

As we slowly ride in his golf cart down to one of the greenhouses, Jere's kind heart is evident in the way he cheerfully greets employees along the way and thanks them sincerely for what they are doing.

During my greenhouse tours my guide explains the current uses of each one and the various procedures they use. She even tells me how they install sun shades when I ask about it for our own little greenhouse at home. She tells me the cooks come to the kitchen gardens regularly to harvest.

Then she gives me a small turmeric plant and answers my questions about it since I've never grown turmeric.

After my greenhouse tour I meet Michelle, Jere's agent with whom I have been corresponding to arrange this interview. Like everyone else at Baker Creek, she smiles warmly and welcomes me. She is eager

to accommodate my request for professional photos.

By now it's lunch time and my husband and I walk down to The Mill, where we've been told we can get a bite to eat. We open the ancient door and are instantly overcome by the fragrances wafting on the air—freshly baked sourdough bread, focaccia, cinnamon rolls and a variety of fried berry tarts...not to mention the savory smells of spaghetti in homemade sauce with fresh herbs from the kitchen garden. We've heard the kitchen is managed by Jere's mom.

Everything has a homey feel, from the sunbonnets hanging on the wall to the antiques everywhere you look. I'm particularly taken with the words lettered on a piece of fabric and attached to the front of the pastry showcase: "When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence."

A young woman with thick, blonde braids hanging down her back smiles and asks

what she can get for us. She's wearing a peasant-style dress with a pinafore. We ask a few questions while making our choices—we select a number of items—and she totals it up with a calculator. When we don't have enough cash with us to pay for it all she says, "Oh, you can pay with a card up at the seed store. Just tell them how much."

Why am I surprised at such trust?

At the mercantile we browse a bit before paying. There are hundreds of packets of new and rare seeds, a number of types of preserved foods, and a lovely variety of gift items including door mats woven by a local Amish gentleman who is blind. All the prices are reasonable. I choose a Baker Creek T-shirt with a picture of watermelons and radishes on the front and limit myself to only one packet of seeds: Falling in Love Poppy.

But when we check out I get another seed packet at the register for free. Heirloom

carrots. I go put on my new T-shirt in the sparkly clean restroom. The tag says "Sustainable Edition made in the USA of 100% organic combed cotton." It's amazingly soft...I think I'm falling in love with Baker Creek Seeds in general, not just those poppy seeds!

When we sit down on a bench in the open barn to eat, everything is remarkably fresh and delicious. Even the water tastes good at Baker Creek. **O**

Brenda Dickerson is editor of OUTLOOK Magazine.



Read the full interview at [outlookmag.org/jere-gettle-2022](https://outlookmag.org/jere-gettle-2022).

For more information about Baker Creek Seeds visit [rareseeds.com](https://rareseeds.com).





# Eight Tips for Living Green

When I started my sustainable living journey in 2018, I made a lot of mistakes. I thought that in order to live sustainably, I had to follow a lot of rules. I didn't realize that one person's sustainable journey could look different from another's. If you are considering a more sustainable lifestyle, here are some tips (not rules) that could help you get started.

**1 Use a reusable water bottle:** In most of the United States, there is free water at drinking fountains in churches, stores and attractions. Using a reusable water bottle helps not only reduce single use plastic that goes to the landfill, it also can help cut costs. No more \$3 disposable water bottles at the zoo!

**2 Donate and thrift items:** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans throw away almost 25 billion pounds of textiles each year. Donating to and shopping at thrift stores and consignment shops is a way to give an item new life.

**3 Say "No" to freebies:** Who likes clutter? Not me! Sometimes I attend events where there are free items for attendees. Paper fans, letter openers, magnets, pens, etc. Before grabbing a freebie, just think, "Am I actually going to use this? Will it end up in the junk drawer? Will it end up in the trash?" I've found that when I really consider if I'll use the free item, the answer is almost always "No."

**4 Eat up!** Reduce your food waste by trying some or all of the following: Regularly check your fridge and pantry for food items that need to be eaten. Save leftovers instead of tossing them. Freeze food to extend its life.

**5 Bring your own:** Going to a church event with food? Consider bringing your own reusable utensils, plate, cup, bowl, etc. Not only does this reduce trash, it also

is a great conversation starter. Yes, whenever I bring my own utensils and such to an event I always get asked why.

**6 Run the dishwasher:** A 2020 University of Michigan study shows that running a dishwasher can save water, CO<sub>2</sub>e and time compared to handwashing.

**7 Save energy:** If you've driven through the Midwest, you've probably seen several windmills. But only 20% of electricity generated in the U.S. is from renewable energy sources. Save energy by turning out lights when you aren't in a room, running a washer with full loads of laundry, hanging up clothes to dry instead of using a dryer, and unplugging unused electronics.

**8 (Advanced Tip) Find a store that sells sustainable alternatives:** So you've already mastered all the above tips? Great! Keep going. If you're financially and geographically able to buy sustainable alternatives for everyday items, make the switch!

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Remember that each person's journey may look different. When I started living more sustainably, I lived in a place where there wasn't always potable water. Because of that, I had to buy bottled water. As a young professional, I'm not always able to afford quality items that I know will last longer or purchase items that have a smaller impact on the environment. I make more trash today than I did four years ago, because circumstances have changed. Instead of feeling guilty or shameful, I know God sees the efforts I make and blesses them. And I know that God will see the efforts you make and bless them too! **0**

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



# My Kind of Church

**W**e have a problem, and we aren't unique. Many, it seems, have bought into the myth that weakness always leads to failure and strength always leads to success. But at times we awaken to the reality that we've been squeezed into the mold of conventional wisdom (Rom. 12:2).

Almost imperceptibly we've sought to develop heroic virtues in ourselves when simple trust in God is the greater need.

As is often the case, God has a way of turning our assumptions upside down. Scripture teaches the fundamental principle that brokenness and wholeness need not be opposites. They are easily complementary (see 2 Cor. 12:10).

## *Life through brokenness*

It began as an ordinary day for Regiane. But as she was driving back to her office, two men followed her on a motorcycle. Soon they drove to within a few feet of the driver's side of the car. The passenger on the motorcycle pulled out a gun, aimed at Regiane's head, and fired. The car crashed, passersby pulled her out, and waited for the ambulance. The bullet destroyed her sight in both eyes, but her life was spared. In a moment her life—and the life of her family—had been turned upside down.

Someone has said, "Adversity introduces us to ourselves." Moments of loss, pain and suffering can cause most of us to shout out, "Why?" Such times of brokenness can turn the focus of our lives inward. When we are fully broken, however, the focus shifts outward and upward. Such was the case with Regiane.

I was invited to her home in Brazil for supper and Sabbath vespers. The whole evening was a time of praise to God, not only for His saving her life, but for giving her a ministry for those who are blind. As we sang "How Great Thou Art," the song took on a deeper meaning for me. Regiane's blindness helped me see: I saw that immediate tragic circumstances don't need to be the final word. Through her powerful witness in the small Bible study, three people have already been baptized.

The very year that Regiane lost her sight, Juliana, a pastor's wife, was also losing hers. Some believed that if she had sufficient

faith, her blindness would be healed. But God's wisdom produced major spiritual success for Juliana, who has become the regional leader for blind ministry. In her search for understanding, God brought her and Regiane together. They are now partners in a growing ministry for blind individuals. Out of two tragedies has come a united ministry for those who are blind.

## *Relating to weakness*

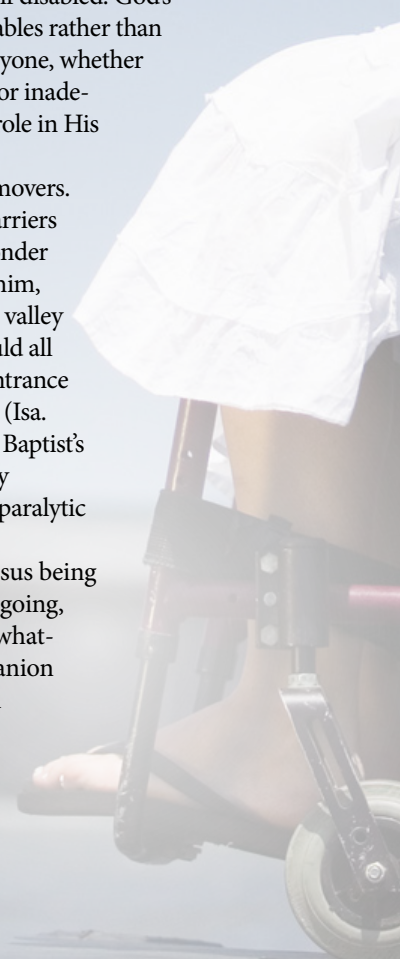
God has service assignments for everyone. Stigmas regarding human weaknesses and disabilities can be demoralizing. Some people are depreciated in the very places where they go to find meaning and purpose, an issue well addressed by Paul: "God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that are lacking" (1 Cor. 12:24). In fact, "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (verse 22).

The mission of God's church is nothing if not inclusive, and God desires all of us to feel equally welcome to His party and successful in His company. To be effective, the mission movement needs every part of the body in Christ's mission. If we exclude people with disabilities from missions, then the mission movement is missing part of the body. The mission is itself disabled. God's extravagant and dignifying love enables rather than disables His servants, granting everyone, whether good-looking or ordinary-looking or inadequate-looking, their own honored role in His varied fields of service.

God expects us to be mountain movers. Unfortunately, many have found barriers keeping them from coming. No wonder John the Baptist, like Isaiah before him, announced that mountain moving, valley raising, and road straightening would all take place, providing total, direct entrance into the coming Messiah's presence (Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6). Isaiah's and the Baptist's song of total access was wonderfully demonstrated in the healing of the paralytic (Mark 2:1-12).

A paralyzed man heard about Jesus being in a nearby city. He had no way of going, but he had friends who would do whatever was necessary for their companion to meet Jesus. They carried him all the way. When they arrived, large crowds obstructed their access. But no mountain or valley (roof tiles in this case) could stop them. They opened a road through the

**“We’ve sought to develop heroic virtues in ourselves when simple trust in God is the greater need.”**





roof and lowered their friend directly into the presence of Jesus. Their disabled friend's only hope was meeting Jesus. They saw the need; they moved the mountain that needed to be moved; their friend met Jesus and received the healing and wholeness that he longed for.

### *Not defined by disabilities*

I had never seen anything like it before—a wheelchair church. Scores of wheelchairs crowded into the tight space of this meeting place. What a sight! Not all were in wheelchairs, but all had one thing in common. They had come to worship, to share and to befriend one another.

I'll never forget meeting George (yes, call him George). He has cerebral palsy. I'd be challenged to understand him even if I understood Romanian. But the sparkle in his eyes outshone everything else—garbled speech, odd smile, constant drooling,

fluttering gestures.

I soon realized I was encountering something far more amazing than any mere assembly of people with disabilities. It was a time for my own self examination. Indeed, I had found my people—a people whose faith was not built on their being physically healed or having their rights defended. They were seeking something greater.

That day they, and others like them, became my teachers. This was the church I needed ... a place where brokenness is not about what we cannot do, not about prejudices others hold about us. Rather it is about finding the real purpose for each one's living. And I found it that day in the wheelchair church.

God has high ambitions for the disabled. When Jeff was born his parents had great dreams for him. They denied it at first but the truth became unmistakable: their son had been born deaf. Nobody can say what went "wrong," but Jeff is deaf. Yet deafness is not Jeff's identity. Jeff is secure in his identity as one of God's children.

Today, as an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, he serves as my honorary associate in Adventist Possibility Ministries, while also engaged as a full-time pastor. His wife, Melissa, is an interpreter for the It Is Written telecast. They are a team ministry—one deaf, one hearing. Jeff's role as a deaf pastor is not an employment accommodation of some sort, but a full-fledged and godly service that has impacted both deaf and hearing persons around the world.

I give thanks to God that my church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is ever more clearly recognized globally as a movement of bringing hope and soon-coming glory to many who have long lived with despair, deprecation and disdain. We believe that God's providence has placed widows, orphans and others whom society often marginalizes in close Christian relationship to His church. How we treat such individuals is God's test of our character.

We all need liberation from society's conventional thinking on weakness. Only as we surrender to the truth of our own inadequacy do we become available for ministries of service as God's jars of clay from which He may pour out the water of life to thirsty people everywhere (2 Cor. 4:7; John 4:13-14; 7:37).

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Larry R. Evans is assistant to the GC president for Adventist Possibility Ministries, which includes Bereavement for Spousal Loss, Blind and Low Vision, Caregiver Support, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Mental Wellness and Learning Development, Orphans and Vulnerable Children, and those with Physical/Mobility Challenges. *Reprinted with permission from the author.*

Roberto Correa serves as Possibilities Ministries director for the Mid-America Union.



## Historic Pastor Installation Held at Linwood Temple

Photos Courtesy: Central States Conference



On Sabbath, Aug. 20, at the Linwood Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Temple in Kansas City, Missouri, the Central States Conference administration installed the first woman pastor at Linwood Temple, **Pastor LaToya Hazell-Alcide**, as the associate pastor of this flagship church. Born on the island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean, she is grateful to be able to fulfill the calling that God has placed on her life as a full-time pastor in the gospel ministry.

**Pastor Cryston Josiah**, Central States vice president for administration, read her biography as she and her children were ushered onto the platform. Then **Elder Roger Bernard**, Central States president, offered the charge to Pastor Alcide, and in essence “married” her to the church as their new associate pastor.

**Elder Ivan Williams**, ministerial director for the North American Division, was also

in attendance and offered the dedicatory prayer over Pastor Alcide. **Sister Kelley Paris**, Central States vice president for finance, then officially welcomed her into the Central States pastoral family.

**Pastor Joseph Ikner II**, senior pastor of the church, and his wife **Nordia** welcomed her to the church family. In addition, several other Linwood ministry leaders welcomed Pastor Alcide and her family to their fellowship.

Pastor Alcide was blessed to have many close relatives and friends attend her installation service from near and far. Her three adult children, **Sierra**, **Vicky**, and **Nigel**, were all in attendance.

**Dr. Hyveth Williams** from the Andrews University Theological Seminary, **Pastor Bonita Shields** from the North American Division, and **Pastor Roger Wade** from the South Central Conference were a few of the denominational leaders who came to

support her in person.

Pastor LaToya, as she is affectionately called, has now become the fourth woman pastor to serve in the Central States Conference territory, and she is excited about the opportunity to do ministry in this part of the Lord’s vineyard. Her robust background in youth and young adult ministries, women’s ministries and communications makes her a tremendous asset not only to the Linwood church family but to the entire Central States Conference as well.

In her own words from her biography: “As a child of God she recognizes her talents and opportunities as a gift from above. She has endured a slew of life’s ups and downs but is determined to live through them all. The lessons learned in the past and those which are being learned today, come from some of the most painful and difficult times. But they have



made her determined to help anyone who would listen and see wisdom in the story of life. Her journey is not over but her influence is active now! Grace is her claim and Jesus is her champion!”  
May we all continue to lift up Pastor Alcide and her family as they begin this new journey at the Linwood Temple and seek to be a blessing to the greater community of the Kansas City area.

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



# Allon Chapel Hosts Holistic Small Groups Ministry

"Grow Groups" thriving with volunteer leadership



***"Connecting with God to change lives for now and eternity."***

### Allon Chapel's Mission Statement

In keeping with the church's mission statement, Allon Chapel's Discipleship Ministry has organized Grow Groups, semester-long holistic small groups that are designed to help church members grow nearer to God and connect with the community.

Allon Chapel's Women's Ministries' Grow Group partnered with local nonprofit

and for-profit sponsors to start a charitable event called Your Sisters' Closet.

Over 1,000 gently used articles of clothing, shoes and accessories were collected for a clothing drive that took place in June at City Impact, a faith-based, youth development center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Over 30 women from the community attended the event, and based on the outcome of this clothing drive, Allon Chapel is planning a larger event for the fall.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger*

*and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..."*  
(Matt. 25:35-36, NIV)

Elizabeth Jeanniton is a volunteer for the Allon Chapel Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Photos Courtesy: Elizabeth Jeanniton



## Does your church have a story to share?

Please email information and photos to Pastor Cryston Josiah at:

[josiah.c@central-states.org](mailto:josiah.c@central-states.org)



# Never Give Up on Your Children!

My youngest brother recently texted me a picture of when I was 20 years old. I showed it to a couple of friends. They both said, “Those were the days.” That reminded me of the title of a book about food production during the mid-1800s: *The Good Old Days, They Were Terrible*. That was truly the case when the picture was taken. I was an insecure, directionless, bar-hopping, pot-smoking, hedonistic, lost young man. My life was empty and joyless. In fact, when my wife saw the picture she said, “Since I’ve known you, I have never seen that look on your face. There is a deadness in your eyes.”

Things weren’t always this way. At a young age I had a real heart for the Lord. I was baptized into the Sterling Baptist Church in Illinois. However, with little fatherly direction or affection I drifted in and out of mischief. While living in Michigan at 12 years of age, I got involved in petty theft and breaking into empty buildings with older “friends.” After moving back to Illinois our family began attending church together. I was

rebaptized into the Chapel Hill Christian Church. There I joined a youth choir and even wrote a play.

Things were good for a while at home. But Dad became disillusioned with the church and stopped attending—and so did we. When I entered high school, sports became my emotional refuge, especially track, wrestling and football.

Then early one morning, a few months after graduation, my father was killed in a single-car accident. Just one week later we were supposed to start a business venture together. With much unresolved between my father and myself, I felt more lost than ever.

At this juncture God placed within my heart a desire for something more out of life. Although I was making good money at a steel mill, I was not happy. The “something more” became a growing desire for an education, as well as the chance to play football again, since a knee injury my junior year dashed my college scholarship hopes.

After writing to a few institutions with football programs I was accepted by

a small, private college just outside Kansas City. But, still directionless, after only one year I quit school and started working.

You know the saying: “No matter where you go, there you are”? All along I had continued my irreligious, partying ways. Nevertheless, God was still at work behind the scenes.

One night when a little drunk, I found myself alone. Looking up into a star-studded Kansas night sky I began thinking about heaven: *If there is a heaven, then there must be a hell* (of my Baptist understanding). Then, *If there is a heaven, I want to go there*. That was the moment God had been leading me toward. Turning to Him I prayed, *God, if You’re real let me know*. He did!

The next morning, and the two following mornings, God miraculously “let me know” that He was very real. On each of those mornings when I awoke, the desire for a particular egregious habit in my life was gone! I was very aware of it. However, it wasn’t until the third morning that I remembered my prayer. When I did, I said aloud, “Oh! You *are* real! I need to get to church!”

I know some of you reading this are very concerned for your child(ren). Let me assure you that God is still

not only looking for His prodigals to return home but keeping the path back to Him clear. He is working behind the scenes to help, protect, encourage and imperceptibly guide them along that path. He really is.

On the morning of the third day I went straight to my employer and asked for Sundays off to attend church. To my surprise my boss responded with a firm “No.”

During this same time I went to a sporting event in downtown Kansas City. I was standing behind a woman and her husband in the long ticket line. The woman, who was my mother’s age, started up a conversation with me. Before we parted, she gave me their phone number with an invitation to “Call sometime.” I politely put the number in my shirt pocket. I wasn’t going to call. I had no reason to.

However, when I was doing laundry I found the number and decided to call anyway. God did that. They were Seventh-day Adventists, and she invited me to church. “I can’t,” I replied. “I have to work on Sundays.”

“We go to church on Saturday,” she said. I already had every Saturday off! I went. Finally, this once joyless, dead-hearted young man began experiencing joy for the first time in a very long time.

Mom, Dad ... never give up on your children. Never! God hasn’t.



Courtesy Dave Moench



Brooke Melendez

(far left) Dave Moench at the age of 20

(left) Dave Moench today

Dave Moench pastors the Huron and Watertown churches in South Dakota.



# Dakota Adventist Academy Promotes Teacher to Vice Principal

Jodi Dossenko



**Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams** has added the responsibility of Dakota Adventist Academy vice principal, starting in July of this year. She and her family moved back to the Dakotas two years ago when she accepted the English teaching position after **Gary Way** retired.

Born on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Jovannah grew up on the reservation as well as in the surrounding area, spending a lot of time in Rapid City. She and her husband, **Zak**, graduated from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and accepted positions at Holbrook Indian School in Arizona. While there, Jovannah served in several different capacities including girls' dean, registrar, vice principal and dean of student

services—all while teaching various English courses. She also taught a “Next Level Prep” course where students explored what they wanted to do after high school and the different opportunities available to achieve their goals. The experience she gained teaching the prep course has propelled her to work those aspects into a unit for DAA's senior English class.

For the past two years, in

addition to teaching English, Jovannah has also taught a pottery class. Although she loves pottery, she has passed this role on to her husband and DAA's art teacher, **Zak**. He is versed in the technical aspects of pottery and will do an excellent job taking over the class.

While Jovannah will still be teaching English at DAA, she will also be working half-time as the vice principal. This role will focus on assisting students to keep good attendance, and working with student leadership, as well as being the primary person in charge of administrative discipline. She will do all this while also working on her master's in educational leadership. Her master's degree will allow her to take leadership in higher administrative positions in order to gain experience in situations a principal would handle.

Since Jovannah was baptized at the age of 16, she has received a negative response from her family

regarding her faith. Because of this, her attempts to be her family's advocate for Christ haven't seemed like a possibility. Their mother forbade her from taking her brother, **Forrest**, to church, which broke Jovannah's resolve to reach out to her family about God.

However, her brother went to live with Jovannah and Zak as a teenager while he attended Holbrook Indian School. During a mission trip to Belize, he made the decision to be baptized.

Today, Forrest has joined the DAA team and accepted the role of food service director. Jovannah is thrilled with this development and thanks God for answered prayers.

Zak and Jovannah have five children, two of whom attend Brentwood Adventist Christian School in Bismarck. The family is happy to be living and working in this part of the country.

Jodi Dossenko is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

The Adams family troop (l-r) Joseph, Elly, Matthew, Daniel and David Zak and Jovannah visiting Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site



Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams



Zak Adams



## Conference Sponsors First Hispanic Women's Retreat

Christina Coston



The Hispanic women's ministries team collaborated with speaker Elizabeth Talbot (center) to host a retreat in Kansas City for over 140 women.

The first Hispanic Women's Retreat for the Iowa-Missouri Conference recently took place in Kansas City, Missouri.

Over 145 women registered for the event, filling almost every seat in the event space. Among these women, 15 were not Adventists. In addition to attendees from both Iowa and Missouri, there were also women from Nebraska.

The two-day event featured guest speaker **Elizabeth Talbot**. Talbot presented three separate times during the event. Talbot, who is involved in many media ministries, said she enjoys presenting to both an online audience

and an in-person audience. However, she said women's retreats are special.

"Women's retreats are like a little island in time in which women kind of put all their things aside as far as family, husbands, kids, cooking, etc. And they're just here present completely—mind, body and soul. And I love that about women's retreats," Talbot said.

The event also featured several times of prayer, music and giveaways. Each non-Adventist attendee was recognized and received a gift. Every woman received a book by Talbot and a shirt. Women were also selected to win various prizes provided

by the different churches represented.

On Sabbath morning, several women dressed up as female Bible characters and presented a monologue as the character. After lunch, there was an interactive activity, where women were encouraged to let go of any burdens they might be carrying. This was followed by a couple women sharing their personal testimonies and several special musical numbers.

After Talbot finished her final presentation, the event ended with a group photo and discussions regarding future retreats. During this discussion, attendees vocalized the

desire to hold a retreat again next year.

"We need another [Hispanic Women's Retreat] every year once a year so we can be blessed and learn something we can apply in our home, in our family and with our friends," said **Ester Sanchez**, an attendee.

Sanchez had previously attended Hispanic women's retreats in other conferences but was thankful for a retreat in her own conference. Sanchez said it made it easier to attend and gave her the opportunity to invite local friends.

"I like how we have a retreat in Spanish because now I can invite neighbors who don't speak or understand English well," Sanchez said.

## Farm to Table Concept Practiced at Adventist School

Andrews Christian Academy students plant, tend, harvest and eat produce from their own school garden.

One to two days each spring, students rotate through the garden to plant primarily root vegetables, tubers and gourds as part of their curriculum.

"In the spring, we get ready to plant the garden and we

[teachers] talk to the kids about gardening and seeds and how things grow," said

**Julie Olson**, upper grades teacher and principal for Andrews Christian Academy.



Julie Olson

Many students said they enjoyed the planting process last spring. Students also said they had fun learning about gardening and God through the hands-on project.

Students and teachers enjoy eating the harvested produce from the school garden.



**Charo Felix**, the Iowa-Missouri Conference Hispanic women's ministries leader, said she was pleased with the retreat and is already thinking of next year's.

"I am very happy because the number of people who came to our very first Hispanic Women's Retreat was very large," Felix said.

Event planning began in 2020, when **Carlos Tamay**, Hispanic ministries director for the conference, asked each Hispanic church's women's ministries leader to help plan the event. The team, which consisted of eight women, planned a retreat for 2021. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, the event was canceled.

The group did not give up and continued to work to make the event possible, resulting in this year's retreat.

"Before, we did not have our own Hispanic Women's Retreat. But we worked really hard, with the help of the conference, and now we have our own," Felix said.



## Church's Community Garden Offers Free Fresh Produce

Located behind the Bolivar Church in Missouri is a free community garden open to anyone who wants fresh produce.

In 2019, the Bolivar Church began discussions of starting a community garden. The church is surrounded by housing for low-income individuals and the elderly. **Sue Storment**, Bolivar church member and garden manager, wanted to assist these individuals by providing healthy food at no cost.

"The most expensive food in the store is what's the

healthiest. People bypass it a lot of times because they can't afford it," Storment said.

In 2020, the church planted its first garden and opened it to the community. The garden includes green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, tomatoes and peppers.

Posted around the garden are signs asking people not to garden from "sundown Friday to sundown Saturday for Sabbath rest." Next to the garden is also a *Signs of the Times* news box that is often filled with free literature for anyone interested. Garden

visitors have asked questions about the church and Adventist beliefs.

Storment said the garden has been a "door opener" for the church to the community. She encourages churches who are struggling to reach their community to start a garden.

"A community garden is a great resource for the church, because it brings the community to your church—it's a great way to witness," Storment concluded.

"I love gardening because when you work with nature you see amazing things. No one can make [the things I saw in the garden] except God," said **Aniya**, an eighth grader.

During the summer, families of the students tend the garden and can take ripe produce. In the fall, around the end of September, the remaining produce is ready to be harvested. All students take

part in the harvesting process.

"In the fall digging potatoes, you would think we're digging for gold, because the students get so excited when they see those potatoes being dug up," Olson said.

The harvested produce is then used as part of a weekly free hot meal for students. Local church members bring homemade dishes and prepare the harvested produce as

part of the meal.

"When we [the hot meal volunteers] would tell the children some of the food in their lunches was from the school garden, the students would get excited to know that the stuff they harvested was being used for hot lunches," said **Donna Anderson**, hot meal volunteer and member of the Cedar Rapids Church.

Any extra food that is not used for lunches is given to families of the students.

"Between hot lunches and families, we use up pretty much everything that we grow," Olson said.

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



# African Group Hosts Third Annual Camp Meeting at New Haven

Ezra Okioma



The African group at the New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas, has a congregation of approximately 100-150 who regularly attend church services at New Haven. The group began in 2003 with a few families and friends from Kenya who gathered in their homes for Bible study and worship. They predominantly used the Swahili language during their meetings. The group has since grown to incorporate members from other African countries including Tanzania, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia

and Nigeria. In 2017 **Pastor Ezra Okioma**, an associate pastor in Wichita South district, was assigned to guide and lead the group. The group has since drastically grown with Pastor Okioma's commitment to training and empowering its leaders. The support of the other local pastors at New Haven Church has also helped in the growth and participation of the African community membership. During the COVID-19 pandemic the group gained

more membership through regular virtual meetings. The first virtual camp meeting was held in May 2020 with over 200 members in attendance through Zoom. Three souls committed to be baptized that year.

The second camp meeting took place in August 2021. This time they held hybrid meetings where members attended virtually through the week, but on Sabbath a physical meeting was held at the church hall. During the meetings various topics were covered including health, prophecy, family life, youth and children. Over 240 participated in Zoom through the week, and on Sabbath over 170 attended physically. Two souls were baptized as a result of the meetings.

This year, the group also

held a hybrid camp meeting where over 300 members attended virtually through the week and on Sabbath the whole group met at New Haven Church with other regular members of the church. Over 250 African members attended physically at the main sanctuary.

Okioma said it was a blessing having various African speakers sharing messages of revival through the week. "Through these meetings, the church has been baptizing new souls who joined the church. The African group leadership is committed to reaching out to all cultures, especially those from African descent in Kansas City, for Christ," Okioma concluded.

Information provided by Ezra Okioma, pastor of the African group at New Haven

## Central Nebraska Camp Meeting Held at Camp Arrowhead

Every year the Central Nebraska camp meeting is held in Lexington, Nebraska, at Camp Arrowhead, a volunteer-operated camp. **Pauline Morse**, along with her planning committee, coordinated this year's camp meeting held July 19-20.

The guest speaker was **Melvin Santos**, vice president for administration for the conference. He spoke on Friday about what it means to be a disciple of Christ. The messages focused on putting Christ first and seeking His kingdom. On Sabbath, he dealt with moving forward

in faith and removing the "grasshopper" mentality. The concluding message was on how God deals with those who run the opposite direction of where God is calling them to go.

During Sabbath school **Ron Carlson**, conference president, gave a mission report on Ukraine, and **Sue Carlson**, director of women's, children's, and family ministries for the conference, provided special music. A wonderful song service was provided by **Willis Callahan** and **Teresa Peckham**, and **Arlin Mekelburg** provided an interactive lesson study. Other members from various

churches participated in additional aspects of the services.

Meals were provided for attendees during the entire camp meeting, followed by the "great potluck fellowship lunch" with an abundance of food for all.

There were about 65 people in attendance Sabbath morning from area Adventist churches including Aurora, Beaver City, Broken Bow, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdridge, Kearney, North Platte and Sydney.

Information provided by Melvin Santos, vice president of administration for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Photos Courtesy Melvin Santos



# 130 Campers Decide to Follow Jesus

## At Broken Arrow Ranch in Kansas

In 1972 the first batch of campers settled into their cabins for what would be the first of 50 years of summer camp ministry at Broken Arrow Ranch near Olsburg, Kansas. Fifty years of campers later, it is almost impossible to track how many people have been blessed at BAR. In my time alone, over 2,000 young people have attended. Each summer we average around 53 staff members and between 320-350 campers. It is safe to say that thousands of people have been a part of Broken Arrow Ranch over the past 50 years.

Each summer over the last 50 years, we have faced struggles and rewards. In 2019 Tuttle Creek flooded with 75 vertical feet of extra water. This meant our go-kart course and archery range were under six feet of water. It was tough, but God blessed in a powerful way, forcing us to be creative with how we do our program and activities. We learned how to trust God to give us ideas to keep the program going.

In 2020 we faced a closed summer camp due to the



Photos: Broken Arrow Ranch Media Team

coronavirus pandemic, but we had a core team of dedicated staff who spent a month cleaning and painting and giving the camp much-needed care. In 2021 we reopened again with limited numbers and programs to keep our campers and staff safe, and still provided

a meaningful ministry to our campers and staff. This summer we were faced with fewer staff than normal, but it amazed me how God filled in the gaps.

No matter what happens each summer God is always in control. This summer we were blessed with nearly

Josemiguel Marin presents an inspirational message to campers and staff at Broken Arrow Ranch.

half of our campers making a decision to follow Christ. We had 130 decisions to follow Christ, 72 requests for baptism, and four on-site baptisms this summer. God did a powerful work in and through us this summer. I look forward to seeing what God does in the next 50 years of summer ministry at Broken Arrow Ranch.

Tim Floyd is youth and young adult director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



## God's Gift to a 92-year-old Mother

Photos Courtesy: Minnesota Conference



Prayer is one of the most excellent tools anyone can have in their daily walk with God. However, people get discouraged when God does not answer their prayers in the expected fashion. Does that mean people should give

up after a while? Unfortunately, many people cease to believe that God answers prayers in His unique ways. It may not be what the person pictured, but God gives the best answer when needed. Indeed, God's

timing is perfect, beyond human comprehension. Therefore, believers have reason to trust in God's process. He never fails.

A few months after I started pastoring in the Duluth district, one of the Hinckley Church members, **Jovan Parker**, approached me. He introduced his brother, **Donnie**, to me over the phone.

Soon after I hung up the phone with Donnie, Jovan shared a heartfelt story about his mother's wish. He explained that his mother, **Joy J. Parker**, had been praying that Donnie would one

day give his life to Jesus. This has been her prayer since he was a teenager, and Donnie is now 62, with four sons and several grandchildren. Still, he refused to give his heart to Christ despite all the conversations Jovan and his sister, **Lori**, had with him.

Then one day Donnie's mother, who is now 92 years old and rarely leaves her home, came to meet me on Sabbath morning at Christ Our Righteousness Church in Moose Lake, Minnesota. Joy poured her heart out about how one of the greatest wishes of her life was to one day see Donnie baptized. So

## Laura Cummings Honored as Hutchinson's 'Kind Neighbor'



**Laura Cummings** is the latest honoree of *Hutchinson Connect's* Kind Neighbor Spotlight, a recognition that allows local residents to nominate "unsung" volunteers.

Cummings, a Bemidji native, moved to Hutchinson to attend Maplewood

Academy about 20 years ago. She was nominated by **Evie** and **Evan Swanson**.

"Evan and I have known her since she was a student in the early 2000s when she was especially timid and quiet, but have only continued to have more respect for her character as we have seen her develop into an extremely helpful and giving member of the community," Evie Swanson wrote. "She is always the first to volunteer wherever she finds a need."

Cummings' list of volunteer involvements is long. At Maplewood Academy, she's headed up the Adopt a Highway student cleanup effort along State Highway

22. She's organized students to go into the community to collect food donations for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. For the school's Community Service Day, she's recruited students to help residents needing help with yardwork such as raking leaves.

An ardent canoeist, she belongs to Friends of the Boundary Waters and has taken Maplewood students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. She leads the community's Operation Christmas Child, and has helped with local efforts for Feed My Starving Children. Through Common Cup Ministry, she helps with coat collections

and fills children's backpacks with food.

During the height of the pandemic, she went beyond her official duties as Maplewood Academy's registrar. For example, she was known for stopping at students' homes to deliver treats, yearbooks and offer words of encouragement.

Swanson wrote that Cummings "always goes above and beyond what is expected of her. I've never seen her without a smile on her face as well as a cheery kind greeting for everyone."

Kay Johnson is a writer for the *Hutchinson Leader*. Reprinted with permission from the *Hutchinson Leader*.



she asked the Lord to bless her to witness that day before she lays down to rest and to wait upon the second coming of Jesus.

Joy, who is beginning to experience Alzheimer's, said she had no intention to stop praying and hoped God would answer her long-awaited prayers one day. Indeed, I shared with Joy that there is nothing impossible to God and she should never stop praying.

Tragically, Donnie almost died last year due to a heart condition, frightening his mother and the rest of the

family. Through it all Joy, Javan, Lori and the Hinckley Church never stopped praying for Donnie.

One Sabbath morning Donnie decided to visit the Hinckley Church. The sermon was about how we can trust God's sovereignty in a strange land. Donnie felt convicted by the Holy Spirit and asked to see the pastor. Gracefully, God showed up for Joy, and her son decided to give his life to Jesus after 62 years. The family was overwhelmed with happiness.

Later, about 40 family members, including his brother

**Daniel Parker**, showed up to celebrate this blessed moment with Donnie on his baptism day. On March 26, Donnie was baptized into the Hinckley Church. What a blessing! Joy Parker received her answered prayer and fond wish as she witnessed her son being baptized and giving his life to Christ.

We have reason to pray for one another, for family members, and especially for those who do not have a relationship with Christ. Indeed, never stop praying for your loved ones. It is never too late for God to work miracles.

God is always on time; therefore, we must trust His process. Our children have hope, and we must never stop praying for them.

The Bible says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:16-18, NIV).

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4, NIV).

Jude Senatus pastors the Duluth district in Minnesota.

## Southview Students Step Up During Foster Care Month

### Reaching out from inside the classroom

One day last spring during a typical ninth-grade Bible class group discussion at the Southview Christian School in Burnsville, Minnesota, the topic of the "image of God" was being discussed which led to students learning about the injustice many families face in areas such as housing, food insecurity, unemployment, healthcare and education disparities. Eventually, the purpose of therapeutic foster care and the children and teens benefiting from the program captured the attention of the ninth graders.

After hearing about the realities of a teen living in the foster care system, having to go from one house to another while carrying their

possessions in a plastic garbage bag, one student asked, "What can we do to help them?"

That question ignited a historical movement throughout the school. Posters were created and posted around the building, a school-wide fundraising campaign was launched and students were mobilized to raise funds that would go toward comfort bags for the children and teens benefiting from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota's therapeutic foster care program.

The comfort bags were filled with toiletries including toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, hair brushes, lotion, deodorant, etc. and a message of encouragement. The ninth graders had a goal set for 20

packed comfort bags.

Within a month, the entire school raised over \$2,000! In addition to the comfort bags, 10 family activity buckets were filled with popcorn, candy and a gift card for a home movie night for foster families to build relationships and trust with their children.

It was such a beautiful sight seeing our young people driven with compassion to serve an overlooked population. It was also coincidental that the month of May happened to be National Foster Care Month.

Who would have thought our ninth graders would leave behind a beautiful missional legacy to the Southview Christian School to serve this community? We thank God



for reminding us through the ministry of our students here at Southview Christian School that no one is too young to serve God and His people, and our responsibility is to provide them a space to lead and serve.

Darnisha Thomas is associate pastor for children and families at the Southview Church and children's ministries coordinator for the Minnesota Conference.



Hugh Davis

## Rocky Mountain Conference Delegates Re-elect Leadership, Vote Yes for Ordination of Women

Delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh-day Adventists second quinquennial session met on Aug. 21, 2022, for the purpose of electing leadership, receiving reports and conducting other church business. Five-hundred-ten registered delegates representing local Adventist churches in Wyoming, Colorado and part of New Mexico convened at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver, Colorado, under the theme “Longing, Loving, Leading.”

After due consideration, delegates voted by a strong majority to elect **Mic Thurber** as president, **Doug English** as vice president for administration, and **Darin Gottfried** as vice president for finance for the next five years.

### Praise, prayers and procedures

During the devotional time that followed musical praise, conference president Mic Thurber explored the Longing, Loving, Leading theme by referencing Jesus’ words: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” The quality and focus of our longings inform how well we love one another,” said Thurber. His specific challenge to the delegates as local leaders was to “Be faithful and be alert for opportunities to speak into someone’s life... Let’s say gracious words that will bring hope and restoration and grace.”

As the session was called to order, Thurber offered explanatory remarks regarding

the procedures of the day. Thurber urged decorum and stated that “the purpose of procedures is to give the minority their say, and give the majority their way.”

The General Conference Rules of Order were followed diligently under the watchful eye of **Darrell Huenergardt**, MAUC legal counsel and parliamentarian for the session. Several motions made from the floor by delegates passed, adding additional items to the day’s agenda including allowance for discussion of the composition of RMC’s Nominating Committee and Executive Committee, to be addressed in the bylaws. Other additional items were more representation from minority churches on committees and allocation of financial resources to

Hispanic youth ministries.

One of the most celebrated votes was accepting nine new churches and companies established since 2017 into the sisterhood of RMC churches.

The auditor’s report was presented by **Paula Aughenbaugh**, representing the General Conference Auditing Service. Their unconsolidated financial statement received an “unmodified” opinion, the best possible opinion that can be given.

### Election of officers and committees

A motion to refer the report for president back to the Nominating Committee was defeated by approximately a two-thirds majority. The vote for president was



(l-r) Doug and Susan English, Mic Thurber and Janna Thurber, Darin and Stephanie Gottfried

71 percent in support of Mic Thurber to serve as president for the coming quinquennium. Following the vote Thurber said, “We are honored to serve, not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit. Thank you so much for your trust.”

After 64 percent voted against sending back the report for vice president for administration, 68 percent of delegates voted in favor of Doug English for vice president for administration.

Darin Gottfried was elected by 97 percent to serve as vice president for finance. “This is a very exciting conference to work in. I’m looking forward to finding ways we can grow as a conference,” Gottfried said.

After lunch, hosted by local Pathfinders, delegates resumed the business session by approving the Nominating Committee reports recommending names for the following committees: Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Executive Committee, Education Committee, and Property and Trust Committee.

## Ordination of men and women pastors

**Hubert J. Morel Jr.**, vice president of administration for the Mid-America Union Conference, gave introductory remarks prefacing the ordination discussion. Morel reminded delegates of the fact that the Adventist Church is comprised of nearly 22 million members around the

globe. Yet we are all called to the same mission of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Morel then gave some historical background from the Adventist Church’s actions in the 1920s to the 1970s regarding the role of women in gospel ministry. “What do we do in our own territory about this matter of women’s ordination?” Morel asked.

The motion brought to delegates was: “The Rocky Mountain Conference may submit names of all qualified men and women for ordination to the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.”

Nine delegates immediately stood to speak at the “Against” microphone, while 13 lined up for the “Pro” microphone. Others joined the lines, but time did not allow for everyone to speak since the body voted against extending the one-hour time frame.

In summary, the arguments focused on words and phrases such as equality, church authority, the Holy Spirit’s calling on pastors, generational and cultural divides, financial ramifications, the role of fundamentalism, Ellen White, traditions, God’s best choices for us, scriptural authority, variances (exceptions) to policy, among other concerns and convictions.

Fifty-nine percent of delegates voted in favor of the motion.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding protecting personal convictions toward women’s ordination and that

they should not be used in a discriminatory manner for hiring, firing or prevention of promotion for employees within the Rocky Mountain Conference. The body voted to refer this matter to the RMC Executive Committee.

For **Brooke Melendez**, associate pastor from The Adventure Church in Greeley, Colorado, August 21 “was a day I have been waiting for [for] seven years—since I became a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of it.”

She added, “However, I continue to hold heavy in my heart my female colleagues and friends in other conferences and unions who continue to serve in a different reality.”

## Bylaws discussion and changes

As delegates reviewed a 17-page-front-and-back document outlining the bylaws, minor editorial changes were voted as a block. The wording regarding relationships between various levels of the Adventist Church was discussed multiple times throughout the day. Several items were referred to the bylaws committee for further revisions.

As deliberations ended, President Thurber thanked delegates for the consistent decorum exhibited by all who spoke, even as the hours passed.

Remarking on the “very

full day,” **Dr. Mark Johnson**, a delegate from Boulder, Colorado, said that “attending the RMC constituency meeting this year was a bittersweet experience. It was nice to see old classmates and fellow church members from the past, but disturbing, and somewhat alarming, to find that our basic beliefs and views on truth have become so divergent. While the meeting was cordial and amicable, for the most part, the underlying tensions and religious zeal occasionally broke through.”

**Samantha Nelson** from Clark, Wyoming, commented on the length of the meeting. “I wish the meeting had not taken so very long and that some of the agenda items that were added could have been sent in advance to be addressed and dealt with prior to reaching the body for a vote. All in all, things went well, and we have much work to do moving forward.”

**Ron Price**, a delegate from Farmington, New Mexico, summed up his experience at the session saying, “I was well impressed with the overall tenor of the conversations. While many held strong values and beliefs, these seemed, for the most part, to be subjugated to the overreaching presence of love for our Lord and each other.”

Brenda Dickerson is communication director for the Mid-America Union. Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

## A Life of Learning Starts at Union

**A**bner Campos will never forget the last day of his Theology 1 class with **Dr. Thomas Toews**. At the end of the class, the professor told his students to remember just one thing. Campos expected to hear something about theology or religion. “Instead, Dr. Toews said, ‘Be a life-long learner,’” said Campos. “That spirit is something I’ve carried through my ministry for the last five years.”

Campos brings this love of learning to his work as pastor at Volunteer Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Seattle, Washington. He said, “I believe that it is the role of the pastor to continually learn with the church, and for the church to interpret

Scripture as well as interpret culture. We should learn about certain topics that the church is struggling with and help the community to navigate some of those difficult waters.”

Campos and his wife **Debbie (Pinto)** both graduated from Union in 2017. The four years that Campos spent studying at the college were made especially busy with his work all around campus. Not only was he a teaching assistant in the Religion Program, he also worked with other academic programs and in Campus Ministries.

“Union gave me the opportunity to lead in an environment that was both spiritual and academic,” said Campos. “That atmosphere allowed

me to flourish. I found myself struggling with a bunch of great ideas, and my mentors at Union were great voices in my life who were formative in helping me process my faith. Being able to verbally process ideas with them and having them point me to resources or help me find an answer was incredibly valuable. To this day, I’m kind of a bookworm when it comes to theology. I still love learning and reading about it.”

However, Campos’ education was not confined to the purely academic. Every fall, Union sends its senior theology majors to an Adventist church where they gain practical experience under the mentorship of a senior pastor. Campos was assigned to the Brighton Church in Brighton, Colorado. “At Brighton, I got to work hard and learn well from a great mentor,” he said. “I gained lots of experience.”

In fact, Campos was asked to preach on his very first week in Brighton, when the pastor he was serving with had to travel out of state unexpectedly. Campos said, “When I arrived, the pastor told me, ‘I’m driving out of state right now; you’re preaching this week. You’re

on.’ That was a moment of learning how to swim the hard way.”

Campos quickly gained a sense of what it meant to lead a church, instead of simply assisting. He ran meetings, visited members of the congregation in the hospital and helped at the local church school. He credits his practicum semester with giving him the experience to make the transition to full-time ministry easier. “That semester was really great for lessening the shock factor once I was in my career,” said Campos. “There wasn’t a huge surprise about what ministry was, because I had already been doing it in college.”

Campos carries his experiences at Union College with him as he and his church develop their ministry in the city of Seattle. “My time at Union was a great balance between rich biblical theology and rich practice serving people,” he said. “I learned from the difficult and challenging moments, but also from the beautiful and redemptive ones.”

Annika Cambigue is a junior English and communication major at Union College.

Courtesy Abner Campos



Pastor Abner Campos (pictured with his wife, Debbie) learned the most valuable lesson while at Union: learning is a life-long blessing.





Maurie Andino, a senior at Union College, landed an internship with Amazon this past summer where he worked on a small team who handled cashflow reporting to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

## Taming the Amazon (Financial Disclosures)

Everybody knows Amazon, the trillion-dollar website that can deliver your package in less than a day. But few understand it like **Maurie Andino**. A rising senior accounting and finance major, Andino recently finished an internship at Amazon's Seattle headquarters working on the Statement of Cash Flows team.

"It's a little bit daunting working with people who have this level of experience in the field," said Andino. But he found that the team was very supportive.

Like all business majors at Union College, Andino is required to complete an internship to graduate. "I'm a testimony to the power of just applying for what you really want," Andino said. "I didn't have a personal connection, just a Google search. I didn't think I'd get the job, but it never hurts to try."

From online informational

sessions to résumé screening, nothing seemed out of the ordinary from a usual internship application. But next was something that only big corporations do: aptitude and cultural tests. Amazon's aptitude test is designed to sift out 50-80 percent of candidates. After a series of interviews, including two with senior managers, Andino was one of the few to receive an offer to join Amazon's headquarters this past summer.

"Working for Amazon is a bit different from most other companies," Andino said. "The difference starts with the number of digits on our balance sheets." The team documented and reported everything Amazon does from delivering packages to streaming video to telehealth sessions. "It's easy to feel the importance of our work when it affects so many millions

of customers and investors every day."

The Cash Flow team at Amazon consisted of six full-time employees plus Andino as the intern. Andino explained that their work included overseeing and submitting the statement of cash flows for the entire company, domestically and globally, to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Most of the company's accounting systems are fully automated, making compiling financial statements easy ... in theory.

Andino's work at the beginning of the summer was focused on documenting the oddball transactions that the software isn't coded for. Once the rules of those transactions are determined, they can be automated. The later part of the summer was devoted to comparing 17 entities owned by Amazon to document the differences between their

accounting systems.

Andino said he learned some hard skills like database queries, but added that "the main thing I've learned, and I'm learning still, is that no matter how intimidating something might seem, if you approach it with energy and a willingness to learn, you can overcome whatever problem you have. And you can enjoy doing it... The next time something seems impossible or too big for me to handle, I'll have the confidence to teach myself and overcome it."

Gabriel Sanders is a sophomore English major at Union College.

# AdventHealth Brings Medical Care to Peru

In central Peru on the banks of the Ucayali River lies a town called Pucallpa, a city that 310,000 people call home. It's not a tourist town. In fact, most people who arrive by plane are doctors, nurses and other health care personnel. That's because Pucallpa has limited medical services but draws people from the Amazon basin looking for basic health care.

AdventHealth Global Missions has partnered with the Eastern Peruvian Mission of Seventh-day Adventists to extend the healing ministry of Christ in Pucallpa. Fourteen team members from AdventHealth in Kansas and Florida recently traveled to the city to nurture the health of those living in the region.

The AdventHealth team set up temporary primary care clinics and a pharmacy for five days to offer free services such as well checks, pelvic exams, radiology testing, vision screenings and COVID-19 vaccines. A dentist from Peru joined them to provide extractions and fluoride applications.

The group cared for more than 3,000 residents—more than double the people served during AdventHealth's previous mission trips to the area.

"The need was huge this year partly because people in this region had not had access to good health care since AdventHealth was there in 2019 before the pandemic," said Robyn Burky, individual philanthropy officer for AdventHealth Kansas City Foundation.

Sending medical staff to



Robyn Burky

AdventHealth team members from Kansas and Florida recently traveled to the Pucallpa, Peru, to nurture the health of those living in the region.

Pucallpa is not a new initiative for AdventHealth. The organization has sponsored many mission trips to the city; however the area they most recently visited was the poorest they had ever experienced.

Residents began waiting in line early in the morning to ensure they received treatment. Each day the clinic remained open until the last patient was seen. In the future, AdventHealth hopes to assist with building a hospital in Pucallpa so people have access to ongoing quality health care in the region.

People of all ages came to the clinic with various conditions such as high blood pressure, back pain, upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, gastritis, reflux, malaria and parasites, to name a few.

In addition, each patient received a month supply of vitamins, and the team distributed 200 pairs of eyeglasses. They had the ability to create prescription lenses on site and distributed all 200 pairs during the first two days, but these were not enough. After returning home, the team sent another 600 pairs

of eyeglasses for patients who received treatment.

"A few people showed up to the clinic with abdominal pain so having a radiologist on the team with ultrasound capability was very beneficial," said Burky. "Our radiologist was able to identify an active bleed in one person that needed to be addressed quickly."

Sadly, rape and incest are major issues in Pucallpa. The team saw multiple girls who were pregnant with the youngest being a 10-year-old girl who was 33 weeks along with preeclampsia. She had her baby while the team was in Pucallpa, which Burky notes was a very emotional experience for the group.

Despite the difficult circumstances they often endure, the people of Pucallpa are described by Burky as happy, friendly and very resilient. One of her favorite parts of the trip was the warm welcome they received upon arrival where residents greeted them with coconut water and a special headdress customary for the region.

"In Pucallpa, happiness is not about material things like

in our culture," said Burky. "Kids are playing outside because they do not have technology or even crayons in most cases. Residents are glad to simply have bottled water, which is a luxury where they live."

AdventHealth has another mission trip to Peru scheduled in 2022. This time, they will travel to Juliaca, a city in southeastern Peru located on the shores of Lake Titicaca at more than 12,000 feet above sea level. The upcoming trip will focus on much needed surgeries for people in that region.

The mission trips are supported by the Dr. J. Douglas Cusick Medical Missions Endowment, which subsidizes volunteers' travel and supply expenses.

Jackie Woods is a freelance writer and project manager for AdventHealth in Kansas City.



Support AdventHealth Global Missions: [AdventHealth-KCFoundation.com/Global-Medical-Missions-Donation](https://AdventHealth-KCFoundation.com/Global-Medical-Missions-Donation).



# Leading with Heart, Purpose and Faith

## Meet three Centura Health Adventist leaders



Photos Courtesy: Pittman, Enderson, Dodds families

“AdventHealth is a top-notch organization with a culture that engages you in a way that drives loyalty,” said **Dan Enderson**, Denver Metro Group president, Centura Health.

Since 1992, Enderson has faithfully served in AdventHealth ministries across six markets. Most recently, he stepped into his new position as president of the Denver Metro Group at Centura Health. In this role, he serves as the associated regional chief executive officer for AdventHealth’s Rocky Mountain region.

“I am not outside of the norm; most AdventHealth leaders stay with the organization for life,” said Enderson.

Prior to taking on the senior operational leadership role in 2021, Enderson served as senior vice president and chief financial officer at Centura for 10 years. Before joining Centura, he was the chief financial officer and senior vice president of Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Burleson, Texas, and the regional chief financial officer for the AdventHealth Southwest Region in Florida.

Enderson grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where his parents still reside. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Business Administration from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Master of Business Administration from Webster University in Orlando, Florida. These days, Enderson and his wife, **Lauri**, spend their free time with their two adult daughters and one grandson who live in and around Castle Rock, Colorado.

Along with Enderson, **Jeremy Pittman** also stepped into a new role within Centura and was named chief executive officer of Castle Rock Adventist Hospital in October 2021. Prior to assuming his current position, Pittman was the chief financial officer at Porter Adventist Hospital, and before that he was the chief financial officer/chief operating officer at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital. Collectively, Pittman has served Centura’s healing ministry for over 15 years—his entire tenure.

A faithful and servant leader, Pittman is personally and professionally connected to Centura’s mission. “I have been blessed to live and work in the

(left) Jeremy Pittman and family  
(middle) Dan Enderson and family  
(right) Rick Dodds and family

same community over the past 10 years,” said Pittman. “I strive to make Castle Rock Adventist Hospital a place where my fellow community members feel confident and proud to go because they know they are getting incredible care.”

Pittman received his Bachelor of Finance and Accounting from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and his Master of Finance and Entrepreneurship from the University of Colorado. Pittman and his wife, **Chandra**, have two children, **Gavin** and **Georgia**, and in their free time they enjoy visiting their family cabin in Grand Lake, snowmobiling, hiking, dirt biking and enjoying the Colorado mountains.

Shortly following Pittman, **Rick Dodds** was named chief executive officer at Littleton Adventist Hospital in January 2022. Prior to joining Centura, Dodds served at Kettering Health in Ohio for eight years.

“Being part of a faith-based health system allows me to practice my faith of putting

Christ first in leading the hospital in serving our community. Christ instructs us to teach, preach and heal, and in healthcare be integrated in each aspect of His commission to us,” said Dodds.

He grew up on the Union College campus, where his parents have faithfully worked for three decades. It was no surprise that Dodds went on to receive a Bachelor of Business Administration from the same college. He then earned his Master of Business Administration from La Sierra University in Riverside, California.

Dodds and his wife of 19 years, **Victoria**, have two children, 13-year-old **Adeline** and 10-year-old **Ryan**. Together, they love to camp, mountain bike and enjoy all sports, seamlessly fitting into the Colorado lifestyle.

Faith-driven and mission-focused, Enderson, Pittman and Dodds aim to lead with heart, purpose and faith.

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

**Adams, Kerry James**, b. Nov. 6, 1970 in Aberdeen, SD. d. Aug. 30, 2022 in Aberdeen, SD. Survivors include parents John and Marie; 2 sisters; 1 brother.

**Beckenholdt, Amber L.**, b. March 18, 1982 in Independence, KS. d. July 31, 2022 in Elk City, KS. Survivors include husband Chad Kahler; father Clayton; daughter Megan Kahler; son Corbin; grandmother Joan; grandfather Max; 1 sister; 1 brother.

**Denny, Joan Evelyn**, b. Aug. 26, 1941 in Clinton, MO. d. Aug. 1, 2022 in Topeka, KS. Member of Topeka Church. Preceded in death by sister Lois Mikesell. Survivors include husband Jerry; daughters Janelle and Jennifer; son Justin; 5 grandchildren.

**Flegenschuh, Lanny**, b. Dec. 20, 1949. d. Jan. 2, 2022. Member of Sidney (NE) Church.

**Fletcher, Charles**, b. Sept. 17, 1945. d. Nov. 20, 2020. Served in the U.S. Navy.

**Olson, Helen (Dockter)**, b. Nov. 23, 1933 in McClusky, ND. d. July 29, 2022 in Tioga, ND. Member of the Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by husband Roger; 3 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Sandra Vance Sevr and Lisa Fox; sons Robert and Scott; 1 brother; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

**Schultz, Elizabeth (Liz) Margaret**, b. 1985 in Cook, MN. d. June 10, 2022 in Grand Rapids, MN. Survi-

vors include parents Leon "Lucky" and Jutta "Karin"; daughters Lillah and Alexis; 1 sister; 1 brother.

**Stone, Eloise M.**, b. Feb. 19, 1928. d. Nov. 27, 2021. Member of Sidney (NE) Church. Survivors include daughter Patricia Wright; son Keith; 3 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; many nieces and nephews.

**Tucker, Patricia "Pat"**, b. July 1, 1936 in Jackson, WY. d. Aug. 27, 2022 in Billings County, ND. Member of Grassy Butte (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Donald; son Don Duane; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Terri Tachenko; son Hal; 2 sisters; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

**Wessels, Myrtle (Christensen)**, b. May 17, 1929 in Edgeley, ND. d. June 4, 2022 in Fergus Falls, MN. Member of Fergus Falls Church. Preceded in death by first husband Harris Christensen; second husband George; sons Jimmy and Larry; 3 sisters. Survivors include daughters Diane, Debbie Diestler, and Sandra Burns; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Woolford, Robert "Bob" Lee**, b. Sept. 9, 1940 in Baltimore, MD. d. Aug. 18, 2022 in Overland Park, KS. Member of Kansas City New Haven (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Betty; daughter Valerie; son Ron; 1 brother; 4 grandchildren.

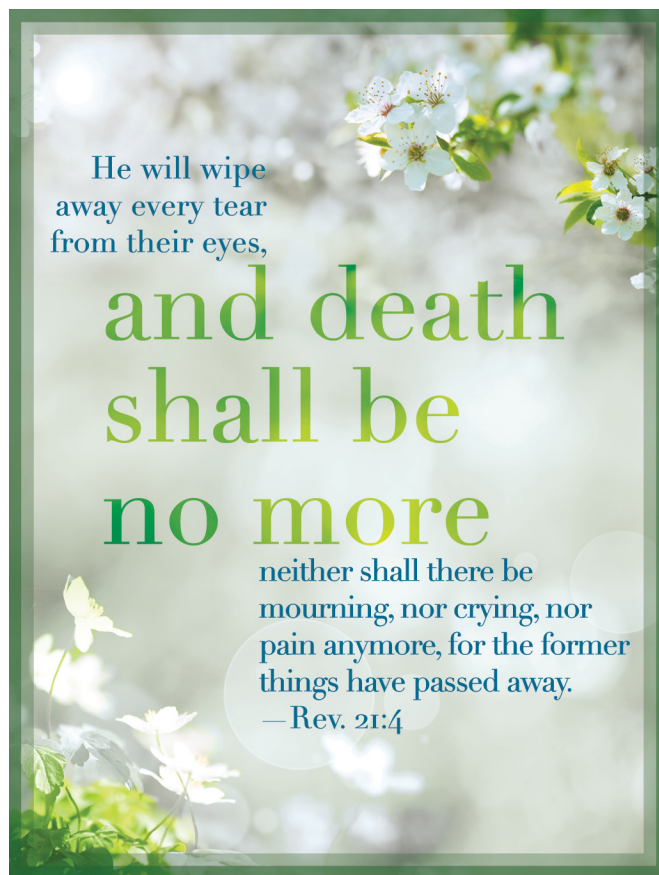
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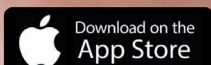


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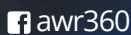
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**Union College is seeking candidates for Vice President for Academic Administration** to provide strategic direction, leadership, and oversight for the college's academic programs and fulfillment of strategic goals. Earned doctoral degree required. Apply at [www.ucollege.edu/employment](http://www.ucollege.edu/employment).

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This statement of ownership, management and circulation was filed on August 31, 2022 with the U.S. Postal Service for the Mid-America OUTLOOK, publication number 0887-977X, a magazine owned and published by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. It is published 10 times per year at a subscription price of \$12. For further information, contact the Mid-America Union Conference, publisher, or Brenda Dickerson, editor, at the above address. The following figures for the extent and nature of the circulation apply to the year ending with the September 2022 issue of OUTLOOK and are printed in the October issue of this publication.

Description	Yr. Avg.	Sept.
Total number of copies	22,727	25,000
Total paid/requested outside-county mail subs	22,010	23,993
Total paid/requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	29	33
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid/requested circulation	22,040	24,026
Total complimentary distribution	27	30
Total distribution	22,067	24,056
Copies not distributed	660	944
Total	22,727	25,000
Percent paid and/or requested	99.88	99.88

## SUNSET CALENDAR

### October 2022

COLORADO	OCT 7	OCT 14	OCT 21	OCT 28
Denver	6:32	6:21	6:11	6:02
Grand Junction	6:47	6:36	6:26	6:17
Pueblo	6:32	6:21	6:12	6:03
IOWA				
Davenport	6:33	6:22	6:11	6:02
Des Moines	6:45	6:34	6:23	6:14
Sioux City	6:56	6:44	6:33	6:23
KANSAS				
Dodge City	7:13	7:03	6:54	6:45
Goodland	6:19	6:09	5:59	5:50
Topeka	6:55	6:45	6:35	6:26
MINNESOTA				
Duluth	6:36	6:23	6:10	5:58
International Falls	6:39	6:25	6:12	6:00
Minneapolis	6:42	6:29	6:17	6:06
MISSOURI				
Columbia	6:42	6:32	6:22	6:13
Kansas City	6:51	6:40	6:31	6:22
St. Louis	6:34	6:23	6:14	6:05
NEBRASKA				
Lincoln	6:58	6:47	6:37	6:27
North Platte	7:14	7:03	6:53	6:43
Scottsbluff	6:25	6:14	6:03	5:53
NORTH DAKOTA				
Bismarck	7:10	6:57	6:45	6:33
Fargo	6:54	6:41	6:29	6:17
Williston	7:21	7:07	6:54	6:42
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Pierre	7:10	6:58	6:47	6:36
Rapid City	6:22	6:10	5:58	5:48
Sioux Falls	6:56	6:45	6:33	6:23
WYOMING				
Casper	6:35	6:24	6:13	6:02
Cheyenne	6:31	6:19	6:09	5:59
Sheridan	6:37	6:24	6:12	6:01

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# *It's raining scholarships*

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*"I really wanted an Adventist education, but I didn't think it was possible with my empty pockets. Student Financial Services went to work for me and found four scholarships and two grants. I completed my first year at Union and it's been great."*

— Breanna Hawk  
Communications major