



PERSPECTIVES

THE TRANSFORMING **POWER OF EDUCATION IN MID-AMERICA UNION ACADEMIES**

—Gerard Ban

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"Well, there's always next year... except when it comes to our young people." —p. 7









ONLINE



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Winter Health outlookmag.org/thriving-inhealth-during-the-wintermonths



Awake Without Coffee outlookmag.org/50784-2

2023 IS OUR YEAR!

As we move into a new year, our OUTLOOK team is focusing on the theme of Thriving Through Resiliency. The past few years have not been easy, and students especially have suffered from the effects of the pandemic.

Of course everyone believes it's a good idea to minister to our children and young people. But sometimes we don't agree on how much of a priority it should be. Or how to go about it. Sometimes students feel caught in the competition for resources and inclusion.

Whether the students in your life attend a public school, a private school, an Adventist school or are tutored or homeschooled, you have an

opportunity in this new year to join forces with the adults around you to help *all* children and young people know they are deeply loved and valued.

As Kelli Wasemiller aptly points out on p. 7, this can be our year if we all pull together to strengthen each other, united by our love for God and our young ones.



BRENDA DICKERSON editor

ON THE COVER

Jesse Campbell, a junior at College View Academy, is the winner of OUTLOOK's 2022 student essay contest.

More on p. 6 Photo by Hugh Davis

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THE TRANSFORMING POWER

of Education in Mid-America Union Academies

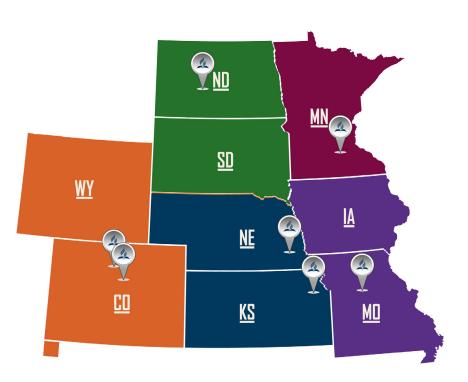
ur academies in MAUC have had a great first semester with only a few challenges (always to be expected). As Christians, we truly want a quality education for our students. That desire is what has led the Adventist Church to use its means and resources for educating future generations. Our schools let students learn, grow, and explore their world encircled by the safe boundaries of caring teachers, curated curriculum, and relevant activities for each developmental stage.

Adventist education is a mission. This mission of learning is not just academics; it is a mission of learning more about their Savior Jesus.

I had the privilege of attending Seventh-day Adventist schools. Because of the teachers in those schools, I became an Adventist. The love and acceptance shown to me by my teachers gave me a life-changing experience that changed me forever. Our teachers know that they are changing

lives for eternity. "It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (Ellen G. White, *Education*, 13).

Our society's worldly lifestyle exerts a powerful influence on young people. Media, television, music, fashion, video games, Internet, alcohol, drugs and entertainment seems to work to separate them from God. Christian parents need our schools to be a city of refuge, with a healthy environment that is as safe as possible for their children. Our schools are not perfect, but they can offer an Adventist education, which is ideal because God inspires it. Adventist teachers who are dedicated to the ministry of education, and who enjoy sharing their faith with their students, work to bring their students closer to that ideal.



Dakota Conference

Dakota Adventist Academy

mydaa.org

Iowa-Missouri Conference
Sunnydale Adventist Academy
sunnydale.org

Kansas-Nebraska Conference College View Academy cvakl2.org

Midland Adventist Academy midlandacademy.org

Minnesota Conference

Maplewood Academy

maplewoodacademy.org

Rocky Mountain Conference

Campion Academy

campion.net

Mile High Adventist Academy milehighacademy.org



Developing leadership skills and friendships

Mid-America Union Conference and Union College work together to continue our educational partnership with our academies, giving students opportunities to meet students from other academies by planning activities that will challenge them spiritually, physically and allow for social interactions. I would like to share with you some of the programs we offer.

September brought our student leaders to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the annual Academy Leadership Conference, hosted this year by Union College (see p. 10). Students underwent testing to discover their leadership strengths, then school teams put their newfound leadership style awareness to good use in working through a town disaster scenario. Teams worked together to come up with the best ways to handle different situations as effectively as they could. This leadership experience was designed to help students explore how they may develop better use of their talents in their own leadership roles when they return to their schools. After the exercise concluded, students toured the State Capitol building.

Other great activities for our academy students that MAUC and Union College plan and sponsor together are soccer, volleyball and basketball tournaments, a music clinic, and Acrofest (gymnastics). These activities provide our Mid-America students opportunities to come together in friendship games and learning encounters, allowing them to connect with others and build lifelong friendships.

Alongside the music clinic, the MAUC Office of Education and Union College provide a forum for academy teachers in

their core subject area, giving them opportunity to come together and collaborate with others teaching in the same area. The correlating Union College department facilitates the forum. Opportunities are also available for teachers to work on improving their own teaching strategies, observe classes and talk individually with professors and their colleagues about learning expectations.

It is our desire to better prepare our students to be successful when they graduate and go out into the world to be productive in their lives and their communities, as well as to pursue higher education degrees if they so choose. All our educators in Mid-America strive to give the best education possible and most importantly to help our students develop their walk with Jesus. 0

Adventist education is a mission. This mission of learning is not just academics; it is a mission of learning more about their Savior Jesus.

Mid-America Union Conference schools are part of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist school system.

You can learn more about Adventist education at:

- adventisteducation.org.
- v1.adventisteducation.org/mau-statistics.html
- find.adventisteducation.org/#/union



GERARD BAN is associate director of education for the Mid-America Union Conference.





are you going to Bible study tonight?" I was asked one day, suddenly thrown on the spot.
"I'll ... ummm ... have to think about it," I stammered in response to my friend.

It was a very simple question that came with so many hidden complexities. I knew, of course, what Bible study they were talking about. I had heard at school that Pastor Mic Henton, the youth pastor from College View Church, hosted a small group of people at his house on Friday nights. It was open to everyone, but I never really had a reason to go.

I had first interacted with Mic through school. I remember him walking into seventh grade Bible class, with his sandals he almost always wore and the small Bible he always carried in his back pocket. He was full of energy and had unashamed and contagious enthusiasm for Christ. He was very welcoming, so he wasn't the reason I hesitated.

To be honest, the real reason I wasn't sure was ... because it was my choice. Up until then, I had never chosen to go to anything religious. Bible classes had always been required. I had gone to church for as long as I could remember. Even community service projects at school were never optional. All my life, the constant cycle of religious activities had been something I had to do.

So for the first time in my life, I had control over whether or not I spent time with Jesus. At first, I wanted to decline. To get a break from all the constant religion. Yet, for some reason I ended up going. Looking back, I honestly don't know why I chose to go. But I think it was because God was already working in my heart.

"JESSE! YOU CAME!"

I remember the first time I walked up the cement steps of Mic's house. My arms were so close to my body I was practically hugging myself. My legs were shaking, and my heart was beating hard. I felt like an outsider. I felt like I didn't belong here. That I was the fakest Christian there and that everyone would see how bad of a person I was.

Somehow I managed to summon the courage to open the door and step in. At the split entryway, I took off my shoes and walked downstairs where a golden light was emitted from a doorway. I followed the laughter and conversation until I came upon the group of people crowded around a table of food. I remember everyone looking up from what they were doing to look at me.

Suddenly, Pastor Mic exclaimed, "Jesse! You came!" All of my self consciousness suddenly vanished. The room seemed brighter. And for the first time in awhile, I felt closer to God. I no longer felt like a pretender. Jesus felt so real to me that night that I genuinely wanted to know God.

But this moment would have been impossible without Adventist education. It was through religion being repeatedly forced on me that I came to appreciate chosen religion. You can force anyone to something, but actions based on genuine conviction will always be stronger than insincere effort. C. S. Lewis says, "Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having."

I used to wonder why God exposed Adam and Eve to a choice that would condemn future generations. But looking back, I now truly see how He chose to—out of love. Ken Poirot, motivational speaker and author, says, "True love is built on free will and free choice, not control and manipulation." God gave us a choice because of His love. And we love God in return out of our choice, not through force. **0**

This essay is the winner of OUTLOOK's 2022 student writing contest for grades 9-12. The author (pictured with youth pastor Mic Henton) attends College View Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska. You can read the other essays at outlookmag. org/essays-2022.

Adventist Education

We Are Jean Your Kid

as a lifelong Minnesota Vikings fan, I'm well versed in our unofficial motto... "Well,

As a lifelong Minnesota Vikings fan, I'm well versed in our unofficial motto... "Well, there's always next year." This is often muttered as meager consolation after a nail-biting game ends with a missed field goal. There's always next year, except when it comes to our young people.

In the spirit of New Year's resolutions, I find myself resolute (purposeful, determined, unwavering) regarding the ministry of Adventist education. My definition of Adventist education might differ from the elementary school, academy, or college that comes to mind. You see, each of us is an Adventist educator. Parents. Grandparents. Pastors. Teachers. Sabbath school teachers. Pathfinder leaders. Church members. Friends. We are a network of Adventist educators dedicated to providing our young people with opportunities to encounter God's love. As I used to tell my student's parents, "We are Team Your Kid!"

I have yet to meet an individual who thought ministering to our young people was a bad idea. But all too often, we find ourselves in competition rather than joining forces against the principalities and powers of the enemy. Oh, how I wish our child evangelistic efforts could operate outside of the dreaded numbers game, which often sounds like:

- "We have to get more students and do more fundraisers."
- "Since our enrollment is down, we may have to cut a teacher."
- "We've had a drop in alumni giving and support due to
- "My tuition/tithe dollars fund your paycheck, so I expect you to "

Operating with these high stakes results in unhealthy competition such as Adventist schools versus public schools versus private schools versus homeschool. Conference-supported schools versus locally-operated schools. Boarding academies versus day schools. Curriculum, academics, arts, sports, location, cost, compete, compete, compete. In this competition, our young people lose.

My mom attended public school and remembers feeling

like an outsider at events like camp meeting because she didn't go to the academy. When I was homeschooled, there were times when I felt out of place attending Sabbath school and Pathfinders amongst the church school kids clique. I remember the awkwardness and odd looks at elementary music festival when all the students were told to get into their school groups, and I was left alone.

Do our young people feel like outsiders? Are they lonely? Have we created a safe space for them? Do we listen to them? Do we incorporate their ideas? Do we demonstrate our love for them through the investment of our time, energy, and financial resources? Do we show interest in them all the time, or only when we're trying to recruit for our schools? Do we view our young people as statistics or beloved children of God? Do our young people know they are a valued part of their church family?

Isa. 43:4-7 says, "Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

This is our year! We do not dwell on the past, but rather open our eyes to perceive that God is doing something new (Isa. 43:18-19). May we not contribute to the division we see in the world around us, but rather combat it. May we rally together as Adventist educators, united by our love for our young people. Because, unlike the Vikings, when it comes to reaching our young people, there's not always next year. 0





KELLI WASEMILLER is education superintendent for the Dakota Conference.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY*

All schools operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church admit students of any race to all the privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, gender or country of origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Mid-America Union Union College

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Prairie Voyager Adventist School

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Rapid City Adventist Elementary School

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College Park Christian Academy

1114 College Park Dr., Columbia, MO 65203 573.445.6315 | cpchristian. org | colsda@gmail.com

Des Moines Adventist School

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Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist School

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Maranatha Adventist School

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Muscatine Adventist Christian School

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Nevada Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School

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Prescott SDA School

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Summit View Adventist School

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Omaha Memorial Adventist School

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Three Angels Adventist School

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Valley View Adventist School

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Wichita Adventist Christian Academy

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Anoka Adventist Christian School

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Capital City Adventist Christian School

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Detroit Lakes Adventist Christian School

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Maranatha Adventist Christian School

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Southview Christian School

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Delta Seventh-day Adventist School

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Fort Collins Christian School

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SonShine Academy

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Springs Adventist Academy

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Vista Ridge Academy

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*Published annually in compliance with NAD policy

Color Key

Grades 1-8 Grades 1-9 Grades 1-10 **Grades 1-12** Grades 9-12

MID-AMERICA UNION NEWS



Leadership Conference Prepares Academy Students

The annual Mid-America Union Conference
Academy Leadership
Conference was held in
September 2022 at Union
College in Lincoln, Nebraska.
The hosting of the conference is rotated every
year between the MAUC
Office of Education, the
MAUC Church Ministries
Department, and Union
College. This year it was
hosted by Union College.

The purpose of the threeday event was to give students an opportunity to explore what leadership is about and to help them become effective leaders when they return to their respective schools.

Each academy is allotted a certain number of representatives, which usually includes elected student leaders such as class president, vice president and student association officers. This year 55 students participated from Campion Academy, College View Academy, Dakota Adventist Academy, Milland Adventist Academy, Mille High Adventist Academy

and Sunnydale Adventist Academy.

The keynote speaker was **Pastor J-Fiah Reeves**, a Union College graduate and pastor who is currently completing his M.Div degree at Andrews University. Before attending Andrews, he was an associate pastor of two churches in Texas. His presentation focused on the theme "Find Your Fire." His authentic spirit, depth of thought and conversational rapport with the students provided an engaging experience.

The students were included in Union College's annual city-wide community service day, Project Impact. Project Impact is a 40-plus year tradition where students and staff go out into the Lincoln community to help with projects pre-arranged by various local organizations.

Students also experienced what it is like to scale a wall with representatives from the International Relief and Rescue program at Union.

A highlight for some of the students was participating in an emergency response



The leadership event concluded with an awards ceremony. Each participant from Mile High Academy received a \$1,000 scholarship to Union College.

simulation. The scenario placed them in a town that was hit by a major flood with electrical outages. Students worked together with students from other schools to secure resources and save their city.

The Mid-America
Union Conference Office
of Education hopes that
through the training it will
help students develop their
own leadership style and take
away with them a spirit of
unity and cooperation with
others, as well as learn how
to facilitate peer training on
their campuses.

One Campion Academy student said, "We are learning to develop leadership skills and how we can apply them to our own individual strengths. To better work together so we can make things better for everyone."

A student from Mile High Academy shared, "We are learning what our own personal strengths are, and how we can incorporate these strengths into our own leadership experiences."

The event concluded with an awards ceremony. Each participating student from the following academies received the following scholarship amounts to Union College for first, second and third place.

- \$1,000: Mile High Academy
- \$500: Sunnydale Academy
- \$250: Campion Academy

The 2023 Academy Leadership Conference will be an outdoor spiritual retreat hosted by the MAUC Church Ministries/Youth Department. The conference will focus on activities designed to build strong spirituality and promote healthy relationships in leadership and team building.

Gerard Ban is associate director of education for the Mid-America Union Conference.

Mid-America Union Executive Committee Moves Mission Forward



n conjunction with Mid-America Union Conference's year-end meetings, the MAUC Executive Committee convened at union headquarters on Nov. 17, 2022, for the purpose of receiving reports, voting ordination recommendations and reviewing the union's proposed budget for 2023. The 31 committee members in attendance represented all six conferences in the union.

Year-end meetings is a time when all ministry teams come together to discuss advancement of mission and better ways of serving. The meeting, chaired by MAUC president Gary Thurber, focused on upcoming events, membership numbers and financial recommendations coming from the North American Division year-end meetings held last month in Maryland. **Wendy** Eberhardt, a vice president of the NAD, was a guest attendee.

The tone for the day was set by Simon Liversidge, lead pastor of the College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, who concluded his worship series for the week on the various roles outlined for Christians in Scripture by focusing on the role of "friend of Jesus." Even though Jesus calls us friends we Tyrone Douglas, MAUC church ministries director, gives a report to the committee at last November's meeting.

are still in the middle of a spiritual battle zone where we will face challenges. Jesus doesn't promise us safety, Liversidge said, but we can know He is with us because He is calling us, like Esther in the Bible, "for such a time as this."

The numbers

Thurber's presidential report highlighted upcoming events including the NAD Teachers Convention scheduled for August 2023, the International Pathfinder Camporee to be hosted in Gillette, Wyoming, in 2024, and the General Conference Session slated for St. Louis in 2025.

Hubert J. Morel, Jr., vice president of administration for MAUC, shared that membership stands at 65,243 as of Sept. 30, 2022, which is slightly higher than the same period for 2021. The union's financial report showed a slight operating gain compared to the same period in 2021. MAUC vice president for finance Dave VandeVere gave an update of how the funds set aside from last year (including categories of evangelism, training, a media studio, Union College Wellness Center and cyber security) have been put to use

"Tithe is essentially flat across our territory," said VandeVere, "yet we are

thankful for God's people across the union who continue to tithe faithfully."

Discussions during the financial report included suggestions on how to restructure the tithe percentages that are shared between each level of the church. The need for accountability at all levels of the church for the management of resources was re-emphasized by multiple individuals.

The mission and ministry

Vinita Sauder, president of Union College, reported that although enrollment was up last year, it is down for the current school year. This is the case in some other Adventist schools as well, she said. Sauder stated that one way Union College is working to increase enrollment is by launching three new graduate degrees (public health, occupational therapy and leadership). "There's a great spirit on campus," added Sauder. (For more information about Union College visit ucollege.edu.)

AdventSource director **Brad Forbes** shared that 40 years ago-before North America became a division—Union College stepped out and started a brand new ministry. This ministry has morphed over the years into a major resource center that is now under the umbrella of the NAD. "AdventSource is producing a lot of resources, particularly for various children's ministries, Sabbath school, Adventurers and Pathfinders," said Forbes. "Our biggest

challenge is letting churches know what is available."

In his departmental report, Tyrone Douglas, MAUC church ministries director. continued the theme of service in youth ministries. "The stakes are high," he said, emphasizing the need to focus on building relationships.

The people

Sincere thanks was expressed to Rhonda Karr, retiring treasurer of the Iowa-Missouri Conference, for 50 vears of service on various committees at the union. "She has served both long and admirably," said VandeVere during his remarks, "and we are thankful for her valuable contributions."

Three ordination recommendations for pastors were approved, along with six applications for scholarships/ internships. One of these was a business internship application for the Central States Conference headquartered in Kansas City.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, the Excellence in Communication Ministry award for 2022 was presented to Ron Carlson, president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, in recognition of his dedication to prioritizing and utilizing various avenues of communication during his 16 years as conference president.

The next MAUC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023.

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

Adventist Attorney Gives Back to School That Gave Him so Much

oday's culture of latest trends and chasing social media followers (the modern word of popularity) has made it easier to see someone for only their accomplishments or the finer things they've acquired, and assume their life has always been that way. When you meet attorney Stephen Williams that could easily be the case, as he is seemingly living "the American dream" as a husband and father of two in his sixteenth year practicing law and his second year running his own firm.

Williams is full of life and overflows with love and kindness, but many don't know the trials he's endured or the school to which Williams attributes his successes. Here's the inside scoop.

An exemplary village

As a Kansas City, Missouri, native and second generation Adventist, Williams has spent the last two decades of his life providing legal representation for underserved communities while trying to bridge the gap between seeking justice and actually experiencing it. Since the start of his career, he's served as a youth federation president, school board president, youth leader and community service director at his church (Linwood Seventh-day Adventist Temple), board member for numerous nonprofits, and has been a phenomenal community mentor to those younger and older.





This kind of expression of love takes an exemplary village to cultivate and harvest. Williams acknowledges that, from a very young age, the keys to his successes came from his village which consisted of home, church and, most notably, V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist School.

For many children, home, church and school are three very separate entities. But for many Adventist children—and especially children who, like Williams, are born to pastors—those

pinnacle segments have a lot of overlap.

According to the Parent Institute, contrary to what it may seem, children only spend around 13 percent of their waking hours in school by age 18. This acknowledges that children learn some of their most important lessons at home—lessons that families teach best.

But what happens when your school environment is both like a family and church environment? In Williams' case, the answer is relentless resilience that leads to physical, mental and spiritual victories.

We recently sat down with Williams to get a personal look at his experience:

Why do you feel so endeared to V. Lindsay?

Having matriculated through various institutions of learning—i.e., majority institutions, Christian colleges, international programs, and the mecca of HBCU's Howard School of Law—my experience has been that there was always a teacher or maybe two who saw something in me and invested in me. However, during my eight years at V. Lindsay, I was not only poured into by one or two teachers, I was poured into by every staff member there.

Further, they didn't pour into me because I was special; they poured into me because that was the culture and

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expectation that V. Lindsay held and still holds today. Frankly, I've always felt that I was an average student with an above average support system. I champion V. Lindsay because I'm still grateful for what it gave me and I want other students/families to have the same experience.

Are there any life lessons learned at V. Lindsay that still benefit you today?

Yes, that your value is not connected to your accomplishments. Believe it or not, people have doubted my ability to reach my goals my entire life (except for my time at V. Lindsay). Some doubters are harmless and quiet, but with others, the doubt is harmful and loud; all of it heightens the pressure to succeed. In college there were those who didn't think I'd be admitted into law school. pass the bar and become an attorney. As an attorney, I've had supervisors who didn't think I was smart enough, clients who didn't think I was tough enough, lawyers and judges who simply didn't think I had what it takes to represent multi-million-dollar organizations in trial.

So how do you keep

pushing when trying to accomplish something that most haven't when the haters are waiting for you to fail and eager to scream "I told you so" at any opportunity? You separate your value as a person from your accomplishments and failures.

At V. Lindsay, despite my circumstances, behavior, grades, attitude, accomplishments or failures, I was always treated in a way that made me feel like I was enough. With this level of confidence and self-awareness, I am capable of facing the daily haters and doubt and remain resilient in times of defeat and humble in moments of victory.

I believe the same lesson about people's value is what led me to become a public defender and why community service is more of a lifestyle choice than a one-off event for me. I strongly believe that we are all more than our current circumstances and I'm grateful to have been taught that at V. Lindsay and equally honored to be able to share that this year with current students of V. Lindsay.

Ana Davis is a legal assistant for the Law Office of Stephen R. Williams, LLC.

Back 2 School Bash

On Aug. 7, 2022, V. Lindsay hosted their first annual Back 2 School Bash, sponsored by the Law Office of Stephen R. Williams, LLC. True to himself and his passion for people, children and his alma mater, Williams desired to commemorate his one-year anniversary of having his own firm by sponsoring this event. Together he, the school's principal Jessica Jacobs, and nearly 30 other vendors and volunteers hosted a phenomenal three-hour event with live music, bounce houses, water slides, a petting zoo, dunk tanks, free food and, best of all, giving away nearly 150 pairs of brand-new shoes to V. Lindsay students and surrounding community children in grades kindergarten to fourth—with the help of some new friends at Target.

Many alumni came from near and far to show their support and brought their own families to participate in the raffles and free giveaways. There was an intense game of musical chairs where top winners received cash, \$100 gift cards and other gift cards to popular stores and restaurants. The grand prize of a 55-inch television was fought for tooth and nail through a dance-off won by the son of a V. Lindsay alumnus. As it turns out, the tenacity, perseverance, high energy and confidence gained at V. Lindsay has multigenerational results.

For more information about V. Lindsay Seventh-Day Adventist School, visit www. central-states.org/vlindsay.

For more information about the Law Office of Stephen R. Williams or to schedule a free consultation, visit www.srwilliamslaw.com.

Outdoor School Returns to the Dakotas



utdoor School seeks to empower students to explore the natural world and encounter their Creator God. This program had been on hold due to COVID-19, so students in grades K-8 were excited to gather again for a week at Northern Lights Camp. Outdoor School provides an opportunity for students to enjoy a unique educational environment, foster scientific curiosity, develop friendships, learn about God through experiencing nature and create a desire for lifelong outdoor learning.

Students were divided up into grade groups to rotate through learning stations that correlated to this year's

science curriculum. Teachers led out in a food chain art project, classification of animals and a very exciting fish dissection. Students also visited Metigoshe State Park's Learning Center for a lesson in wildlife ecology and to play a new game called Ranger. Cooler weather prevented lake activities, but learning to forage for edible plants and a photo scavenger hunt kept students active and exploring the fall flora and fauna.

Afternoon STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) projects were a highlight as students were divided up into multi-grade teams, with an eighth grader leading each team. TJ Roberts, teacher

from Sioux Falls, led out in a rocket-building project where students developed a simple paper prototype before moving on to create a large bottle rocket. Teams created a supply budget and then proceeded to build a decorative rocket with hopes it would fly the longest. Lower-grade students excitedly counted down "3 ... 2 ... 1," before performing their role as rocket launcher.

Another STEM project found students working in upper and lower-grade pairs to build a boat using only string and nature supplies found around camp. Sticks were tied together, leaves packed in for waterproofing and makeshift sails hung. As the boats were launched off the beach, students could be heard saying, "Wow, look at that one made with bark; it's not sinking. That was smart!" or, "Our leaf sail is catching the wind!" Innovation at its finest.

Dakota Adventist Academy seniors spent the week leading out in evening games and assisting with the meals and learning stations. Their help was greatly appreciated, and their energy even more so as games of Banana Tag, Capture the Flag, and Duck Duck Goose encouraged teamwork and healthy sportsmanship. Any time a high schooler invests in an elementary school student, a difference is made.

DAKOTA CONFERENCE

The week's theme was "All Creatures Great and Small," based on Job 12:7-10. Morning and evening worships drew students together as they connected the wonders of nature with a wonderful, loving God. Each school took turns leading out in worship music followed by devotionals shared by Dakota pastors and conference personnel.

Initially, students would only sit with their friends from their school, but by the end of the week everyone had made so many new friends that you couldn't tell any of the schools apart. It was a beautiful visual of the family of God!

All week long, students were encouraged to engage in activities in God's

classroom, so they might discover God through His creation and seek to know Him more deeply. Outdoor School is a time and energy commitment for all of the teachers, pastors and support staff, but their dedication is greatly appreciated.

The Dakota Conference is devoted to its young people and looks forward to future opportunities to minister to all of our amazing Dakota kids.

Kelli Wasemiller is superintendent of elementary education for the Dakota Conference.







IOWA-MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Outdoor School Uses Nature to Teach Students About God

his year, Outdoor School had over 60 fifth and sixth-grade students from our conference elementary schools and several homeschools.



Pam Roney

The weather was hot, but it was a blessing because we were able to add swimming to our activities. Several Sunnydale Adventist Academy students who are trained lifeguards took time away from their own schedules to help us have a fun and safe event. Iowa-Missouri Conference ministerial director Lee Rochholz even planned some water Olympics games, which students loved.

Students were able to take three classes while they were at camp: Animal Tracking, Nature Crafts and Orienteering. Each activity

was focused on helping students have new encounters with their Creator in nature.

In Animal Tracking, led by Kathy Rowe, students learned how to look for signs of animal life and studied the different tracks animals leave. Students especially enjoyed using special presses to make their own animal track cookies.

In Nature Crafts, students painted positive messages on kindness rocks and were able to place them all around Camp Heritage. They also painted nature scenes on wood slices and made nature mandalas with items found in nature.

Jeff Fender, pastor for the Sedalia and Warrensburg churches, led out in Orienteering with the help of his wife Misty, where students learned to orient themselves with a compass and read a map.

The theme for Outdoor School this year was "Seek and Find." Attendees were blessed to hear messages from speakers who challenged students to spend time every day seeking to know God more.

Melissa Morris is education superintendent for the lowa-Missouri Conference.

Innovative School Programs Draw in Communities

wo elementary schools' programs have helped increase enrollment and involvement in their schools.

Springfield Adventist Junior Academy has a homeschool program where homeschooled children can attend the school on Wednesdays for classes. These classes are focused on STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Fifteen homeschoolers attend weekly.

Due to the group size (23 total including those enrolled at the school full time), half the students do PE while the other half do

the STEAM activity. During PE, the group takes swimming or gymnastics taught at the Springfield Gymnastics and Aquatics Center.

"I have seen this [program] really help the relationship between our large homeschool community and our school," said Amanda Fender, teacher at Springfield.

Additionally, an innovative program has started at the Sedalia Adventist School. This year they have a new program, Forest School, which places an emphasis on nature. Students spend two or more hours outside daily as

part of their curriculum.

Enrollment at the school has doubled in comparison to last year. Principal and teacher Jeff White said this is partially due to Forest School. The program was an attractive element to parents considering different area schools, according to White. He said he enjoys being able to teach outside and considers some of the unique lessons he is able to teach because of the environment "priceless."

"As a teacher, one loves being able to challenge students physically by allowing them to run, jump, dig and build while

mentally challenging them by incorporating their lessons into their time outside," White said.

At the time of this writing, Christina Coston was communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Jamelle Cook

IOWA-MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Students Positively Impacted by **Sunnydale Academy**

A re Adventist boarding academies still relevant today? Are they still effective and able to fulfill the mission of their founders? Is it still a worthwhile investment?

Sunnydale Adventist Academy students believe it is. Here's what they are saying.*

↑ t Sunnydale, I have learned that God is a relationship you have to put effort into, that it's not something that [is] automatically there. You need to allow God into your life, and without coming to Sunnydale, I would have probably never learned how to gain my own relationship with Him. ... I'm ecstatic that Sunnydale has this environment where you don't have to be ashamed to get to know God."

// I've learned that God is with you through thick and thin. And that you can talk to Him at any time—that talking to God is like talking to your best friend. You don't need to get on your knees every time you talk to Him. You might want to talk or pray to Him before a test or a meeting. Whatever it is, He wants you to talk to Him and tell Him your problems, even though He already knows them."



Dawn Junior

Harmony Junior

unnydale has helped me a lot through its Student Leadership Program. [It has taught me] to be bold in sharing the love of God and how He has worked in my life. While He has helped me grow in the bad times, He has taught me to be grateful and patient in the good times."

y walk with Christ at Sunnydale has been a struggle. At points I think to myself, Why [is God] letting this happen to me? However, when I hear pastors or students give testimonies, I realize how God [has] a purpose [for me]. ... God knows my struggles and knows what I need, and not what I desire. I have chosen to dedicate my life to Him, to know my worth in His eyes, to worship and lift His name and to never forget He is the one and only who died for my sins."

Chrissy lunior

Elise Junior

There is no doubt that God is at work in the hearts and minds of our students. With nearly 170 students enrolled, we are preparing for mission trips to Tanzania and India, as well as currently doing outreach projects for our neighbors and the local community. The music department has begun touring to area churches, and the sports programs are in full swing. We are busy and blessed, and God is working in so many ways.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we and our fellow academies continue our mission to make heaven crowded!

*Student names have been changed at their request.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONFERENCE

Midland Adventist Academy Students Volunteer at Renewed Hope Food Pantry

uesdays are special for students in grades 5-12 from Midland Adventist Academy. They climb aboard a bus and head out for the Renewed Hope Food Pantry at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas, The fifth and sixth graders are accompanied by their teacher, Sara Neill on the second Tuesday of the month, the seventh and eighth graders are led by Jeremy Bayer, their homeroom teacher, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and high school students are accompanied by Ryan

Dennis, their Bible teacher, alternating on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Bayer says, "It is a highlight of the month and the students look forward to it. Other workers there comment on how well the class is behaved and how much of a joy they are to work with. You can hear kids often telling the people who come through; 'Have a nice day,' or 'God Bless,' and it is a joy to hear."

Aiden, a sixth grader, says, "The food pantry is great! It feels nice to put food in the people's cars. I enjoy seeing

them come through and the smiles on their faces. It is an awesome experience."

"When I go to the food pantry it makes me very happy when I can do good, help the community and give back. It's fun and I get exercise while helping. All the volunteers there are so kind and helpful. It's so nice to see the smiles on people's faces when we help serve," says Zaira, another student.

"My experience at the food pantry is amazing! What I love about it is that we have fun, help people and share the



word of God. I also love meeting new people and hanging out with my friends. When you're at the food pantry you feel so good that you made a difference in someone's life. It's always an amazing day on Tuesday!" adds **Olivia**.

Greg Murphy is principal of Midland Adventist Academy.

Women's Ministries Hosts Happy, Healthy, Hopeful Retreat

A ttendees to the Happy, Healthy, Hopeful women's retreat in Junction City, Kansas, on Oct. 7-9, 2022, received a break from work and responsibilities, a vital connection with friends and a path forward through challenging circumstances.

The main presenter, **Dr. Beverly Sedlacek**, a highly sought-after international speaker and clinical director of a Christian counseling ministry, shared many insights into why we do the things we do. For instance, if our parents met our need for comfort as a child, we received the ability to forgive, give compassion and empathy, and tell ourselves it's okay to feel. If that need for comfort went unmet, we have difficulty with forgiveness,

compassion, blocked feelings, and comprehending the forgiveness of Jesus for ourselves.

Sedlacek shared the importance of addressing these issues in our lives because, if we ignore them, they will continue to resurface in our lives. In order to heal these and other hurts we must live in community with others where we are "seen, safe, secure and soothed." Living in this kind of setting, healing is possible.

One attendee said, "I absolutely loved the speaker, the singing and just being around so many Christian and Godfearing women. I learned how important community and healing is."

In addition, the retreat provided practical information on how to be healthy physically

through exercise and proper sleep, nutrition and self-care.

Our teens also enjoyed the weekend by joining with the adults for Dr. Sedlacek's presentations as well as having their own presentations by Salissa Tonkin, a young adult leader from the College View Church, and meaningful chats about life with other young adult leaders: Jolina Console, Sophia Jaquez, Milka Mendoza Sanchez and Hannah Chin. The outdoor fire pit and s'mores added to the fun.

On Saturday night, ladies enjoyed making sunflower wreaths, a "Walk Away the Pounds" step class, and the saltwater swimming pool.

The weekend went by all too quickly, but many left saying

they are eagerly awaiting our gathering next year.

Sue Carlson is director of women's ministries for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



All women are invited to join us Oct. 6-8, 2023 in Junction City, Kansas, for our next conference women's retreat.



Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference

College View Academy SOARs

Teachers learn, implement PBIS framework



ummer vacation—no one really knows who is more excited for summer vacation. the teachers or the students. While it's nearly impossible for our middle schoolers to hide their joy as the end of May rolls around, as teachers we get pretty excited too. Last summer, we were especially eager for June to arrive, but not because of what you would think. We weren't headed on a relaxing beach trip with the sun out and our feet up. Instead, this trip took us to Savannah, Georgia, to a School Climate Conference with a focus on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

According to pbis.org, "PBIS is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health." It's a three-tiered framework that focuses on the idea of clear and consistent expectations

having the power to prevent problem behaviors, while at the same time focusing on the reinforcement of positive choices to create an overall warm and inviting learning community.

At the heart of this framework is the belief that when expectations are clearly stated and explicitly taught consistently, the majority of students will be able to follow them. In simpler terms, students need to be taught how to behave—even if they've been taught before, even if it was just yesterday.

While at the conference, we had the opportunity to not only listen and learn from the presenters but were (gratefully) given time to create the necessary materials to implement this in our building. Our College View Academy team was already familiar with PBIS, but now we had a cohesive plan that we could share with the rest

of our team.

Because we are the CVA Eagles, our team decided on the school-wide acronym SOAR, which stands for Safe, On Task, Appropriate, and Respectful/Responsible. You will find these common expectations on our SOAR posters throughout the school, reminding our students what CVA Eagles exemplify in each scenario. It doesn't matter if students are on the playground, in the classroom or in an assembly—they know what to do!

One of our favorite parts is the SOAR ticket we hand out to students when we see them exemplifying positive behaviors. We all have collection containers in our classrooms. where we combine the tickets and draw out students' names each week. This is especially fun when we have a K-8 assembly and can recognize students from all our classes as a K-8 school family.

If you are ever around, you might even hear us chant, "I am an eagle, watch me soar. We are eagles, we stand for: Safe, On Task, Appropriate, Respectful!" You might also see our converted trophy case prominently displaying our CVA eagle nest on an ever-growing bed of SOAR tickets as we continue to see students' positive behaviors growing.

Implementing PBIS throughout the elementary and middle school has transformed how our building looks at behavior. Instead of thinking of it as something students should just know how to do, we now see it as another part of the curriculum that needs to be taught and reviewed throughout the year. Most importantly, it gives us a structure to positively recognize students and has put us all—teachers and students—on the same page.

We are grateful for the focus that CVA places on the positives: rewarding students for their choices, encouraging our team of teachers to explore additional resources and learning opportunities, and crafting an overall positive environment where students and staff alike pursue an uplifting relationship with God and each other. We love CVA. Here we SOAR!

Angela Heam is the eighth grade teacher at CVA. Jeaneen Erickson is the sixth grade teacher at CVA.

Minnesota Conference Holds Consecration Service

he Minnesota Conference team gathered for a special consecration service on Oct. 22, 2022, focused on recommitting to service in Jesus Christ. Our officers, president Daniel Honoré, vp for administration Eric Mokua. and vp for finance Gayln **Bowers**, received charges from Mid-America Union administration and signed pledges to put Christ first in everything they do as they serve God in Minnesota.

G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, shared a homily that inspired church workers to depend on Jesus in our efforts to win souls for Him. We were blessed with special music from various church groups: One Voice Ministry, a children's choir

from Kenyan Community Church; Chosen Generation, a music group from various Spanish-speaking congregations; the young adult praise team from Pathways Adventist Church; and the children's choir from Southview Adventist Church. Sean Lee, pastor of Southview Adventist Church, coordinated the music and led in congregational singing.

A variety of incredible church pastors and leaders from across North America attended and participated in the service. The theme "Jesus our North Star" led the way as pastors, teachers and conference office personnel were challenged and charged to lead with Christ at the center.

As the program concluded, Dr. Honoré responded to the charges given and shared his

vision for moving Minnesota forward in mission. The service was a high day, resulting in attendees leaving revitalized for ministry and excited

for God's leading.

Savannah Carlson is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.







(from top right) G. Alexander Bryant, president of the NAD, speaks at the consecration service.

(l-r) Eric Mokua, Daniel Honoré and Gayln Bowers sign their leadership pledges.

Southview Church children's choir Pathways Young Adult praise team



North Star Camp Hosts Outdoor School

orth Star Camp was once again the venue for this year's Outdoor School, an annual educational event sponsored by the Minnesota Conference for fifth-eigth graders. It was incredible to see every Minnesota Adventist elementary school represented last October, as well as home-schoolers from three different areas. In total, we had 106 students and 25 teachers and adults.

The presenter for the week was **Pastor Abner Aguilar** from the Hutchinson Adventist Church. He spoke each morning and evening for group worship, holding the students' attention with riveting stories as well as challenging them to explore their relationship with Christ in a more meaningful way.

We were also privileged to have several different schools lead music at the beginning of each worship, not only drawing us closer to God but to each other.

The kitchen staff were amazing. They prepared a great variety of meals for the entire group. After each meal, the school groups were assigned jobs around camp.



They helped sweep and clean the lodge, wash and put away dishes, clean bathrooms and pick up trash around the camp. It helped keep the camp looking better than when we arrived.

Each morning after worship was finished, the students were separated into groups by grade level. A new curriculum had been developed and was introduced this year, which was both enjoyable and interactive. The fifth grade class learned about orienteering as well as fishing. A couple professional anglers volunteered their knowledge and skills to teach students about fishing.

Students learned what type of bait to use, how to bait a hook and even how to remove a fish when caught—although some were not interested in that part!

Our sixth graders had the opportunity to explore Native American studies, which included learning how to forage for edible plants and berries. Survival skills were on the list for the seventh graders, and learning how to start a fire was one of their favorites.

Being surrounded by the great outdoors was perfect for the eighth grade studies of the forest and trees. They discovered what makes a forest healthy, as well as how to identify trees by their leaves.

There were many activities planned to keep the students both entertained and busy. In the afternoon, they had four different rotations during which they decorated bird houses, did team building challenges, canoed and learned how to use the sun to

print on special paper.

The kids were excited to take some of their finished work home. Every evening, an exciting group activity was planned, from capture the flag in the dark with glow sticks to movie night with popcorn and cotton candy.

By the end of our time at camp, the students had not only learned a few things but made lasting friendships and, we hope, grew in their knowledge of God and His love for them. We want to send a big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and skills, in one way or another, to make Outdoor School 2022 a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Dixie Fly, a member of the Hutchinson Adventist Church, is a registered nurse and mother of three children. Two of her children attended Outdoor School this year, and Dixie volunteered as nurse for the event.



Photos: Dixie Fly

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Volunteers from Arvada Bring Aid to Ukraine

ast September, nine volunteers from Arvada Church, Arvada Indonesian Church and North Hills Church from California met in Warsaw, Poland, and headed toward the Ukraine border. The week they spent there was demanding physically, mentally and, especially, emotionally.

The refugee center in Mlyniv, Ukraine, that works with orphans and widows of war had a blown heater boiler, damaged chimney and no firewood for the upcoming winter. This guaranteed them a harsh and cold wintertime. The Arvada team ensured that none of these things were an

issue any more, and that the kids would have warm rooms to enjoy.

An Adventist church in Poltava on the east side of the country has been serving 1,500 refugees per day. "You read it right: 1,500 people come for help every day," reported **Miloš Tomić**. The city of 300,000 people has been hosting 400,000 refugees. "Hygiene products—especially baby supplies—are in high demand. Our team brought them a truckload. That truckload was gone in two days," he continued.

Many refugees came to personally thank the volunteers. Most of the refugees would

Hundreds of needy Ukrainian people were served by Arvada volunteers.

briefly thank us for the things we brought for them and then, often in tears and at length, thank us for being there. "You care for us," they said. "It seems that everyone started forgetting us, but you didn't."

"Our Arvada Indonesian church is already planning a new trip soon," said Arvada pastor **Gordon Anic**. Information supplied by Miloš Tomić, associate pastor at the Arvada Church in Colorado.`



Learn how to support the Ukraine refugee aid project by emailing milos@ aachurch.org.

MHA Leaders Shave Heads for a Cause





ile High Academy's principal, Andrew Carpenter, had a crazy idea when planning school events. What if he shaved his head once the students raised a specific dollar amount? After hearing the idea, Jocelyn Aalborg, MHA's vice principal of finance and development, decided to make it the main reward for the 2022 Walk-A-Thon. During each of the last three Walk-A-Thons, MHA brought in roughly \$25,000. This money went to the Worthy Student Fund, a program that makes it possible for students who

can't afford MHA to pursue private education.

With the principal's hair on the line, MHA needed to go big! So Carpenter and Aalborg doubled the amount, making the goal \$50,000 for Carpenter's hair. Thinking the goal may be too far-reaching, they wanted to add a reward for incremental fundraising. They asked athletic director **Michael Camacho** if he would be willing to shave his head when MHA reached \$35,000. He agreed, and the plan moved forward.

Emalee, a freshman, said, "At first, I was upset that coach Camacho would shave his head, but I am happy he did it for such a good cause."

Another student commented, "Just saying that you will shave your head if you reach monetary goals is cool, but the crazy part is we achieved these goals, and both our coach and principal shaved their heads."

If every student raised \$220, they would reach the \$50,000 goal. Several students—and teachers—took it as a challenge, and the contributions started rolling in.

Walk-A-Thon took place Sept. 30, and donations were left open for one week past the event. By Oct. 7, the event had brought in \$43,000, surpassing the first goal. Administration decided to keep donations open for a few more days and pushed the students to raise \$7,000 more so they could shave both Camacho's and Carpenter's heads. On Oct. 12, MHA hit its goal of \$50,000!

On Oct. 18, an all-school

chapel was held in the gym. The chapel started strong with music from history teacher and high school chaplain Rebecca Berg. Though still nervous about shaving his head, Carpenter knew it was for a good cause and was genuinely passionate about it.

As coach Camacho went to the front to shave his head, students started chanting, "Shave their heads!" **Christina Herrera**, a professional hair stylist and MHA parent, was invited to perform the honors. After a few minutes, it was time for Carpenter to be shaved. The students cheered and chanted. The event was both fun and memorable for students and faculty.

Adelaide Eno, Asher LeVos and Eeheon Ryu are Mile High Academy journalism students.

GVR Hosts Wonder Woman Retreat

lacier View Ranch was J blessed to host the Rocky Mountain Conference women's ministries group on its campus Sept. 23-25, 2022. Iana Thurber, RMC women's ministries director, coordinated the weekend's program, which brought over 100 women and teen girls from throughout the conference. "When God enters your story you become God's Wonder Woman!" was the retreat theme, based on Eph. 6:10-18—becoming "strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" when we wear his armor.

The main speaker, **Sharon Leach**, delved into the stories of Old Testament women, especially Rahab, Abigal and Noah's wife. Thurber said, "Sharon used creativity and humor to drive home new spiritual perspectives from the Bible stories of women in Jesus' lineage. We were all blessed by our speaker's insights into how God masterfully used Jesus' grandmothers to further His purposes."

A heavenly worship and praise atmosphere was created by the incredible praise team put together by Suzie **Sendros**. The praise team included Melissa Clouzet. professional vocalist, and Melanie Goetz on piano and vocals. Vickie Kahler and Tamara Mallory were also vocalists, and Heidi **Sorensen** played violin. We were blessed by the spiritual atmosphere created by their music and were consistently brought to the throne room through their leading in



Presentations, prayers and fellowship in God's nature contributed to an unforgettable retreat.

songs of praise and adoration.

Dick Stenbakken, the Saturday evening presenter, displayed his collection of authentic pieces of the Roman warrior's armor. He demonstrated the different pieces a warrior wore, and how they were used as protection. He explained how each piece tied into the "Armor of God" spiritual application.

The GRV Elk Room hosted four separate areas for journaling, reflecting, praying and snacking, each creatively arranged by members of the RMC women's ministry team: Alicia Knutsen, Amber Fellers, Ardis Stenbakken, Carol Spahr, Elizabeth Arroyo, Jackie Hayes, Jerilyn Pester, Jill Anderson, Judy Kelly, Marlene Poole, Marta Wells, Mary Perez-Gonzalez, Mona Fellers, Raelyn Wortman, Stefanie Deapen, and Valerie Iohnson.

The break-out presenters, special workshop speakers and teen leaders covered pertinent subjects including Stefanie Deapen's "Lets 'Meat," Jill Anderson's "Totally Titus Two Women," and Alicia Patterson's presentation on "Fearless

Females Finding Courage in a Fearful World." Mary Phillips, a health coach, spoke on how a healthy mind creates a healthy body. Jessyka Dooley and Vanessa Alarcon engaged the teens with a time of learning about the armor of God by using Sour Patch Kids and other candy, and then internalizing their lessons.

Additionally, professional counselors Marta Wells, Sandy Eickmann, JoAnne Jones and Lynnette Cunningham were available for private counseling.

The weekend was packed with activities, interspersed with rest and private time and an opportunity to walk around the lake and stop at designated places to journal about each piece in the armor of God.

Many women participated in a service project by making gift bags for women and children in women's shelters around our conference. Gratitude goes to all attendees who donated items for this project. As the gift bags were creatively put together, individual prayers ascended that God would connect the

customized bags with just the right recipients.

Karen Dooley, together with GVR staff and other volunteers, made sure the women had delicious food to eat, including those who had special dietary needs.

Nancy Buxton, Mid-American Union women's ministry director, gave her support, friendship and prayers to the RMC team.

Among the volunteers was a group of Campion Academy students who arrived at check-in time to assist the women with bringing in their luggage. This made many participants feel special.

"God truly blessed our Spirit-led fellowship together in the mountains," concluded Thurber. "God was present in the awesome prayer room. His presence was felt while fellowshipping with Him on the prayer walk around the lake. And in the many conversations and interactive workshops and presentations we knew He was there with us. We hope more of our RMC women will be able to join us for next year's retreat, Sept. 22-24, 2023. We are beginning our planning soon and you won't want to miss out on a great weekend together at next year's refreshing mountain retreat at Glacier View Ranch!"

Julia Hansen serves as director of Guest Services at Glacier View Ranch.



Originally hired as a summer intern, Brian Peoples continued to work in Senator Ben Sasse's office through the fall semester.

Photos: Scott Cushman/Union College

Brian Peoples: A Behind-the-scenes View of the Senate

The average citizen never gets a behind-the-scenes look at the United States Senate. But Brian Peoples certainly isn't average. The senior international relations and history major has been working in Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse's Lincoln office for the last four and a half months.

Although Peoples was originally hired as a summer intern, he was asked to stav on the senator's team into the school year. "In this internship, I've gotten a more complete idea of how the senate works," he said. "Not only do I better understand what the senator's job is, but also I've gotten to be part of the team behind the senator making sure he has what he needs to get to the right vote on time." Peoples plans to keep working at the senator's office until the end of 2022, when Sasse is expected to resign his seat.

Peoples watches committee hearings to write reports for the senator's team. He also assists at community service outreach

programs around the state and writes congratulatory letters to Sasse's constituents. "Working on the senator's team has definitely strengthened my patience and my ability to work with people who believe differently than I do," he said. "It's a really well-rounding experience."

Peoples added that a major part of his internship consisted of answering phone calls and emails from constituents. "It sounds like a boring task, but it's not when you're dealing with people calling in about political issues. It's my responsibility to communicate what the senator believes effectively, even if my personal beliefs are different."

Applying for political internships can be competitive, but Peoples had an advantage. "Union has a really great reputation," he said. "Sasse's office has hired a lot of our students as interns, so they know we do good work. We already have a background understanding of the national and global political situation, so what we're

doing isn't brand new to us."

"One day, my boss came up to me and said, 'You Union kids all write exceptionally well. Why is that?' I told him we have some pretty awesome teachers." Peoples credits his confidence in writing to his general education English classes from **Dr.**Tanya Cochran. "I already knew how to write effectively and concisely when I came into the office. That was really critical to my success."

Peoples appreciates Union's practical approach to the study of international relations. While other international relations programs tend only to focus on cultures around the globe, Union places emphasis on connections between countries and how they interact. "Union's program prepares you for real-world jobs," said Peoples. "You leave the program with a much more holistic understanding of the world's history and how we got to where we are today."

Peoples is focusing his studies on Eastern Europe

and supplementing his education with Russian language classes at the nearby University of Nebraska. "I actually took the first year of classes for credit toward my degree here at Union," he said. "Union has an equivalency program that allows you to study more languages than the college itself offers."

After he completes his undergraduate degrees, Peoples is planning to apply to law school. "My goal is to become an international lawyer, with the hope of one day working in the State Department in a policy advisory position on Eastern European-American relations."

Although he's looking forward to the future, the thought of graduating and leaving Union is bittersweet for Peoples. "There's a community here who cares about you and your success. The international relations program feels like family."

Caleb Wehling: Choosing a Career in Healthcare

A lthough nursing student Caleb Wehling loves his major now, he didn't always want to become a nurse. With a nurse and an anesthesiologist for parents, the junior from Kearney, Nebraska, decided to forge his own path in computer science. But something was missing.

"I thought I was going to play on computers, write code and stuff like that, even though I'm way too active to be sitting at a desk," he said. "My dad asked me if I wanted to come to his job and see what doctors and nurses do. I went and realized this was the career I wanted. Medical technology is the bleeding edge of innovation, and getting to work with those innovations as well as getting to work with my hands is the best of both worlds."

Wehling fell in love with nursing and its combination of technological innovation and hands-on caring. When he came to Union, he couldn't wait to study both—in clinical settings as well as in Union's Nursing Simulation Center.

Union's nursing students complete more than 925 clinical hours by the time they graduate. Students get to experience nursing in all the major hospital systems around the city of Lincoln. Under the supervision of a nurse, students assess patients, assist them with basic needs and administer medications. "Injections are the best," said Wehling. "Drawing up medications,

injecting them, even giving IV medications—it's all fun to me. In clinicals, you finally get to do all this fun stuff that your professors talk about in the classroom and show on lecture slides. It's really cool to see the direct connection between what you learn in class and what you see the same week on the floor."

While clinicals take place under direct supervision, Union nursing students prepare to take on the full range of nursing work independently in Union's Nursing Simulation Center.

Wehling said, "Sim lab is awesome because it is the closest you can get to being a nurse without being one. Everything you learn in clinical and class all comes together in the simulation center."

The Simulation Center is outfitted with high-tech patient simulators that not only look like people, but also mimic bodily functions such as pulse, pupil reactions, breathing, speech and

reactions to medicine. With multiple rooms and patient simulators, the simulation center is set up to emulate a real hospital floor.

Students learn to work as a team to provide care to multiple patients at once. Instructors observe the students from a control room, so the students learn to provide care to a patient independently.

Wehling appreciates the independence the Nursing Simulation Center technology provides. "The simulation center really feels like a hospital floor," he said. "There's a medication dispensing machine, patient charts and accurate rooms with equipment in each one. All the responsibility comes down to you: you get to administer medications, do the problem solving, and call the 'physician.' It's very intense, but it's the best practice you can get."

After drilling their skills in the Simulation Center.

students debrief with their instructors. Wehling considers Union's professors to be one of the best parts of the nursing program.

"I don't have one professor who feels disconnected," he said. "They're engaged with us every semester, and they really want us to pass these classes. Our professors are always asking us what they can do to improve their classes and help us succeed."

When he graduates, Wehling wants to work in a Lincoln ICU before becoming a nurse anesthetist. Even though he's looking forward to his first shift on the floor alone, he's enjoying being a nursing student.

"I've never been so excited about topics or willing to learn before," he said. "The nursing program is hard, but it's so much fun. I wouldn't choose anything else."

Stories on these pages are by Annika Cambigue, a Union College junior English and communication major from Ohio.

At first, Caleb Wehling didn't want to follow his parents into a medical career, but God had other plans.



"Love Works" Event Provides Health **Screenings and Self-Care to Local Refugees**

dventHealth Shawnee Mission, in partnership with New Change 4 Youth, recently hosted the second annual "Love Works" event.

This year, "Love Works" was held in the Mercy and Truth Community Room located in the heart of a refugee community in Kansas City, Kansas. Over 80 participants attended, including mothers, teen daughters and children representing five African and Asian countries.

New Change 4 Youth (NC4Y) is a mission focused on ministering to young people of refugee families in Kansas City, Kansas. Many have come from war-torn countries, suffered persecution and survived harsh living conditions in the refugee camps.

For these refugees, their new life in the United States continues to be challenging as they struggle to provide for the basic needs of their children, and to prepare them for a life in a new community and culture. NC4Y has chosen to minister through building friendships, sharing the gospel and seeking to support and care for the whole person.

Participants of "Love Works" came together for an evening of pampering, selfcare, health education and fun. They entered the event location to find spa stations for foot baths, hand paraffin dips and facials all surrounding a beautiful fountain in the

room. The health education portion of the evening was translated in four different languages with an emphasis on health screenings, prevention and self-care. Several women signed up for free women's health cancer screenings provided at the health clinic.

"We really wanted to help these women make sure they get their annual women's health exam, including their cancer screenings," said Jeanette Metzler, community benefit manager at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. "It was an opportunity to help them get those appointments scheduled and help them understand the importance of these screenings."

Metzler also shared that the event provided a space for participants to connect with one another. Many of them did not know of the

other refugee families in the community, and during the event they formed friendships, creating a larger sense of community within the group.

"It was such a pleasure to have a special time with just our daughters, and I am thankful that childcare was provided for my younger children," said Anna,* an event attendee.

At the close of the event, every participant was gifted a tote bag full of bath, body and feminine hygiene products.

Elisabeth Cowan. a registered nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission NICU and the co-founder and youth leader of the NC4Y leaders, shared what a blessing it was to witness the connections formed at the event. "It was amazing to see our teen NC4Y girls welcome and quickly become friends with a refugee teen from

Afghanistan. The smiles and giggles throughout the evening reminded us of how God's love isn't limited by language."

Both Metzler and Cowan look forward to continuing to provide the "Love Works" event annually to bring resources, education and support for the community.

"The story of NC4Y is a miracle story," said Cowan. "It's a story of what God does when hearts, moved and motivated by His love, live out His call. It's a story of how at just the right time, when needed most, when there seems to be no way forward, God provides! And we stand in awe!"

Elizabeth Camps is a senior stakeholder communications specialist at AdventHealth.

*Name has been changed for privacy

Participants of the "Love Works" event came together for an evening of pampering, self-care, health education and fun. There were spa stations for foot baths, hand paraffin dips and facials all surrounding a beautiful fountain in the room where the event took place.



ADVENTHEALTH ROCKY MOUNTAIN/CENTURA

Complimentary iPads Enhance Education for AdventHealth University Nursing Students

7 hile Chelsey Voglewede's children are on the field for soccer practice, onlookers are likely to spot the thirdyear nursing student on the sidelines spending time on her iPad. She's not shopping on Amazon or chatting on social media but rather doing her nursing schoolwork on a device gifted to her from AdventHealth University in Denver, Colorado.

Voglewede is one of 44 nursing students at AHU Denver to receive an iPad through a generous donation to the university.

"Many of our students are the first in their family to attend a college or university, and many of our students are working or raising a family, so we want to make sure they have the tools they need to learn and interact," said Katie Shaw, chief operating officer for AdventHealth University Denver. "At AdventHealth University, we are developing highly skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ, and we want to do everything we can to set our students up for success."

A 2018 study published in the Communication Research journal titled "Technology Problems and Student Achievement Gaps: A Validation and Extension of the Technology Maintenance Construct," found a noteworthy digital divide among college students, even though cell phones and laptops seem to be prevalent. Nearly all 748 students in

the study had laptops and cell phones, but nearly 20 percent reported having trouble finding devices that worked consistently or with reliable internet access. The majority of those 20 percent were from low-income or at-risk families. The study also found that those with unreliable technology had lower grade-point averages.

Nursing professor **Kim** Martin, MSN, RN, OCN, said she is seeing a difference in student performance since the iPads were introduced in 2020. "I do see significant improvement in grades, just generally speaking," Martin said.

In addition, Voglewede loves how lightweight and small the device is. "I really like the portability of it," she said. "I take mine to clinical rotations at Centura Parker Adventist Hospital. I like having something portable where I can keep everything for school together."

Since 2009, Centura Health has partnered with AHU Denver. Nursing students complete their clinical rotations at Centura hospitals to acquire the skills they need to become nurses.

"Through our partnership with AHU Denver, we are able to help provide the next generation of caregivers with the tools they need to compassionately care for the whole health of their future patients—body, mind and spirit," said Amy Funderburk, Centura's vice president of nursing



Alberta Acheampong (foreground), junior nursing student at AdventHealth University; Savanah Watson, senior nursing student at AdventHealth University and Kendra Carter, junior nursing student at AdventHealth University (background)

excellence. "The iPads are an incredible tool that help maximize their hands-on learning experience within our hospitals."

The iPad also offers students many benefits that a print textbook does not, catering to a variety of learning styles.

"The iPad will read the textbook and lessons to you. I'm an auditory learner, so I can be doing laundry or driving and listen," said Mechelle Guzman, bachelor of science degree in nursing student at AHU Denver.

Each student has the same applications and device, leveling the playing field, so to speak. Each iPad bundle, which includes the iPad, Apple Pencil, Magic

Keyboard and two-year Apple Care protection, costs approximately \$1,500.

The size of the nursing cohorts at AHU Denver made them a great starting and discovery point for the technology donations. AdventHealth University is one of only a few colleges and universities nationwide providing this type of technology to ensure its nursing students have equity in learning.

"We are so grateful for the generous community support that allows our students a better opportunity to learn and grow," Shaw said.

Brianna DiPilato is a writer for Centura Health.

FARFWFII

Albertsen, Kenneth Alan, b. March 3, 1943 near Fort Dodge, IA. d. Oct. 4, 2022 in Fort Collins, CO. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Ella Jean; sons Kevin and David; 4 sisters; 5 grandchildren.

Anderson, Helen, b. Sept. 28, 1930 in Thorp, WI. d. Sept. 21, 2022 in Belleville, IL. Preceded in death by husband Marvin; 1 sister; 4 half-brothers; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Nadine Finley, Gwyann, Melody Senecal, and LaQuita; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter.

Atwood, Jimmy (Jim) **Merle**, b. Jan. 10, 1945 in Fort Morgan, CO. d. Dec. 22, 2021 in Tucson, AZ. Member of Campion (CO) Church. Survivors include wife Nancy; son Merle; 2 brothers; granddaughter Jordan.

Berry, Phyllis Joan, b. Feb. 25, 1932 in Allen County, KS. d. Sept. 30, 2022. Member of Topeka Wanamaker (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include daughter Virginia; sons William and Paul; 1 sister; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; several greatgrandchildren.

Bitzer, Blanche A., b. Nov. 16, 1922 in Wisconsin. d. Jan. 18, 2022 in Pillager, MN. Member of Brainerd (MN) Church. Preceded in death by husband Fred; 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Sandra Stearns and Linda Johnson; sons James, Jerry, and Dennis; 9 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Blue, Wayne A., b. Aug. 27, 1934 in Blair, NE. d. Oct. 22, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include wife Eldina;

daughters Cheri and Judy Franklin; 2 grandsons.

Bray, Jerome L., b. Oct. 9, 1933 in White Earth, MN. d. Oct. 7, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Thief River Falls (MN) Church. Survivors include wife Lois; 1 sister; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.

Bruton, John E., b. Nov. 27, 1944. d. Sept. 23, 2023. Member of Oak Grove Heights (MO) Church.

Clark, Elizabeth Bluebell (Bartel), b. Aug. 13, 1928 in Garden City, KS. d. Oct. 31, 2022 in Manhattan, KS. Member of Manhattan Church. Preceded in death by husband Eugene. Survivors include sons Richard and John; 8 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren. Served as an office secretary in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference for many years.

Culbertson, Dorothy "Dottie" (Scifers), b. Nov. 29, 1926. d. Oct 11, 2022 in Wichita, KS. Member of Wichita South Church. Survivors include husband Dale.

Dickhaut, Harriet, b. Nov. 23, 1928. d. Oct. 12, 2022 in Hamilton, MT. Member of Bismarck (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Clarence; sons Everett and Howard; 2 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Belinda Schmidt and Charlene Twist; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Dickhaut, Roger Dale, b. Feb. 11, 1946 in McClusky, ND. d. Sept. 13, 2022 in Georgetown, TX. Preceded in death by brother Leroy. Survivors include wife June; sons Steven and Galen; 1 brother.

Dirksen, Don Eugene, b. Aug. 14, 1936 in Hutchinson, KS. d. Aug. 31, 2022. Member of Hutchinson Church. Survivors include wife Jalayne; daughters Ann Baus and Jill; sons Mike and Mark; 1 sister; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Emery, Wayne Calvin, b. May 11, 1935 in Minot, ND. d. Nov. 5, 2022 in Minot, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by daughter DeLite. Survivors include wife Nina; son Kirt; stepdaughter Lisa Picket; 5 grandchildren.

Etheredge, Christopher Clark, b. Nov. 15, 1951. d. Oct. 9, 2022. Member of Lincoln Piedmont Park (NE) Church.

Fregien, Connie Lynn (Carlson), b. May 11, 1957 in ND. d. Oct. 12, 2022 in Fargo, ND. Member of Edgeley (ND) Church. Survivors include husband Lonnie; mother Donna Carlson; daughters Heather Enger and Carla Hormann; sons Curtis and Nicholas; 1 sister; 1 brother; 2 grandsons.

Gibbs, Rosemary A., b. April 25, 1933. d. June 15, 2022. Member of Chapel Haven (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Marvin. Survivors include daughters Rhonda Myers and Marlys Seek; son Mearl; 6 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Glass, James (Jim) W., b. Jan. 7, 1946 in Flint, MI. d. Sept. 15, 2022 in Topeka, KS. Member of Topeka Wanamaker Church. Survivors include wife Sharon; daughters Maria and Lynette; son Brian; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 8 grandchildren.

Golightly, Billy Clifton, b. Jan. 20, 1936 in Missouri. d. Aug. 1, 2022 in Cedar Rapids, IA. Survivors include wife Sandra.

Haas, Janice Marie, b. Oct. 30, 1940 in North Dakota. d. Oct. 28, 2022 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by 3 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include husband Arlen; sons Troy Reich and Scott Reich; 3 sisters; 3 grandchildren.

Imler, Nyla Juhl, b. Jan. 26, 1952 in Burlington, IA. d. Oct. 31, 2022 in Arkadelphia, AR. Member of Amity (AR) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Dick Juhl; daughter Heather; 2 sisters. Survivors include husband Toby; daughters Korine and Kristal; son Toby Jr.; 2 sisters; 1 brother; 4 grandchildren. Served on Union College Board.

Kostelecky, JoAnne Marie (Osterloth), b. Nov. 25, 1933 in Wibaux, MT. d. Sept. 17, 2022 in Dickinson, ND. Member of Invitation Hill (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Valentine; son Maynard; 5 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include sons Kenneth, Ronald, and Michael; 3 brothers; 8 grandchildren.

Lawrence, Daniel Ashton, b. Aug. 18, 1961 in the Common Wealth of Dominica. d. July 6, 2022. Member of Hutchinson (KS) Church. Survivors include wife Karen; daughters Dynna, Kishma, Ashea, Sofina, Karen and Anna; sons AJ and Lindon; 9 grandchildren.

McArthur, Marilyn Lang, b. March 9, 1939 near Cleveland, ND. d. July 13, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Lincoln Piedmont Park Church. Preceded in death by son Ryan; 1 sister; 3 brothers; Survivors include husband Frank; sons Brett and Joel; 1 sister; 5 grandchildren. Longtime instructor and department head of the Union College Nursing department and Division of Health Sciences.

McDonald, Brian W., b. April 3, 1971 in Colorado Springs, CO. d. Sept. 25, 2022 in West Plains, CO. Member of West Plains Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Allison; 2 sisters; 1 brother.

Moomey, LaVera Marie, b. Dec. 10, 1941 in Argonia, KS. d. Oct. 30, 2022 in Hepler, KS. Member of Hepler Church. Survivors include husband Lyle; daughter Rosanna Zeismer; son Douglas; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 6 grandchildren.

Pearson, Shirley Ann, b. April 7, 1946 in Tulsa, OK. d. Sept. 30, 2021 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Coffeyville (KS) Church. Survivors include daughters Shirl Marion and Kasandra Nichols; son

William "Sonny"; McChel-Le, Deja, and Meigs Pearson; Tiahnya Anderson; Jared, Tyler, and Donte Penn; Torae and Mikayla Holbert; 2 step-granddaughters; 3 great-grandchildren.

Robertson, Arlie Nadine (White), b. Feb. 2, 1934 in Wills Point, TX. d. April 2, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Lincoln College View Church. Preceded in death by son Steven; 2 sisters; 3 brothers; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter. Survivors include husband Myron; children Cathy Kabanvk, Michael, Myron Edward, Jana Prange, Aryln, Donald, Linda Mueller, Darin, Monte, Kendon; 20 grandchildren; 7 great-great grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Rodacker, Winona (Schrenk), b. Jan. 5, 1932 in Bismarck, ND. d. Nov. 22, 2022 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by husband Emil; 2 sisters; 2 brothers; 2 step-grandchildren. Survivors include son Monte; 1 sister.

Rodie, Joyce, b. July 22, 1936 in Timken, KS. d. Dec. 27, 2021 in Mishawaka, IN. Member of Niles Westside (MI) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters; 3 brothers. Survivors include 1 sister; 1 brother. Served in the Dakota, Indiana, Kansas-Nebraska, and Michigan Conferences for 44 years.

Spellman, Clint Kampman, b. Feb. 19, 1964 in Aberdeen, SD. d. July 2, 2022 in Aberdeen, SD. Member of Aberdeen Church. Preceded in death by father William. Survivors include mother Joan; daughter Rustelle Murrow; 4 sisters; 3 brothers; 3 grandchildren.

Steiner, Judith Ann (Cech), b. June 15, 1948 in Huen, NE. d. Oct. 16, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Lincoln College View Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 3 brothers. Survivors include husband Eugene; daughter Marsha Bartulec; son Gregory; 2 brothers; 6 grandchildren.

Thom, Wilfert, b. March 7, 1931 in Edgeley, ND. d. June 24, 2022 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Edgeley Church. Preceded in death by wife Helen; 7 sisters; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughter Dorothy Hidy; son Jerry; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Veit, Doug, b. Oct. 10, 1974 in Denver, CO. d. July 4, 2022 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Survivors include wife Cathy; mother

Nora; daughters MaKaela Thompson and Kirsten; sons Douglas and Garrett; 2 grandchildren.

Werner, Arthur T. "Art," b. March 16, 1925 in Grover, CO. d. Aug. 26, 2022 in Greeley, CO. Member of Windsor Elm Haven (CO) Church. Survivors include wife Elaine; daughters Doris, Dorothy, Debra, and Diane; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Zeeb, Laverna E (Friederich), b. June 18, 1926 in Tripp, SD. d. Sept. 9, 2022 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by husband Ronnie; 4 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include sons Jerry and David; 2 sisters; 3 grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter.

How to submit an obituary

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EMPLOYMENT

Andrews University Seeks Faculty: VACD. The Visual Art, Communication & Design Department seeks a Professor of Communication to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in communication skills, persuasion, gender communication, group dynamics and leadership, communication in the classroom, and magazine feature and article writing. This faculty member will also academically advise students as well as be an active and participating member of the department faculty. www. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/ show/faculty#job_16

Andrews University Seeks Faculty: Music. Full-time tenure track position: Requires 24 teaching credits per year, including music classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, fulfilling responsibilities of the orchestral studies area, preparing and

conducting the concerts of the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra (AUSO). www.andrews.edu/admres/ jobs/show/faculty#job_10

The Union College Communication Program is searching for applicants for a **Communication Professor.** This is a full-time, faculty, exempt position starting June 1, 2023. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege. edu/employment and contact Bruce Forbes at bruce. forbes@ucollege.edu for more information. Benefit package includes tuition subsidy for eligible dependents and other generous benefits.

TRAVEL

2023 Great Controversy **Prophecy Tours:** March 3-16 or Sept. 8-21 with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt, retired professor of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit

Reformation sites in Italy, the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call 269.815.8624, or email gctours@mac.com.

Adventist Tours 2023: Israel in Jesus' Steps April 16-25 & June 4-13 with Andy Nash, and June 18-27 with Clifford Goldstein; Egypt & Exodus April 6-14 with Andy Nash; Revelation's Seven Churches/Patmos/Greece March 22-April 2; Tanzanian Safari March 1-8; Germany Reformation/WWII June 16-28, 2024. Contact tabghatours@ gmail.com or tabghatours. com or call 423.298.2141.

EVENTS

The 2023 Conference Committee invites presentation **proposals** for the annual conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians. For more information: Michelle Carbonilla, MOCarbonilla@aup.edu.ph.



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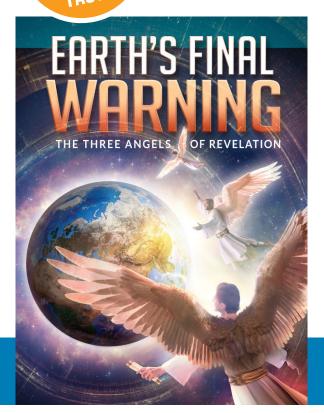
'The power of the Lord was with Jesus, enabling him to heal." Luke 5:17

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