

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

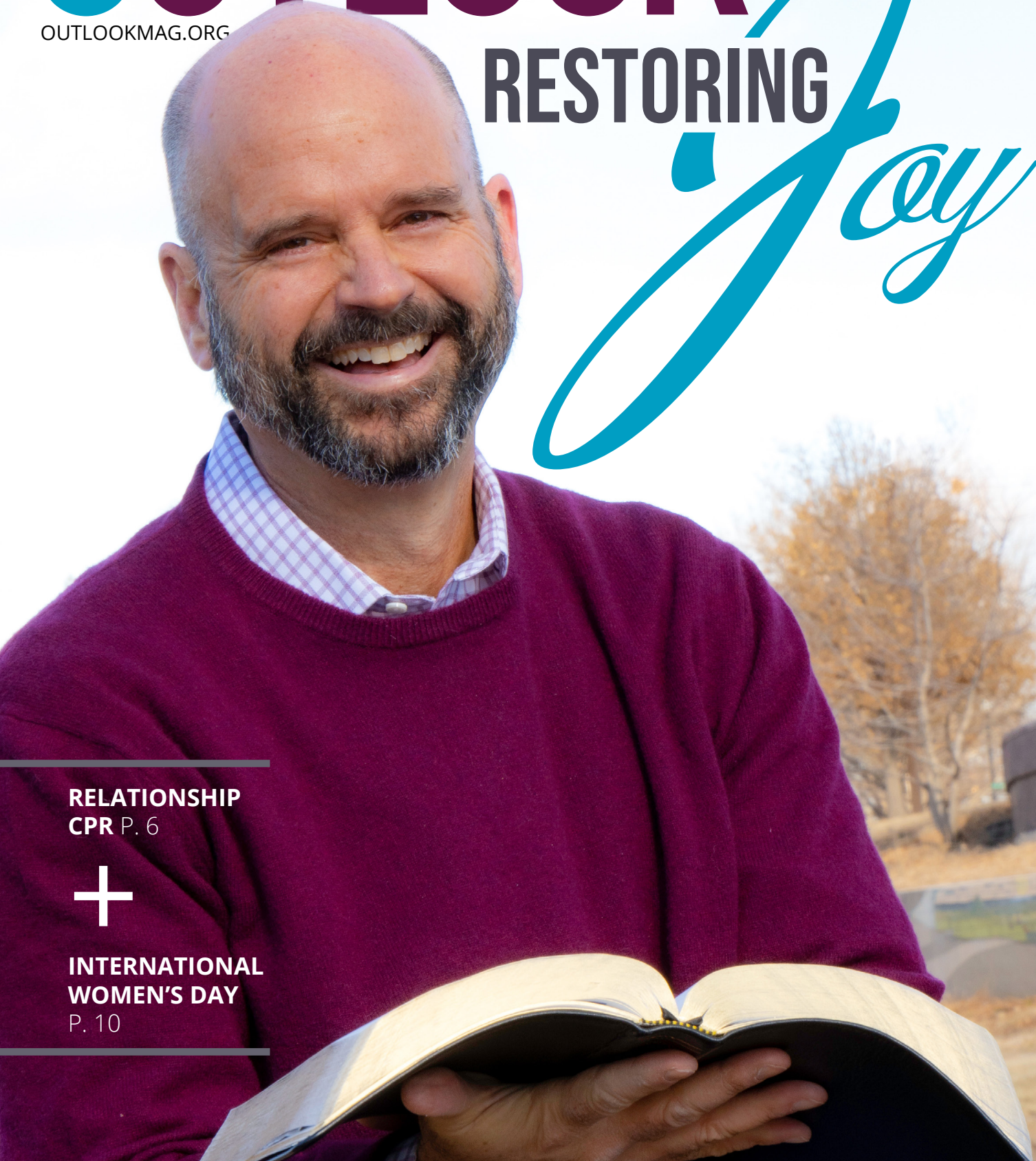
OUTLOOK

OUTLOOKMAG.ORG

MARCH 2023

RESTORING

Ray



RELATIONSHIP
CPR P. 6



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
P. 10



PERSPECTIVES

- 4 FIVE WAYS OF RESTORING THE JOY IN YOUR JOURNEY**
—Gary Thurber
- 5 LIGHT FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST BRINGS JOY**
—Dean Coridan

FEATURES

- 6 RELATIONSHIP CPR**
—Ron Price
- 7 A VISION FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATION**
—James C. Davis, Jr.
- 8 RESTORING JOY**
—Craig Carr
- 10 THRIVING THROUGH RESILIENCY**
—Nancy Buxton

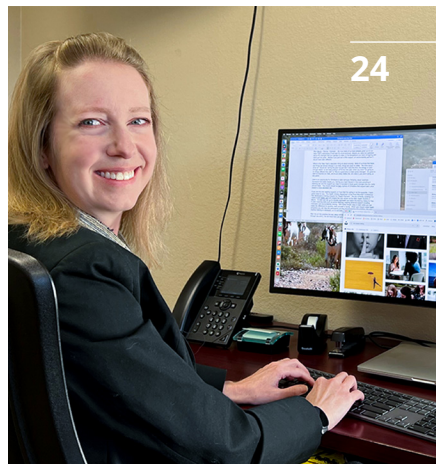
NEWS

- 12 MID-AMERICA UNION**
- 14 CENTRAL STATES**
- 16 DAKOTA**
- 18 IOWA-MISSOURI**
- 20 KANSAS-NEBRASKA**
- 22 MINNESOTA**
- 24 ROCKY MOUNTAIN**
- 26 UNION COLLEGE**
- 28 ADVENTHEALTH**
- 29 FAREWELL**
- 30 INFOMARKET**

OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) March 2023, Volume 44, Number 3. OUTLOOK is published monthly (10 months per year) by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. Printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE and additional offices. USPS number 006-245. **Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS.** Free for Mid-America church members and \$12 per year for subscribers. ©2023 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. **CONTACT us by email: info@maucsd.org or phone: 402.484.3000.**



“Your identity reflects your values; thus it’s important to pursue clarity of how God has uniquely wired each of us as His masterpiece.”—p. 8





OUTLOOKmag.org
NEWS AND INSPIRATION

Adventist Women Leaders Learn Together

outlookmag.org/adventist-women-leaders-learn-to-maximize-leadership-strengths



Facts and Perspectives on Screen Time

outlookmag.org/screen-time-and-you



Mr. Z Attends ASI

outlookmag.org/a-miracle-sitting-in-a-bar

JOY DE-MYSTIFIED

As we continue our 2023 focus on thriving through resiliency, we take a look this month at the role of joy: what it is, where it comes from, how to have more of it.

To start, let's look at two definitions. According to Dictionary.com, joy is "the emotion of great delight" caused by something exceptionally satisfying. Happiness, on the other hand, is an emotion based on circumstances that "puts all its eggs in someone else's basket" (psychologytoday.com). Happiness is not joy because joy is not external; it is not conditional on someone else's behavior.

Joy can sometimes seem mystical. Yet living in joy exhibits every sign of resilience, every evidence of flourishing. As the authors in this issue point out, living in joy is a result of setting boundaries around our identity and our values—the principles we choose to live by regardless of circumstances or others' behaviors. We know that Jesus offers us all "abundant life" (John 10:10) and the resulting joy is a gift from the Holy Spirit... joy from within, pared down, intentional and beautiful.



BRENDA DICKERSON
editor



ON THE COVER

Craig Carr serves as ministerial director for the Mid-America Union Conference.

More on p. 8
Photo by Hugh Davis

MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE

- President**
Gary Thurber
- Secretary**
Hubert J. Morel Jr.
- Treasurer**
David VandeVere
- Church Ministries**
Tyrone Douglas
- Communication**
Brenda Dickerson
- Education**
LouAnn Howard
- Hispanic Ministries**
Roberto Correa
- Human Resources**
Raylene Jones
- Ministerial**
Craig Carr
- Religious Liberty**
Darrel Huenergardt
- Women's Ministries**
Nancy Buxton

midamericaadventist.org

OUTLOOK STAFF

- Editor:**
Brenda Dickerson
 - Managing Editor:**
Barb Engquist
 - Digital Media Manager:**
Hugh Davis
- outlookmag.org

DESIGN

Exploring Creative, LLC
exploringcreative.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
—
communication@imsda.org
515.223.1197
imsda.org

Kansas-Nebraska
Saul Dominguez
sdominguez@ks-ne.org
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

Five Ways of Restoring the Joy in Your Journey

If there ever was a prophet who was burned out, it was Elijah.

And it's somewhat surprising that his most difficult time comes on the heels of the pinnacle of his ministry! Mt. Carmel had just happened—that amazing display of God's power at just the right moment, followed by a downpour ending the three-and-half-year drought.

What happens next is astounding. Elijah basically runs the distance of a marathon leading Ahab's horses back to Jezreel. Then, as he lies there exhausted, a note is delivered from an irate Jezebel promising to take his life. Distraught, Elijah gets up and, as the New International Version puts it, "was afraid and ran for his life" (I Kings 19:3). After collapsing under a broom bush, he cries out, "I have had enough, Lord. Take my life" (I Kings 19:4).

Have you ever found yourself spiritually discouraged? Have you been in a place where the joy in your service for the Savior slipped away? Perhaps someone who is reading this now is at a low point. How can you restore the first love you had when you were baptized and signed on for a life-long commitment of service to His cause?

Here are a few lessons from Elijah's experience that may help with restoring the joy in your journey.

1. Don't expect hardships to go away until Jesus comes.

Because of all that happened on Mt. Carmel, Elijah seemed to think everyone would repent and a lasting peace would come to Israel. Perhaps even Jezebel would be convinced to serve the true God. But then came her message, and when Elijah was confronted with evil fresh off the mountain experience, fear filled his heart. We must keep in mind that the devil is still desperately trying to bring doubt and discouragement to God's people. We live in a broken world that simply won't be right until Jesus comes.

2. **Make sure you are taking care of yourself.** The first thing God does is let Elijah sleep. Then He sends an angel to feed him and encourage him to sleep some more. The angel comes back again with more nourishment and says, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." After his rest and food, Elijah once again feels like moving forward in his walk with God.

3. **Look for God encounters.** Elijah heads to Mt. Horeb—the "Mount of God." I love this part of the story. Even though he is distraught and confused, Elijah makes the long journey to Mt. Horeb because he knows he will encounter the Lord there. For us, the question is, *Where will we run to find our answers when we are discouraged?* The world puts in front of us countless answers for lifting our spirits, but only the Lord's path will satisfy our souls.

4. **When we are down, we tend to exaggerate our problems.** When Elijah tells God, "I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too" (I Kings 19:14) God gently reminds him that there are still 7,000 faithful worshippers. We need to be careful to not only think of all that is wrong but remember God's blessing along the way, even in this broken world.

5. **God sends us friends.** Elisha brought so much strength into Elijah. God knew just what he needed. I believe the Lord will also send people in our lives who will be able to help carry the load on our shoulders. I once heard this definition of a friend: Friends are the ones who walk in while everyone else walks out. People like this can bring amazing strength to our journey.

I would love to share some personal testimonies of how these lessons from Elijah's story made all the difference for me in my journey of service for the Lord, but there is not space for it here. My encouragement to you is to remember that despite Elijah's behavior after Mt. Carmel, his journey on earth ended in a chariot ride to live with God in heaven.

God has great things in store for you, friend. Be of good courage and always remember the Lord never leaves you, no matter the circumstance. 0



GARY THURBER
is president of the
Mid-America Union.

Light from the Life of Christ Brings Joy

In the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the earth, God spoke and said, “Let there be light.” Life declared light, and was light, and so it shall ever be. Their bond is inseparable and eternal. The truth and beauty of their unity is shown in the life of Christ.

In Scripture, John 1:4 tells us that Jesus Christ, the Word, is the “life” and “light” of men. Verse 5 says that “the light shines in the darkness.” This is one of the great missional statements of Jesus Christ. His mission is to bring life and light to a dark world. Verse 9 says He is the “true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”

David understood this when he wrote, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). Nothing brings more joy to Jesus than bringing life and light to the darkness of every individual who has ever lived, or will ever live. “Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good! For His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 107:1).

We may find ourselves individually in darkness through the deceptive power of sin, or broken health, struggles in our family, loss of loved ones, tragedies and transitions of life. These can bring us individually to dark places that can rob us of hope, leaving us discouraged and in despair, even asking, “Why should I continue to live?” It is at that very moment of life that we must not forget that Christ is standing at the door knocking. We do not have to stay in darkness. If we open the door of our hearts, Christ will come in and dispel the darkness that surrounds us. “Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:8).

This is what David is referring to in Psalm 51:12 when he prays, “Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation.” When darkness surrounds us, let us lift our voices individually and collectively as a community of believers singing praises for the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the presence of Christ that brings life and light. It is in showing forth

the praises of the goodness of God that we become “a city that is set on a hill” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 107:1).

The design of Christ's life

We read that “...through childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus walked alone. In His purity and His faithfulness, He trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with Him. He carried the awful weight of responsibility for the salvation of men. He knew that unless there was a decided change in the principles and purposes of the human race, all would be lost. This was the burden of His soul, and none could appreciate the weight that rested upon Him. Filled with intense purpose, He carried out the design of His life that He Himself should be the light of men” (*Desire of Ages*, 92). **0**

“May the beauty of the Lord shine upon us.

May the beauty of the Lord light each face.

May the beauty of the Lord shine upon us.

May we ever be reflections of His grace.”

—by Gail Coridan

DEAN CORIDAN

is president of the Iowa-Missouri Conference.





RELATIONSHIP CPR #2

Forgive and Forget?

LIKE ME, YOU probably remember as a child hearing that “sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you.” But do you remember how old you were when you found out that wasn’t true?

Another common expression that doesn’t hold true is “forgive and forget.” Oh, it sounds good. It even sounds like wise counsel from the Bible. There’s just one problem with that admonition—you can’t do it!

I challenge you to recall who your second-grade teacher was. I find most people can readily come up with the answer even though they haven’t thought about that person in years or perhaps decades. The point I’m making is that our God created our minds in such an amazing way that we retain every experience. We simply cannot forget wrongs done to us, negative experiences or interactions.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know that forgiveness is not an option. In case you disagree, you might want to take some time and look up Matt. 6:14-15, or maybe Luke 6:37, or perhaps Col. 3:13 (just to mention a few).

So rather than forgive and forget, let me suggest you consider “forgive and move on.” I suggest you be like the sister I heard of in one of our churches somewhere whom a fellow church member had grievously mistreated. One day she mentioned to another church member that she had decided to forgive the offending party. That other church member replied, “Forgive? Don’t you remember what she did to you?” The offended party replied, “No, I specifically remember forgetting that.”

AN ACT OF THE WILL

Oh, I hope that puts a smile on your face as it does mine. Forgiveness is not a feeling. Forgiveness is a decision. You recognize your need for forgiveness from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and

RON PRICE

is the author of three books and creator of Play Nice in God’s Sandbox video series.

He plainly tells us that if we want His forgiveness, we cannot withhold it from others. So it’s not a matter of doing what you feel like doing. It’s a matter of doing what you know is right and God-honoring.

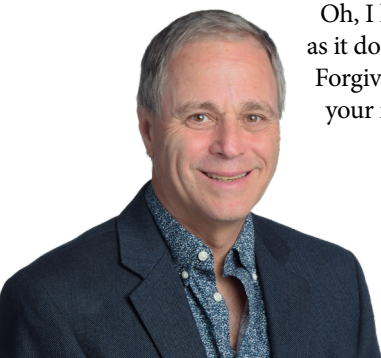
A quote I appreciate is attributed to numerous sources in varying wording. I first heard it from Ken Sande, author of *The Peacemaker*, who states, “unforgiveness is the poison we drink, expecting the other person to die.” When you harbor negative feelings or ill will toward someone who has offended you, it wreaks havoc on you—not on them. They may even be completely unaware of their misdeed.

Again, forgiveness is an act of the will, not just a feel-good or feel-like-it act. If you know someone you need to forgive, please do not put it off. Trust me, it will never get easier, and the most challenging step is the first one. As the folks at Nike would say, “Just Do It!”

Deciding to forgive someone is a decision between you, God and perhaps nobody else. There may be times when you should go to the other person and extend your forgiveness, especially if they’re well aware they have offended you—but depending on the circumstances, that might make the situation worse, not better. The most crucial part is that you decide you’re going to let it go. You’re not going to hold it against the other person. You’re not going to dwell on what they did to you or the pain they caused. You’re going to move forward.

There may be circumstances when you must decide to end the relationship. I’m probably getting into grounds for another column here, but there could be times when the damage has been so hurtful, so destructive that maintaining a relationship with that person is neither wise nor advisable, if even possible. Please don’t come to that conclusion too soon, but even if you do, you still must forgive them—again, for your sake even more than theirs.

Forgiveness does not mean what they did was not wrong. It certainly doesn’t mean they have the right to do it again, and it doesn’t mean what they did, or didn’t do, wasn’t all that bad. But, it does mean you will not carry the baggage of unforgiveness and let it steal your joy or negatively impact your relationship with your Lord and Savior. I’m not saying it’s easy. So many aspects of living the Christian life in this sin-filled world are not easy, but they are still the proper steps to take. **0**



A VISION FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATION

The Adventist educational system has existed for over 150 years and has a rich history. Our schools can be a light in the darkness, a force for good in a world becoming increasingly unmoored from traditional values.

Adventist education is founded on the belief that every individual is created in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect. This belief should permeate everything, from how we teach to how we interact with our students. Each student has unique gifts and talents, and we aim to help them develop those gifts to their fullest potential. Adventist education offers students a chance to learn about a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. Adventist education will help students see the world through a different lens and inspire them to make a positive difference.

To that end, I want to lay out some core elements of my vision for our education system and what we should strive to become.

1. Adventist education should be Christ-centered

This means that Christ should be at the center of everything we do—how we teach and learn, relate to one another, engage in activities and play. Christ-centered education should be based on His love and character. This kind of education should help individuals grow in their relationship with God and help everyone feel welcome and valued.

2. Adventist education should be based on the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

These principles include a belief in the Bible as the authoritative source of truth, a commitment to maintaining a personal relationship with God, and a dedication to living a life that is pleasing to God. In addition, Adventist education should be geared toward preparing students for a life of service. This

includes teaching them to be responsible citizens, agents of change for good in the world and witnesses for Christ. Adventist education should focus on the mind, body and spirit. This means that we should educate the whole person; we should teach students to think critically and be physically active.

3. Adventist education should be affordable

It should be a priority for Seventh-day Adventists to make sure their educational institutions are affordable for all students, regardless of their financial situation. However, it is essential to remember that not everyone can pay for Adventist education. Financial aid and scholarships should be available to those who need them so everyone can get an excellent education.

4. Adventist education should be available to all Adventist students, even those with academic and behavioral struggles

Every student has the potential to succeed when given the proper resources and opportunities. All students should feel like they belong in the classroom and that their voices matter. This can be accomplished through a number of instructional strategies, including but not limited to: exploring each

student's unique learning style, using a variety of assessment techniques and having high expectations for all students. While all students are expected to meet the same high standards of behavior and academics, we recognize that some students may need additional support to be successful. Classroom instruction should be based on the latest research on how people learn best.

5. Adventist education should be innovative and hands-on, leading the way

Adventist education should constantly evolve and adapt to students' needs. Adventist educators should continuously look for new ways to engage and challenge students. Adventist education should instill in students a love for learning, not just teach them to regurgitate information.

Adventist education is a vital part of the church's mission. The church's commitment to education is evident in the many schools and colleges that have been established around the world. This commitment to education helps ensure that the next generation of Adventists can continue sharing the gospel and expanding the church's reach. **O**

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

Courtesy Minnesota Conference



RESTORING

Joy

PART 1

God placed a burden on my heart some years ago while serving as a pastor that continues to gain momentum today. It's an aspiration to heed the warning and accept the calling of Jesus, as stated in John 10:10: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, NKJV). This statement is embedded in Christ's revelation that He is the Good Shepherd, and His followers are His sheep. Abundant life is found in Jesus alone.

Perhaps you recall Sabbath school songs such as "I've got joy down in my heart, deep, deep, down in my heart." And the fun of holding "air quote" fingers over your head as you sing "I just wanna be a sheep, baah, baah, ba, baah." Yet somehow, life isn't that

simple. While I could see myself as a lowly, not-so-smart sheep, God has placed immense value upon me as Jesus promised that He was willing to "lay down (His) life for the sheep" (John 10:15). Just as the psalmist wrote "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1), the value of my life is determined by God Himself. This establishes my truest identity—not my performance, popularity or the approval of others. However, the "thief" whom Christ refers to as the "father of lies" (John 8:44) is the devil himself, who seeks only to "steal, and to kill, and to destroy." And we are no match for his methods.

One of the ways the thief destroys is through unnecessary anxiety and stress we often carry, which have devastating effects on how we view our identity and value. The life of joy, fulfillment and blessing can easily become stolen and even killed by anxiety, stress, worry and the cares of this world. But of course the temptation is always present to convince everyone that we have it all together... while we are dying inside. Even if all the

devil achieves is keeping us too busy and distracted, exhaustion and overwhelm easily replace the joy of a fully engaged life that Jesus desires for us.

IDENTITY AND VALUES

As part of my role as Mid-America Union ministerial director, I'm continuing to develop a ministry for pastors and local church leaders that I have named *Restore the Joy of My Vocation*. This is an invitation to get your life back by taking responsibility for your circumstances and allowing Jesus to restore in you the fullness of joy He intends.

The word "vocation" shares its origin with the term "calling," typically associated with a deeper sense of purpose and significance. Your vocation is as unique as your fingerprint if you allow the Good Shepherd to shape you to *be* (identity) and *do* (purpose) His will in your life. After all, we are human beings, not human doings.

In addition, *Restore the Joy* is also about learning how to engage in a healthy manner with the troublesome world and anxious people with whom we interact every day, while maintaining healthy boundaries of our identity and values.

A scripture that has become increasingly meaningful to me is Gal. 6:4-5, and

I love the way the Message Bible translates it: "Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life." Notice that "who you are" and "the work you have been given" are two separate things, and that God calls us to be good stewards and take responsibility to live our best life.

Consider these wonderful words about Jesus: "As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy."¹ The personality of Jesus was a wonderful blend of love, patience, truthfulness and integrity. His servant-heart and unselfishness were all implanted "firm as a rock" in the principles, or values, by which He lived.

This tells me several things about Jesus as a human. The first is that He had developed a set of principles by which he would live no matter how other people behaved. He also guarded these convictions and principles even when others mistreated, abused and even beat Him. Furthermore, Jesus was unthreatened by others because He knew He

was God's beloved Son, with Whom God was well pleased.

Your identity reflects your values; thus it's important to pursue clarity of how God has uniquely wired each of us as His masterpiece (see Eph. 2:10), but also that you are His child, His beloved, that your greatest identity and value is found in Christ. These Spirit-led convictions serve as the lens through which you view the world around you. When confronted by anxiety or stress or criticism, it's much easier to compare this information against the truth of who you are rather than thoughtlessly react in words and behavior. Hidden gems are found in the bumps and bruises of life, but when we are clear about who we are and what's of utmost importance, it's easier to let the exterior of things not trouble our souls as much.

It's a beautiful thought to think that "Jesus possessed a dignity and individuality wholly distinct from earthly pride and assumption; He did not strive for worldly greatness, and in even the lowliest position He was content."² Oh, to have a character like Jesus—and that's precisely what God has called each of us to be as His disciple. Only Jesus can offer us an individuality fully rooted in Him, in which He produces the fruits of His Spirit within us, no longer dependent on our own sense of pride or the approval of others. "Jesus was never elated with applause, or dejected by censure or disappointment. When he met

with the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, he was of good courage."³

Jesus was motivated by His identity as God's Son as well as His mission to save the world. His identity and purpose served as a guide in every circumstance He encountered. Jesus did not seek the approval of men, but "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Yet we don't see Jesus moping around or pleading with people to like Him, or responding harshly to criticism. We see Him fully engaged with people throughout the Gospels, yet unmarred and undeterred by ill treatment.

LIFE-GIVING BOUNDARIES

This healthy individuality requires boundaries that serve as sentinels to what is most important to you and God's calling on your life. We call a boundary around your calendar a schedule, a boundary on your finances a budget, and a boundary around your work, rest. It's often with the best of intentions that we establish boundaries only to find them come crashing down around us when the demands of our time, treasures and talents are tested to the max. This brings together the idea that our emotional and spiritual well-being is a matter of good stewardship, which includes self-awareness and self-care.

Now, going back to my heart's desire to live

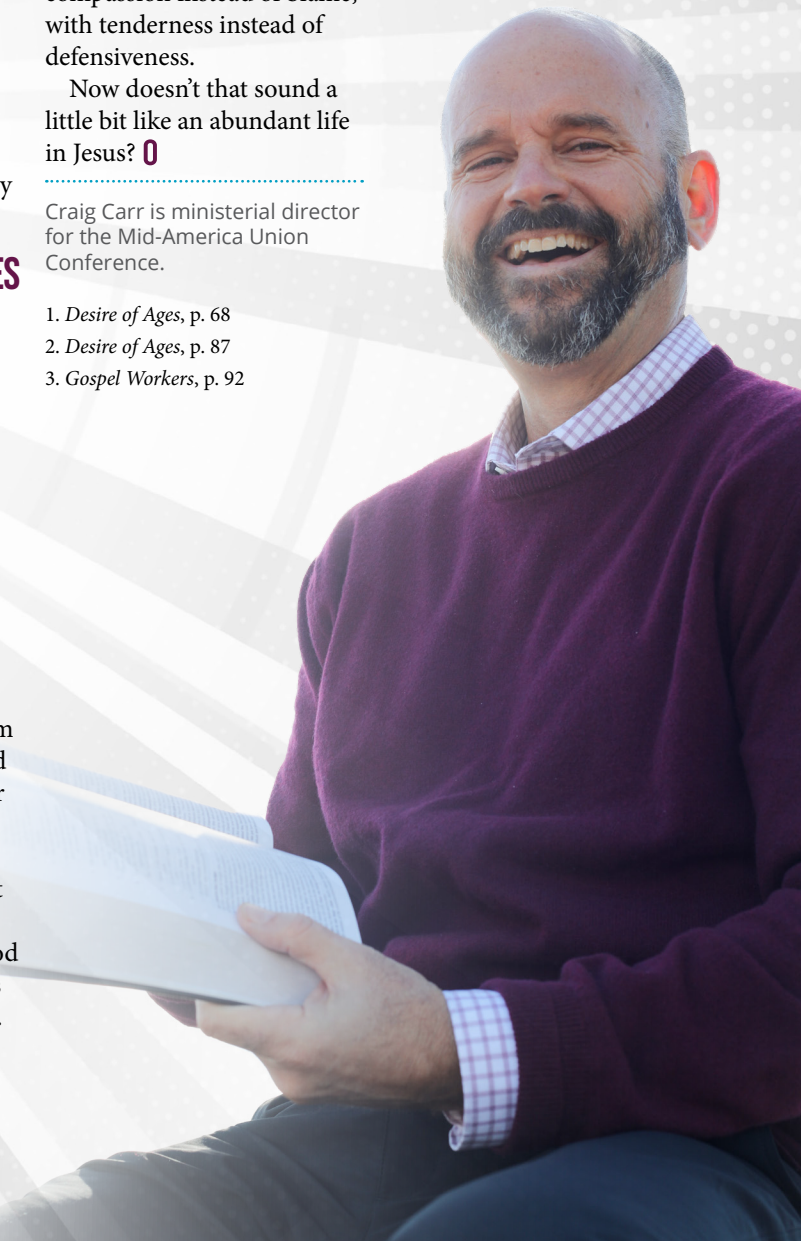
in healthy balance in the physical, spiritual, emotional and relation areas of life: Achieving this blessed stability begins with being crystal clear on my values, protecting those values with life-giving boundaries, and continuing to grow in Jesus each day in my emotional and spiritual maturity. A life thus lived offers the ability to counter anxiety and stress (that seek to steal our joy) with curiosity and not contempt, with compassion instead of blame, with tenderness instead of defensiveness.

Now doesn't that sound a little bit like an abundant life in Jesus? **O**

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

1. *Desire of Ages*, p. 68
2. *Desire of Ages*, p. 87
3. *Gospel Workers*, p. 92

**WATCH FOR PART 2
NEXT MONTH WHERE
WE WILL EXPLORE
HOW THE SABBATH
CAN SERVE AS A
RESTORATIVE
BOUNDARY TO
OUR EMOTIONAL AND
SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING.**



Thriving

Through Resiliency

Four women share lessons learned

In honor of Women's History Month, *OUTLOOK* asked MAUC women's ministry director Nancy Buxton to interview women of her choosing on the theme of Thriving Through Resiliency.

As I travel from place to place in this great Mid-America Union, it is with pure joy that I meet women who are Jesus-loving, praying, strong women. They amaze me with their willingness to minister in the church and community. I often wonder how they manage in the hectic world in which we live. I have asked four women who seem to have the time to know Jesus, serve others, and inspire and support their friends and family, just what their secret is to living a resilient life in today's world.

Courtesy Donna Brown



Donna Brown is a lover of Jesus, and she loves to share the gospel.

She gives her parents credit for making ministry fun and fulfilling. Donna tells her story in these words: "It wasn't until adulthood that I realized how much work and balancing of your life was necessary. I was working full-time, a wife, mother, holding church

offices, managing two businesses and yet wanting to embrace ministry. I prayed to the Lord to enlarge my territory and He did just that when I became the women's ministries director of Central States Conference. I seem to take my responsibilities seriously, with zeal. My team and I planned a large prayer and women's ministries retreat, I spoke at several retreats, and supported my leaders throughout Central States territory. I found myself tired and wondered how I could continue at that pace. 'Take it to the Lord in prayer' seemed to be the best way to figure out my dilemma. True fasting and praying are very important and I prayed on steroids. I heard the words 'Donna, you need to breathe, have some me time.' The song 'I Miss My Time with You' by Larnelle Harris kept registering in my mind. I did exactly what God told me to do. I played hymns, read Scripture, prayed and spent time with family. My best advice is to reflect on where you have been, lean on the Lord for full guidance, and take it to the Lord in prayer."

Courtesy Shirley Fordham



Shirley Fordham a woman of integrity, humor and family-loving, shares insight into how important Jesus, community, friends and family are to her:

"It has been 10 years since our son suggested that we move to Atlanta to be closer to family. Walter and I had lived in Kansas City for 48

years and this would mean giving up our church, home, friends, neighbors and community. So, adjusting was something we could only figure out with the help of the Holy Spirit.

"We found the closest church had 3,000 members. As we would drive to church we reviewed names, and did our best to put names with faces so we could smile and speak. We thought perhaps other transfer members were wanting friends as well. With that in mind, we were provided names and phone numbers. I welcomed them to our church by phone and we met them the next Sabbath and invited them for lunch. This was an awesome Holy Spirit-led ministry that was such a blessing to us. We were looking for friends. 'If you aren't invited to the party, throw your own' is exactly what one of my dearest Oakwood friends and I did. A small social group was started and has been awesome. Our monthly interaction has given me the support I need to feel at home in Atlanta."



Gail Coridan is a grateful daughter of God, praying wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend serving in the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Gail tells her story this way: “A discussion group leader recently challenged me and others to cite a piece of advice given to us in our lifetime

which proved helpful. I shared the wisdom my husband gave me in the early days of establishing our family. When I was struggling to fit everything I needed to do into my day, and telling him all about it, he lovingly offered, ‘Put the big rock in the jar first.’ He could have just said, ‘Put first things first,’ but he proceeded to introduce me to the story of the Jar of Life which I had never heard. Sometimes a story or metaphor can help us look at things with new eyes.

“Soon after the Covid shutdown began, I was given another piece of advice. The station manager of KPOG radio, Bob Carr, had the idea that the conference prayer call should be shared on Christian radio. I saw no light in his suggestion, but did agree to pray about it. Fortunately, the value of deciding together about ministry opportunities with praying friends surfaced in my mind and guided my words and actions. There was no argument. We gave it to God to decide. When I heard that the governor of Iowa was holding her prayer breakfast virtually I reasoned that we could do the same. I called Bob and asked how much time we could have. ‘Eight hours’ was his reply. This April will be the third year of continuing Bold2Pray Thursday programming and of my conviction that prayer is meant to be heard much more often than it is.

Human resilience comes from the strength God provides to those who trust in Him. Hebrews 4:16 assures us that we can ‘come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.’”

From my four friends I have learned it’s important to ask the Holy Spirit to be present every day, take everything to the Lord in prayer, lean not on our own understanding but on God, and be a friend—it’s a healthy way to live.

Lastly, always remember it’s okay to take a time out. **0**

Nancy Buxton is director of women’s ministries for the Mid-America Union.



Jenna Gibson is a junior in high school and she is a gifted writer and lover of Jesus.

What can we learn from such a young woman?
 “When I was around 13, I was taken to an allergist in hopes of determining why I suffered from low energy, constant achiness, and increasing food sensitivities. Though many details from the visit are

locked in my mind, my core memory is the feeling after the skin test. I recall sitting on the table, my back on fire and my fingers itching to tear away at the swollen, reactive skin. I wondered if this test would fix my problems or if it was just another form of physical pain that I had grown accustomed to.

In hindsight, I see the complete blessing of that painful appointment. But it would be years down the road before anything could be determined. I remember the long days of feeling so low that I had no energy to get up in the morning. Etched in my mind is the tired girl at the top of the stairs who had used the last of her strength to climb those steps!

“Yet even in the difficult years, I will forever remember the promise I held onto daily: ‘And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age’ (Matt. 28:20b). When I felt like I had reached my limit, Jesus lifted me up, carrying me on. When I wondered how I could do the same day over again tomorrow, the promises of life and hope whispered through my mind. ‘The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you, Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged’ (Deut. 31:8). When we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we do not need to fear because we are not alone. There is always hope in the name of Jesus.”

Mid-Americans Replenished at NAD Ministries Convention

Photos Courtesy North American Division



Nearly 500 leaders from all levels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered for the North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan. 8-11, 2023, for the purpose of restoring energy and passion and reconnecting for ministry after the past few difficult years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three-day convention, starting with a reception and evening general session on Jan. 8 and running through the morning of Jan. 11, was bookended by the Adventist Radio Convention Jan. 6-8, the Adventist Women Leaders luncheon on Jan. 11, and the NAD Children's Ministries Retreat Jan. 11-14.

Under the theme of "Replenish," a variety of

speakers presented practical ways of refilling one's cup physically, emotionally and spiritually to be prepared for fulfilling God's purposes in the ministry He gives to those He calls. The opening keynote was given by **Elder G. Alexander Bryant**, NAD president, who spoke about God's Oasis. Other presenters during the convention spoke on *Leading in Crisis*, *Post-It Note Peace*, and *Step Out of the Traffic*, which was a call to developing the practice of setting aside time for solitude and silence amidst the busyness of ministry.

In addition to the general sessions, attendees also participated in breakout seminars on specific topics including leadership development, team building, finances, communication, community services, emotional health, church

revitalization, prison ministry, intergenerational ministry, public campus ministry, grief recovery, refugee and immigrant ministry, and working effectively with volunteers.

Rest and renewal

Everyone was invited to participate in a service project of assembling personal hygiene kits to be distributed to local refugees and homeless individuals. There was also ample time to visit the exhibit hall where nearly 50 booths displayed information about their ministries and specific resources.

The group Watchmen 7 presented a musical concert and The Skit Guys added a generous dose of humor during a late evening session. A Sonscreen film screening featured "Those Were the Good Days," which emphasized the importance of nurturing one's family members. A number of Excellence in Ministry awards were presented to individuals from all around the division for dedicated and outstanding service in their chosen fields of ministry.

Off-site bonus activities included opportunities for hiking and visits to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

"This was a time to reconnect with colleagues, meet new people and find new resources for church ministry," said one attendee from Mid-America. "We worshipped together, laughed together and also learned about Adventist

history from the podcast guys," (referring to **Michael Campbell** and **Matthew Lucio** who gave a five minute look at an important part of Adventist history before each general session, titled *Historical Replenish*).

During an on-stage interview at the close of the convention, event organizer **Wendy Eberhardt**, NAD vice president for church ministries, stated that God impressed her to choose the theme *Replenish* and Jer. 31:25 as the featured Bible verse. In the Message Bible, the verse is simply: "I'll restore tired souls."

"Christ had to teach His disciples what replenishment is about," said Eberhardt. She added that the chapter in *Desire of Ages* by Ellen White titled "Come Rest Awhile" points out how the disciples were in jeopardy of thinking ministry was about them. They needed to come away and spend time with Jesus.

"Depletion is an open door for the devil...and it keeps us from doing what God calls us to do. We have to make receiving replenishment a priority," concluded Eberhardt. **O**

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

**ADVENTIST
WORLD
RADIO
ANNUAL
OFFERING
MARCH 11, 2023**



WE CAN'T SHOW YOU HER FACE...

... but **this is a photo of a former New People's Army general and assassin preaching an evangelistic series.**

With tears in her eyes, she is sharing the love of Jesus in a village where she used to recruit rebel soldiers.

This story began with hardened rebels—in the midst of a 50-year war—who started listening to Adventist World Radio (AWR) as they lay in wait to attack government forces. Now, just a few years later, the war has ended and an entire island has been transformed by the Gospel. And this is just the beginning ...

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

📞 1-800-337-4297

🌐 awr.org

📘 /awr360

📷 @awr.360

📺 @awr360

📺 [awr.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/awr360)

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

On Sabbath, March 11, be sure to share the AWR Offering video with your

church. From Ukraine to the Philippines to Africa to your own back yard, you won't want to miss this thrilling update!



Download the
AWR Offering Packet
for **March 11** at
awr.org/offering



CSC Family Ministries Hosts Two New Events

Families have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents were challenged by becoming the major educators of their children, as many struggled with virtual instruction. Families have been displaced from their places of praise and worship. Grief over the loss of loved ones and fear over the potential of loss of many others haunts the waking hours. Central States Conference

family ministries is responding to our families in this continuing—but abating—phase of the pandemic.

The team of family ministries area coordinators are Great Lakes: **Mitchell and Cheryl Davis**; Great Plains: **Kevin and Anita Patterson**; Rocky Mountain: **Howard and Symone Webley**; Central: **David and Demetria Bedeau** and Eastern: **Lee and Laketia Carrell**, along with CSC

family ministries directors **Marlon and Denise Johnson**. Together we are developing plans to meet the needs of families in this stage of the pandemic. The first plan is to re-activate local church family life leaders by identifying interested members and providing monthly training.

The second initiative is to provide families of varying constellations with resources to enhance family worship.

This was initiated by “Family Week of Prayer,” held Feb. 6-11. Utilizing the Central States Conference YouTube channel, nightly ministry and demonstrations of family worship were given.

Marriage has also been greatly attacked over the last three years. The stress of the pandemic—emotionally, financially, physically and socially—has made a negative impact on couples. The

Central States Conference Family Ministries Presents
“Metamorphosis”
A Spring Getaway
Marriage Retreat



Derrick & Sonya McCollum
“Marriage Menders”
Certified Marriage Counselors

In the lovely
Lake of the Ozarks



Regalia Hotel & Conference Center

April 28-30, 2023
Register Today!



major initiative of the family ministries team for marriages is the Spring Get-away Marriage Retreat themed “Metamorphosis,” scheduled for April 28-30.

The retreat will be held in the lovely Lake of the Ozarks region at the Regalia Hotel and Conference Center. It will be a time of reconnection for couples. The event will be enhanced by facilitators **Derrick** and **Sonya**

McCollum, professional marriage counselors and hosts of the internet podcast “Marriage Menders,” which is an extension of their marriage counseling practice in the Atlanta area. Their transparent and insightful approach to marriage will be a blessing to couples both young and more seasoned.

Registration is now open at the Central States Conference website ([www.](http://www.central-states.org)

[central-states.org](http://www.central-states.org)) as well as by telephone to the conference office at 913.371.1071. Hotel reservations can be made at 573.723.3000. After the Midwest winter, you are going to enjoy this weekend of fellowship, marriage strengthening and fun! We will be looking for you.

Denise Johnson is co-director of family ministries for the Central States Conference.



Register at **central-states.org** or by telephone: 913.371.1071.

Hotel reservations can be made at 573.723.3000.

Covenant Church Members Bless Community Through Giveaway Events

Members of the Covenant Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, gathered on a beautiful fall day in 2022 to sort through items that were either purchased or donated by the church and its members in an effort to support their community and the people who are in need of food, clothing and toiletries. Their goal is to help out people who are either needing support or are homeless.

They parked a trailer filled with the food, hygiene products and warm clothing in downtown Cedar Rapids. All hygiene products and food bags were given out to the many community members who stopped by. Those needing warm clothing

were happy to receive coats, hats, gloves and other basic clothing.

The church has already held two successful giveaways

and plans to continue this community blessing once a month through the winter months. It is the hope that those in need will see the love

Jesus has for them, through the people serving them.

Paula Kuhlmann is the clerk for Covenant Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Courtesy Central States Conference

Kungel Family Endowment Scholarship Established at DAA

Lenhardt Lee Kungel and Darlene Mae (Quast) celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on July 17, 2022, at The Bunker in Jamestown, North Dakota. The event was catered by **Nikki Damnke** from The Grateful Plate. There were over 100 relatives and friends who attended, representing 11 different states.

Lenhardt and Darlene were married on Aug. 21, 1955, in the Kulm Seventh-day Adventist Church. Lenhardt must have been quite smitten with Darlene to have agreed to a wedding date during the middle of harvest. After celebrating a short honeymoon in the Black Hills, they returned to the family farm where they continued to farm until their retirement in 1998. Since retiring they have split their time between living in Jamestown, North Dakota, and Mesa, Arizona.

Farming and Christian education are two passions they both share. Lenhardt was presented with the Outstanding Farmer of McIntosh County award. He also served on the McIntosh County Weed Board until his retirement, as well as being chair of the Agricultural Stabilization Committee. His passion for Christian education led him to serve as vice president and then president of the Alumni Association of Dakota Adventist Academy and Sheyenne River Academy.

None of this could have been accomplished without



Courtesy Charlotte Reimer

a loving and supportive wife. Darlene's greatest talents are leadership, hospitality and music. She also served as treasurer for the DAA/SRA Alumni Association. She has held various roles in the church and could be found leading out in song service every Sabbath. The Community Kulm Singspiration was organized by Darlene and was an avenue to unite the community under one roof doing what they loved best—praising the Lord in song.

Together, their love for young people has led them to financially assist many Dakota students and recently establish the Kungel Family Endowment Scholarship at Dakota Adventist Academy. The Kungel Family Endowment Fund provides two Dakota students each a

\$1,500 scholarship to attend DAA annually. Recipients are selected by a scholarship committee at the start of first semester, and awarded funds are credited to Dakota Adventist Academy for the recipients' benefit upon successful completion of the school year. Financial need is the primary criteria, though scholarship (GPA) and citizenship activities are taken into consideration.

The couple has four children: **Charlotte (Randy) Reimer** of San Antonio, Florida; **Barbara (Tom) Simons** of Lincoln, Nebraska; **Bonnie (Lonnie) Kreiter** of Lincoln, Nebraska; and **Theresa (Mark) Parker** of Lincoln, Nebraska. They also have five grandchildren: **Jonathon (Hannah) Reimer** of Lincoln, Nebraska; **Shaunna (Luke) Mayers** of

The Kungel Family Endowment Fund

The Kungel Family Endowment Fund provides two Dakota students each a \$1,500 scholarship to attend DAA annually. Recipients are selected by a scholarship committee at the start of first semester, and awarded funds are credited to Dakota Adventist Academy for the recipients' benefit upon successful completion of the school year. Financial need is the primary criteria, though scholarship (GPA) and citizenship activities are taken into consideration.

Ashland, Virginia; **Kevin (Heather) Reimer** of Chattanooga, Tennessee; **Lauren (Jon) Lewellen** of San Diego California; and **Amanda (Andy) Johnson** of Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition, they have nine great-grandchildren.

Charlotte Reimer is the oldest daughter of Lenhardt and Darlene Kungel.

Small School, Big Dream

Teacher learns new lessons

Like many Adventist teachers, I grew up attending Adventist schools. So many of my memories were made in a multi-grade classroom, learning how to navigate childhood with a room of kids both older and younger than myself. After experiencing the whirlwind of adolescence and early adulthood, God brought me back to Him and I became a teacher.

A dream blossomed to one day teach at an Adventist school and demonstrate what our schools have to offer. After several years of teaching in California, Washington and Idaho, I felt prepared and experienced enough to take on that challenge. I would take a small school experience and share it with hundreds of kids. The public school would fear my name.

Last year, I arrived in South Dakota and this mountain man found himself in the flatlands with an opportunity before him. I began teaching at a tiny school consisting of

four kids and I was able to add one half-day student, but that was it. I was bummed. I was defeated. I thought, *I was sent here to grow a school, but this is not growth!* It was embarrassing. I had failed.

I arrived a year ago with the idea that I would be the key to growth, that I would have the skills and intelligence needed to change everything and create the booming school I had just left. The church would sing my praises from the pulpit, I would humbly accept their praise, and for my amazing feats receive a pass to be allowed to go through the line first at any Adventist potluck.

But I hadn't achieved any of this. I changed nothing. I had simply kept things going.

You may have noticed that the word "I" was used a lot in the last paragraph. I was stuck in my vision for a school—what *I* would do, and the praise and honor *I* would receive. Over this last



TJ Roberts

summer, my vision changed. I was impressed by God that HE would create a school here in Sioux Falls designed to bring more students to meet HIM. In this new vision, God would use me as nothing more than a tool to prepare others for where they should be.

God began doing His thing. As July hit, we had three students enrolled and I prayed that we would be the school that God wanted us to be—even if that meant only having three kids. But we would be the mightiest three kids Sioux Falls has ever seen. Soon God sent us a new student. Then another. This was followed by beginning a partnership with another Christian school in town through which God has inspired many conversations and witnessing opportunities.

Then, through time and prayer, God blessed us with the opportunity to serve two more of His children. Then two more, who connected us with the local Spanish Church. With each addition, I have learned a new lesson about teaching and life.

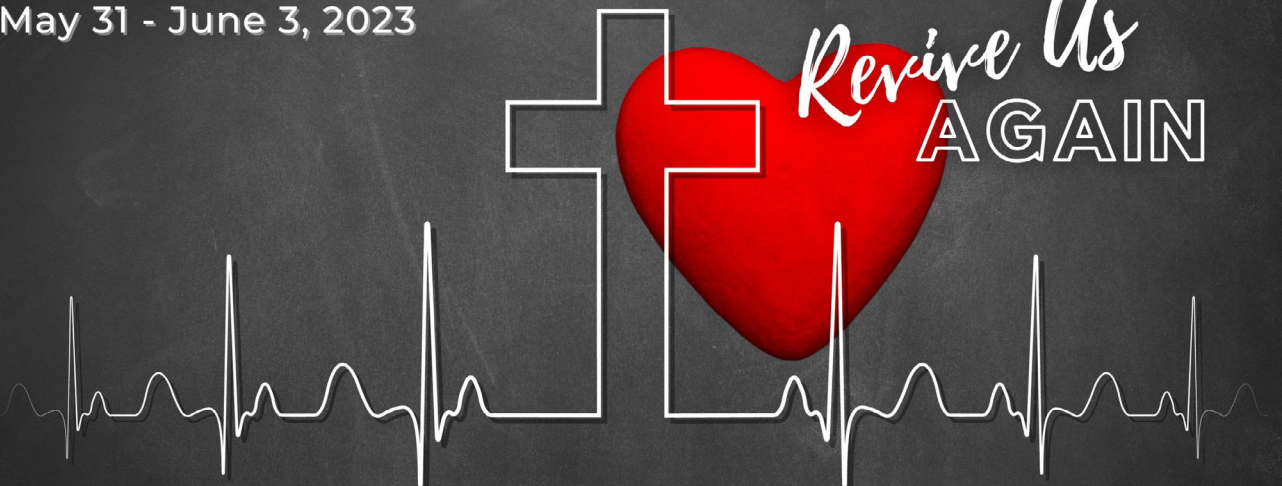
The moral of the story is this: as Christian teachers, we must throw away our vision of success for God to work. Instead, we must let Him lead us to where He needs us and always keep our hearts open to love and serve. Through this service, God can be the master craftsman. Oddly enough, God answered my original dream—to have one of those small schools I grew up in, where memories and a foundation in God are made.

TJ Roberts is the teacher at Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary School in South Dakota.

DAKOTA CAMPMEETING

May 31 - June 3, 2023

Revive Us
AGAIN



Kansas City Youth Delighting in the Lord

Three young ladies and two brothers of the Iowa-Missouri Conference have flourished spiritually and are bearing beautiful fruit today because as young teenagers they chose to delight themselves in the Lord.

Encircling these five new converts (in the photo below)

are leaders of the It Is Written SALT program. The three girls in the inner circle graduated from SALT in December of 2022 and were baptized about one week later. One of the girls is a sibling of the two brothers. Her older brother graduated from SALT in the fall of 2021 after he graduated

from Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Her younger brother is currently a student at SAA and began Bible studies last year. He joined his sister in Tennessee in December 2022 so they could be baptized together.

Surrounding our younger and older teens with the blessings of love and light is a great way to help them learn to delight in the Lord. These five young people literally had their first contacts with Adventist Christians in Kansas City on either a street corner, or on a street between apartment buildings, or on the grounds of an apartment complex where an outdoor VBS was being held. God

knows how to direct His witnesses to the very streets and homes where individuals and families need help and are hoping for it.

Jesus positioned Himself in Capernaum so He could meet people. That city, well-traveled, became known as “His own city” (Matt. 9:1). Jesus must be working in Kansas City too. Wonderful young people are meeting Him there, and that’s so delightful!

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart,” (Ps. 37:4).

Gail Coridan is women’s and health ministries director and prayer coordinator for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Students in Thailand Stay Close to the Lord

In December of 2022, I went on a mission trip to Thailand with a team of 18 people. We went to four different schools. We spent time getting to know the students, playing with them, worshipping with them and much more. It brought me so much joy to see the joy of the kids through their smiles and laughter. It also brought me tears to learn about their struggles.

At one of the schools, I met a 14-year-old girl name **Naw Kler**. She is a fifth grader and has been at the school for four years. Two years ago, she made the decision to follow Jesus. When she told her parents she was going to get baptized, they

wouldn’t allow it to happen. Her parents threatened her in many ways to prevent her from getting baptized. They told her they would abandon her if she disobeyed them. As a 12-year-old at the time, her heart was broken and she cried. It was either Jesus or her family. However, she couldn’t ignore the calling of the Lord, so she decided to give her life to Him. Till this day, her parents have never contacted her, and she has never returned home.

Although she was abandoned by her parents, she was not discouraged. She said, “God gave me something that nobody else could. Not even my parents.

I’m willing to lose a thousand things to be close to my Lord.”

There are so many others at the school with a similar story. They each made a solid

decision for Christ despite knowing the consequences.

Doh Htoo is a 2020 graduate of Sunnydale Adventist Academy and the It is Written SALT program.



Photos Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference

Kimberling Church Celebrates High Sabbath

The Kimberling City Church, located near Branson, Missouri, was honored to have both **Elder Dean Coridan**, conference president, and his wife **Gail Coridan** worship with them last November. Elder Coridan shared the prophet Jeremiah's messages from the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. His theme was: "Because of the loving devotion of the Lord, we are not consumed, for His mercies never fail, they are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness!"... (Lam. 3:22, 23).

Elder Coridan also shared his compassion for our youth—how important the early years are in a child's life (particularly elementary school) and what a difference



Jim Sowards

a Christian education has made in the lives of the refugee young adults.

Gail Coridan, prayer ministries coordinator for the conference, led out in a special season of prayer. She also emphasized their dedication for the education

and salvation of our youth. As a visual reminder, she and Elder Coridan held up the prayer quilt the conference has had for many years. It has the names of numerous children, of whom some are now adults with names of their own children included

on the quilt.

Every Sabbath after the fellowship meal, members and faithful attendees of the church have been spending time in prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to come into their lives, into the church and for church growth. It has been rewarding to see the Lord working and answering prayers in different ways.

The congregation enjoyed visiting with the Coridans during dinner and in the afternoon. This was indeed a "high Sabbath" for the Kimberling City Church!

Carolyn Sowards is communication leader for the Kimberling City Church in Missouri.

Sunnydale Academy Chorale Performs at State Convention

The Sunnydale Adventist Academy Chorale, directed by **Mr. Joseph Choi**, was selected as one of four high school choirs within the state of Missouri to perform during the 2023 Missouri Music Educators Association Convention on Thursday, Jan. 26. Before this event, they hosted a send-off concert to preview the program they would be performing at the convention in front of an audience of nearly 700

Missouri music educators.

The repertoire they performed was the following five pieces:

- "How Great Thou Art" by Dan Forrest
- "Esto Les Digo" (sung in Spanish) by Kinley Langué
- "God Almighty Is" by Mary McDonald
- "Soon and Very Soon" by Andrae Crouch
- "The Awakening" by Joseph M. Martin

Iowa-Missouri News



Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference

Pastors Gather to Get “Back on Track”

The pastors of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference gathered in January in Topeka, Kansas, for their annual meeting. The theme was “Back on Track” and the focus was on rethinking and analyzing the pastors’ calling and placing Jesus at the center of their preaching, teaching and ministry. These meetings also provided valuable updates, resources and promotions of upcoming events from the different departments of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

This event featured two guest speakers, **Ty Gibson** and **Jose Cortez, Jr.** Ty Gibson was a captivating speaker who presented five seminars, each of which left

attendees wanting more. He challenged the pastors to take a closer look at their calling and to always keep Jesus at the center of their work.

Jose Cortez, Jr. shared insights on how to become vibrant, thriving churches that don’t just survive. He presented up-to-date statistics on the state of the church in North America, with a specific focus on the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. His talks were well-received, with many attendees praising his authenticity and relatability.

Ron Carlson, president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, ended the meetings with a special charge to all the pastors gathered that they would all continue

to faithfully minister to the churches under their care.

Although each church has their own challenges and difficulties, they should count on the support of the administration to continue serving faithfully and doing whatever is necessary to continue sharing the gospel of Jesus. Carlson was also adamant that they should leave these meetings not feeling defeated or depressed but rather that they would feel renewed and rejoice in God’s continual faithfulness to carry on His work.

Overall, the pastors meetings were a great opportunity for the pastors to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, while also looking

at how they can get “back on track” in the upcoming year. Event organizers said they hoped that every pastor who attended would return to their churches reinvigorated and with a renewed sense of purpose to make Jesus the center of all they do.

Multiple attendees stated that the guest speakers provided the pastors with valuable tools and insights to help them in their ministry, and the gathering was also a great opportunity for everyone to come together and support one another in their ongoing work.

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

Over 40 pastors from the Kansas-Nebraska Conference gathered in Topeka, Kansas, last January to learn new skills and encourage one another.



Photos: Saul Dominguez



New Worship Service Launches at New Haven

God is active. He is always moving, dreaming and planning, and every once in a while, often when we least expect it, He lets us in on what He is up to.

That is the story of Commons. I first heard about Commons via a phone call one night at my house in Kettering, Ohio. I was serving as a youth pastor, and as I saw an incoming call from friends in Kansas City. I was excited to answer. **Pam and Cary Decamp** were on the other end of the line, and as pandemic restrictions were beginning to loosen up, they had called me because New Haven Church was ready to do something new.

Pam serves as the worship director for the New Haven Church, and as I spoke with her and Cary, I was excited to learn that New Haven was going to launch a second service again. New Haven has historically had two worship

services that mirror one another. This time, however, the worship committee wanted to do something different. They wanted to start a service that would reach a new demographic of people—the unchurched and the dechurched.

I gave Pam some names of people who I thought would be good to connect with and wished them well on their new endeavor. It was exciting to hear that New Haven was doing something innovative and new for the community. Many people are searching for a safe, spiritual home in our cities. Oftentimes as Adventists, we attempt to meet everyone's needs with one style of worship. New Haven wanted to do something for the people who were still searching for that place to call home.

As time went on, people including **Dave Kennedy, Michael Knecht** and **Pastor**



Douglas Elsey began meeting at the Decamps' home, and as the team of people grew, so did the dream God was placing on people's hearts. What followed was hours of conversation, visioning, prayer and study looking at new and innovative ways to do church.

As the group grew to about 30 people, they moved the meetings to the gym at New Haven, and a leadership team was put in place (how I came to be part of the team is a different story). The new leadership team worked tirelessly to build and develop Commons and, on Sept. 10, 2022, Commons officially launched as the modern

expression of worship on the campus of New Haven.

The service is simple. It consists of a few worship songs, prayer and a 25-minute sermon. We keep it casual, and so far it seems to be working. Since its launch, Commons has become a vibrant and exciting expression of New Haven. The group has grown to a regular attendance of over 175 people, many of whom have not attended any faith community since before the pandemic. In addition, we have launched small groups, connect events and have become involved in a number of service projects.

With the addition of Commons, it has been incredible to watch our whole church grow. We like to think of ourselves at New Haven as one house with two rooms. We are one church with two expressions, united under one common vision to Love More. As we continue to create safe, open space as a community for more people, we cannot wait to see what God will do as we continue to follow His lead.

Kyle Smith is associate pastor at the New Haven Church in Kansas City.

Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Minnesota Conference President Dr. Daniel Honoré Unexpectedly Passes

With profound sadness, we announce that on Jan. 13, 2023, Dr. Daniel Honoré, president of the Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, went to sleep in Jesus.

Dr. Honoré began his ministry as Minnesota Conference president in September 2022 with a consecration service dedicating the conference to the work of bringing souls to Jesus. During this service, he shared his love and passion for evangelism, education and multi-generational ministry.

“Daniel firmly believed that God called him to Minnesota, and his plans for furthering God’s work in this territory emphasized his passion for evangelism and education,” said **Eric Mokuu**, Minnesota Conference vice president for administration.

Prior to accepting the call to Minnesota, Dr. Honoré served for nine years as president of the Northeastern Conference in New York. He oversaw the acquisition of nearly 40 church buildings, the liquidation of debts, the construction of a 158-unit senior housing facility and an expansion in membership from 50,000 to 60,000 souls. He brought this same energy and passion to every position he held throughout his career.

Honoré received the call to ministry at a young age and earned a bachelor’s degree in theology from Washington Adventist University and a



bachelor’s degree in history from Southern Adventist University. He then obtained a Juris Doctor from Ohio Northern University.

Most recently, he graduated from Montemorelos University with a PhD in business administration.

Honoré’s pastoral ministry began in 1995, when he was called to pastor the Brockton Temple and Ben Emmanuel Franco-Haitian churches in Massachusetts. During his pastorate, he baptized 150 people and founded the Brockton Area Seventh-day Adventist Academy, which today claims over 130 students.

In addition, Honoré conducted evangelistic campaigns in New York, Peru, Brazil, Jamaica, Haiti, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. He also served on a number of boards and committees, including the NAD Executive Committee, the Oakwood University Board

of Trustees, the Atlantic Union Conference President’s Council and the Northeastern Academy Board.

Gifted, honorable and passionate

As an ordained minister, Pastor Honoré was a second-generation conference worker. He was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to a Haitian father and a Dominican mother. Growing up in a pastoral family involved relocations and exposure to various cultures. As a result, he became fluent in English, French, Haitian Creole and Spanish.

Prior to engaging in full-time ministry, Honoré operated a law practice specializing in immigration law with two offices in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, Honoré’s professional work led him to help families in Boston through the Concilio

Hispano De Cambridge, as an investigator with the Boston Fair Housing Commission, and as the executive director of the Mattapan-Dorchester Churches in Action, training local leaders to develop strategies for solving community problems.

Dr. Honoré’s passion for social justice led him to become a fierce advocate for civil and human rights. Whether marching with young people, preaching in the pulpit or litigating in the courtroom, he ardently represented the disadvantaged and voiceless.

“Daniel Honoré was an amazing leader who gave his whole life to helping others. Not only was he an excellent leader for our church, but his compassion for others on his journey made him much respected and beloved by all. Daniel leaves behind him a legacy of service for God and

his fellow man. He was gifted with a brilliant mind which he dedicated completely to the Lord. He will be greatly missed by all of us in Mid-America,” said **Gary Thurber**, president of the Mid-America Union Conference.

Dr. Honoré planned to begin an educational endowment fund in Minnesota, modeled on the work he accomplished in Northeastern Conference. “He was passionate about not only bringing people to Jesus but creating a legacy that would bring future generations to Christ. His passion inspired and encouraged our team, and to honor his memory, we are establishing the Daniel Honoré Educational Endowment Fund here in Minnesota,” said Minnesota Conference vice president for finance **Gayln Bowers**. “We hope this endowment fund will allow Adventist education to thrive and grow in Minnesota for years to come.”

Dr. Honoré’s unexpected passing has affected us greatly and we grieve with all those who knew him. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with his wife, **Fritze**, his children; **Gamaliel, Gabriel, Nathanael and Danielle**, his brother, **Joel**, and his extended family.

Savannah Carlson is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

Donations to the Daniel Honoré Educational Endowment can be made at bit.ly/3HfNvw7.

New Tradition Thriving at Dodge Center

It all started with a vision. **Pastor Jim and Melissa Martin** wanted to make community evangelism a way of life for their congregation. A quote from Ellen G. White served as their inspiration: “In our churches let companies be formed for service. In the Lord’s work there are to be no idlers. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men” (*Evangelism* 115).

And so Go Company was formed in 2020. Every Friday evening, a group of church members gathered for food, fellowship, study and brainstorming about how best to serve the community. Although sidelined for a time with the COVID outbreak, members were soon preparing gift baskets for local teachers, EMTs, firefighters, government workers and bus drivers. Road signs were made displaying the number for an Adventist prayer line, and a free hot cocoa station was set up outside city hall for the 2020 election.

One of the Go Company’s favorite ideas was creating a parade float for the Marigold Days Festival, a celebration that brings in thousands of people from around Minnesota. It was decided to build the float in a Creation theme—complete with flowers, inflatable animals, a waterfall and two young people dressed in white as Adam and Eve. The float was a success.

In addition, 2,500 packets

(including six GLOW tracts, a fruit snack and an invitation to the America in Prophecy Seminar) were distributed by children and their parents to community members who literally stretched out their hands to receive the gospel! All in all, 15,000 GLOW tracts were sent into the community and, after attending the prophecy seminar, new members were added to the church.

This past September, the whole Dodge Center Church got involved with the float. Members volunteered their time and finances to bring our Jonah and the Whale theme to life. The float included 3D fish, balloon sea creatures, a 4-by-6-foot whale, a bubble machine and, of course, Jonah, a 10-year-old volunteer who dressed the part. Many hands made light work as church members assembled 3,000 packets with

five GLOW tracts, a fruit snack and an invitation to Dr. Nedley’s Optimize Your Brain seminar.

The day of the parade, 10 families, including 21 children, participated by distributing the GLOW tract packets. Parents held bags full of packets while the children handed them out to eager children and adults alike. “I think it’s really great that our children are learning to be missionaries,” commented **Christina Coleman**, mother of three volunteers.

Members of the Dodge Center Church have discovered that evangelism can be a lot of fun for people of all ages. “I have been waiting to [hand out GLOW tract packets] ALL YEAR!” gushed 8-year-old **Charlotte Voeltz**.

It would seem that a new tradition has begun!

Amanda Voeltz is a member of the Dodge Center Church in Minnesota.

Photos Courtesy Minnesota Conference



MHA and Pecos Church Join in Community Clothing Drive for Recent Denver Immigrants

Over Christmas break, the Denver Hispanic (Pecos) Church and Mile High Academy partnered in a clothing drive. Since Dec. 9, 2022, more than 2,000 refugees have arrived in the city of Denver, among them several Adventist families. The church has had an increase of visitors who have expressed a dire need for winter clothing, shoes, hats, gloves, personal hygiene items and even household items.

When word of these needs came to MHA, the Denver Park Hill Church, La Nueva Esperanza Adventist Church and the community, all responded immediately by

bringing bags and bags of items that would benefit the recent refugees. A team of community members from MHA and the ministry team from Pecos Church joined forces to sort and separate these items in MHA's cafeteria. The church community outreach team then transported the items to the Pecos Church to be made available for those in need.

On Dec. 28, the need was such that items were delivered personally to several Adventist

families who had just arrived with this surge. On Sabbath, Dec. 31, the church opened its doors, shared lunch and distributed dozens of bags to several families and individuals. As the city scrambles to house and feed several thousand immigrants, Pecos and MHA continue to partner as they serve those in great need.

Pecos continues to open its doors on Wednesday nights for prayer service from 6-8 pm and on Sabbath after church service as an opportunity to

minister not only physically, but also spiritually. A big need still exists for men's winter clothing, men's snow boots, men's tennis shoes, men's work boots, women's snow boots, women's tennis shoes, men's and women's personal hygiene products and backpacks.

Christina Hernández is an MHA Middle School teacher and education director/praise music director at the Denver Hispanic Pecos Church.



Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Volunteers sort donations from the community in MHA's cafeteria.



Support the drive or ask questions by contacting iglesiadepecos@gmail.com or chernandez@milehigh-academy.org.

RMC Welcomes New Team Member

We would like to welcome **Elisabet (Liz) Kirkland** to her role as communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Kirkland has worked in the communication and visual design field for almost 20

years. Her last employment was with Mountain States Employers Council where she worked since 2007. Her roles at Mountain States included graphic designer, materials manager and training and events specialist. She is also the founder and freelance designer for etachey Design, a branding, marketing,

communication design and training company.

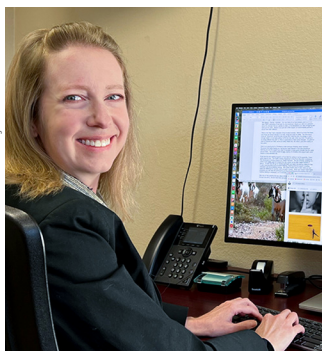
"We welcome Liz to our team. Her skills in design and branding, as well as her expertise in marketing and communication training, will help us provide quality communication. With media at the heart of social communication, our church's output needs to be attractive and engaging. Liz will assist us with her creativity. Exciting days are ahead of our communication in RMC," commented **Rajmund Dabrowski**, RMC director of communication.

Kirkland, her husband **Wandee**, and their two sons **Turi** and **Didrik** are members of the Littleton Adventist Church. Last year, they celebrated their oldest son's baptism and the acceptance of Jesus Christ into his life. She enjoys hiking, crafting and spending time with loved ones.

Reflecting on her assignment Kirkland said, "I am excited to join the wonderful team at the Rocky Mountain Conference office and help spread the message and glory of Jesus."

RMCNews

Rajmund Dabrowski



Liz Kirkland joins the Rocky Mountain Conference team as the new part-time communication assistant.

Elevating Teens at Greater Summit Retreat



“Elevate” was the theme for this year’s Greater Summit teen prayer retreat at Glacier View Ranch, and the presence of God was truly felt. About 80 teens and sponsors attended the long weekend retreat Jan. 13-16. The speaker for the event was **Jessica Rios** from Campion Academy who presented powerful and honest messages that resonated with

the young people. Praise and worship was followed by a time of Bible study and conversations that solidified the challenging message that had been presented.

We also enjoyed a host of activities including snow tubing, winter hiking, swimming, table games, dodgeball and Bible studies. **Jade Teal**, RMC assistant youth director, led a blanket-making project

for a local children’s hospital. The blankets made during Greater Summit will go to children in need of a blanket.

The weather was cool at times, but the fellowship was warm and nurturing. Sponsors and participants alike were so thankful they took the time to attend this event. Many of the participants were already talking about coming back next

year! We are grateful for the support of the faithful people in the Rocky Mountain Conference that allows our youth department to offer events like Greater Summit. With your generosity, prayers and support of ministry efforts like Elevate, and by God’s grace, we will see the fruit of our efforts both here and in the kingdom of heaven. Thank you for partnering with us in ministry in the RMC.

Brandon Westgate is youth director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

“Healthy Vegetarian Cooking with Friends” Launches at Montrose

January 15 witnessed the start of a health outreach at the Montrose Adventist Church. More than 35 people attended the first night, learning how to prepare delicious meatless meals, sampling each demonstrated dish and being shown how easy it is for vegetarians to get protein and needed nutrients for wholesome living.

The next day, one community member who attended the event posted on her Facebook page: “I thought this sounded like a fun, free vegetarian cooking class held at our friends’ church! And it was! The food was delicious,

the people were friendly, and they gave us the recipes for everything that was made! There are three more classes on upcoming Sundays. If anyone is interested in a fun evening activity, you can sign up for free with the link in the comments and I’ll see you there!”

All demonstrations, samples and education were provided by local church members. This follows three months of praying together, training and organization led by local church member and health ministries leader **Fred Hardinge, DrPH, RD**. God richly blessed these efforts by

developing a team of more than 12 people who have enthusiastically volunteered to fulfill the many roles necessary to host a program like this.

Three more sessions were held featuring soups, salads, sandwiches, better breakfasts and sweet treats. A

long-time church member remarked, “It was good for us also. I learned things I didn’t know before!”

Information submitted by Fred Hardinge, Montrose Church health ministries leader.



Photos Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

Ready for Medical School

Professional development classes prepare students to apply for graduate school

Getting into medical school has been hard enough already, but as the number of applicants explodes post-pandemic, the competition is even more fierce.

“It’s getting to the point where having a good GPA isn’t enough,” said Biomedical Science Program director **Dr. Christina Burden-Page**. “Students have to show themselves better suited to the career than other applicants with the same grades as them.”

Enter Professional Development I and II: a series of classes for students who want to get into a graduate or professional program in the medical field, such as medical school, PA school, dental school, sonography school and many others. While these classes are required for biomedical science majors, they are open to any student who wants to

be a competitive applicant.

“We’re focused on making sure we develop all aspects of a student, not just helping them learn information,” said Burden-Page, who teaches the classes. “We want to provide a holistic development of the students rather than just saying, ‘We’ll offer the coursework, you do the rest.’”

Junior **Brynna Taylor** is currently taking Professional Development I. She is majoring in both international rescue and relief and biomedical science. “Lately we’ve been working on developing a plan for how we want to develop our leadership and interpersonal skills,” she said. “This class helps a lot with figuring out what I actually want to do and what strategies I need to get to that goal.”

The classes meet for one hour each week. In Professional Development I, students explore professional

competencies: the skills they need to succeed in graduate programs and the workplace. “The healthcare field is looking for people not only who are smart, but also who can show they care about someone besides themselves,” said Burden-Page. “They know what the career is like; they’ve actually done shadowing. They’ve shown they can be a leader by having leadership positions and can demonstrate cultural competency—how not to be offensive while dealing with somebody from outside your culture.”

Skills such as reliability, dependability and trustworthiness are as crucial as they are hard to teach. Burden-Page focuses on making students aware of what is necessary for success. “They do a self-assessment and they also have a mentor do an assessment so they can see where they need to grow.”

Professional Development I also teaches students how to navigate the complexities of the medical school application process. Burden-Page gives her students practical tips for shadowing, such as

how to arrange shadowing opportunities, how to record their experiences, and how to act while shadowing.

In Professional Development II, the focus is on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that students will need for medical school entrance exams. As a class, students work on writing their personal statements, resumes and CVs.

For Taylor, the professional development class series has helped guide her plans for her career. “I’m currently thinking about being an emergency department doctor or working in pediatrics,” she said. “Before this class, most of the careers I could see myself in were based on international rescue and relief. We had an assignment in class to think about backup plans if our first choice for career didn’t work out; that’s a common question to hear from med school interviewers. It started me thinking about what I want to do long-term.”

“I would recommend this class,” said Taylor. “I really like how Dr. Burden-Page has us work in groups and discuss things among ourselves because it’s helpful to see different perspectives. There are a decent amount of assignments, but I love it.”

Brynna Taylor is learning valuable strategies for applying to medical school from Dr. Christina Burden-Page in Union’s Professional Development courses.



Photos Courtesy Union College



Gavin Forbes spent a semester as an associate pastor at his home church in Florida getting real ministry experience before he graduates.

The “Real Deal” in Ministry

Pastoral internship places students in real churches learning about real ministry

Gavin Forbes spent the fall semester away from Union College in his hometown of Apopka, Florida. It wasn't because he wanted to trade the windy Nebraska autumn for the Florida sunshine—although he certainly was not complaining. The senior theology major received hands-on ministry experience at the church he grew up in and got academic credit for it.

“I was dedicated and baptized at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said Forbes. “Getting to intern there feels like going back to my roots. I was very blessed to have that privilege.”

Every theology major at Union College participates in the capstone Leadership in Ministry experience during their senior year. This program is designed to immerse future pastors in ministry in a Seventh-day Adventist church setting. Under the mentorship of the church's pastoral team, the student applies classroom skills to real-world situations.

“I got to experience the

real deal,” Forbes said. Every week, he attended church meetings, shadowed pastors and led out in worship services. He helped plan the young adults' retreat and preached sermons.

“We take classes to prepare us for our internship,” Forbes said. “I learned to follow along in board meetings. There's only so much a class can teach before you enter that environment. We study complicated points of theology in class, and of course that's important, but in a church setting, it's not the main point of pastoral ministry. The point is to lead people to Jesus.”

The Leadership in Ministry experience allows students to discover which parts of pastoral care they are most drawn to. Forbes was surprised to learn he enjoyed leading Bible studies. “I was nervous at first because I didn't expect it to be such a big part of pastoring,” he said. “I shadowed some Bible studies with the pastors, and I was impressed by the one-on-one connections they made.

It's one of the most rewarding parts of the job.”

Forbes also appreciated the opportunity to work with a group of mentors who are ready to support him. “The biggest lesson I've learned from them is that 90 percent of ministry is just being there,” he said. “Sometimes pastors refer to it as the ministry of presence: showing up and listening to what people have to say.”

At the conclusion of his internship, Forbes accepted a pastoral position with the Florida Conference when he graduates. As he prepares to graduate in May, he credits his practicum experience with reaffirming his passion

for ministry. “My internship only solidified that I am doing what God wants me to do,” said Forbes. “Yes, I was talking and teaching, but in doing so I learned so much about God and His guidance. My mindset has changed a lot recently. As you reach the end of college, it feels like everyone is terrified of what the future holds. But not me. I've never been more calm, because whatever happens next, God is in control.”

Stories by Annika Cambigue, a senior communication and English major from Ohio



Join us for our ReUnion homecoming April 13–16, 2023. We have special events planned for:

- Honor Classes from 1953, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2013.
- Testerman Singers
- Unionaires – students of Lynn Wickham and Dan Lynn
- Celebration of Union's Progress

Learn more at ucollege.edu/reunion

UNION
COLLEGE

Q&A with Nurses Mindy Tamaleaa and Patricia Saggia-Thomas



Sherril L. Schwinn, Twin Images

Patricia Saggia-Thomas, RN, BSN, MBA (left) and Mindy Tamaleaa, RN (right) share their experience as nurses and how their careers have been shaped by their Adventist faith.

In honor of Women’s History Month, we asked two amazing women about their experience as nurses and how their careers have been shaped by their Adventist faith.

Mindy Tamaleaa, RN, is a certified nurse in supplemental staffing and **Patricia Saggia-Thomas, RN, BSN, MBA** is a nurse and patient experience leader in the heart and neurovascular department. Both women work as part of the AdventHealth Shawnee Mission team in Kansas City, Kansas.

What inspired you to work in healthcare?

Mindy: My inspiration began in first grade—I always wanted to be a missionary nurse. At nine years old, I had a bad accident resulting in a broken left femur and right ankle. I had two surgeries

and could not walk unaided for two years. I’ll never forget a nurse who brightened my days during my hospital visits and made me laugh and encouraged me during a very difficult time.

Patricia: I developed a passion for helping people at a young age while watching my mother, grandmother and older siblings care for our community in Kenya. The healthcare field became a no-brainer as I’d get to do what I love every day.

What’s most rewarding about your work?

Mindy: I can help someone every day. It may be a patient, family member, fellow team member or even a supervisor. Each day, I have an opportunity to impact someone positively.

Patricia: I’d say connecting with patients, the opportunity

to make a positive impact on the lives of others and constantly learning in the field. When you form a relationship with a patient, you’re not only able to treat them more accurately, but you are certain to learn something new. It is incredibly rewarding.

What advice would you give to your younger self or other women wanting to pursue a nursing career?

Mindy: Do not give up when it gets hard or be discouraged when your career is not what you expected. Many areas of nursing can fit your God-given strengths. There is always something to learn. Do not be afraid to try new things. You may surprise yourself with the area you enjoy.

Patricia: Never forget the *why* in your career—the call to serve. This passion and dedication will get you through hard days. I would also say never stop learning. To be an effective resource for the lives you touch, you must keep your knowledge fresh as the profession and technology continue to grow and expand.

How has your faith played a role in your career as a nurse?

Mindy: At one point, I had doubts about being a nurse.

I was going back to school as an adult with four children and a husband who traveled. God laid on my heart heavily, so I finally agreed to inquire about the program. I remember pulling up to the local college, looking to the sky and saying, “God, you have to make me want this because I cannot make it through this program if I don’t want to do it.” Almost immediately, it felt like I walked through a wall. I had goosebumps all over my body and was filled with an unexplainable desire.

Patricia: The values of my Christian faith, such as patience and acceptance, have allowed me to be a more compassionate and empathetic nurse during trying times. My faith has also given my career a more holistic approach because I not only focus on an individual’s physical and mental needs, but their spiritual needs as well. Many times, as soon as a patient senses that I am a Christian, they ask me to pray for or with them. Almost immediately, there’s a sense of peace, a calm and a hope that is hard to explain.



Learn more about AdventHealth in Kansas City at **AdventHealthKC.com**.

Finding Love, Joy and Peace Through Spirituality

Growing up, Dr. Eric Shadle, vice president of mission integration at Centura Health, had his sights set on becoming a physician.

“One summer when I was about 11 years old, I was helping my dad with his landscaping business—mowing the lawn for one of his clients—and I ran over a hornet’s nest,” said Dr. Shadle. “I was stung about 15 times and ended up in the hospital. As the physician was treating me, I thought, *I want to be a doctor.*”

Throughout high school, he took the prerequisite courses preparing for the pre-medicine route, but before heading off to college he had a change of heart and felt called to pastoral ministry instead. He attended Andrews University to study theology. But when his father underwent open-heart surgery the summer before his senior year, the light calling him back to medicine shone brighter than ever.

From there, he attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine, then joined the Navy through a scholarship program and completed his obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) residency at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. A few years and several moves later, he was set up for a career as a physician practicing obstetrics and gynecology.

“Medicine is a real privilege, to be invited into people’s lives while they are in crisis, or even in routine visits, getting to have those personal, important discussions with patients. And as an OB/GYN, bringing new life into this world was always a special moment! For me, there’s no higher calling than being a physician,” said Dr. Shadle.

He continued to care for others for another 16 years in his own private practice. But that original call to pastoring had returned. After

much thought and prayer, he listened.

“I struggled with the idea of leaving my own practice and becoming a pastor for several years,” said Dr. Shadle. “In hindsight, I was really burnt out at the end of my years as a physician. I had lost that sense of connection to spirituality in medicine as it was becoming too much of a business for me. The business of medicine was stealing the passion of medicine and the joy of helping people.”

Dr. Shadle made the difficult decision to leave his practice, his lifestyle and what he had known for decades, and in 2004, received a call to the Richland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington state. He went on to pastor there for 11 years—kicking off community programs that are still running strong today, including a reading program for second and third graders and a diaper bank that still supplies diapers to 16 community agencies.

Through the reading program, students from across the street from the church were tested on their reading level in the fall and those who fell below the average could go to the church before school twice a week for reading lessons. The program has evolved over the years and so too has Dr. Shadle’s appreciation for his experience in this role.

“It was during my years pastoring that I realized, happiness is not based on things, and giving back to the community has the power to elicit a true sense of joy. However, after more than a decade as a pastor, I knew I had yet another chapter to write,” said Dr. Shadle.

His story continues with a third career shift: serving as the vice president of Mission Integration at Centura Health and supporting the mission team. This team is focused on helping Centura caregivers connect to the ministry’s broader mission in their daily work. They also work with patients and their families providing spiritual care in times of crisis. Centura’s chaplains and mission directors help care for the whole person—body, mind and spirit—of their caregivers, patients and families.

“I can look back now and say through clear eyes, mind and heart, that no path to finding true joy is linear. Mine certainly wasn’t. But I listened to God and followed His calling. I feel incredibly blessed to have had three fulfilling careers,” said Dr. Shadle.

Perhaps Gal. 5:22 summarizes his journey to wholeness by promising, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace...”

Brianna DiPilato is a writer for Centura Health.



Photo Courtesy Eric Shadle

Eric Shadle, MD, is vice president of mission integration at Centura Health headquartered in Colorado.

FAREWELL

Allen, James L., b. Dec. 13, 1928 in Miami, OK. d. Jan. 27, 2023 in Minot, ND. Member of the Minot Church. Preceded in death by wife Dorothy Stegall Allen; 6 sisters; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Nona Kassner and Michelle Depezynski; sons James and Joel; 10 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Cavazos, Steven Nelson, b. March 31, 1955. d. Dec. 10, 2022 in Barrett, MN. Member of Fergus Falls (MN) Church; former member of Wahpeton (MN) Church. Survivors include wife Diane, son Michael and 2 grandchildren.

Flemmer, Clarence, b. June 28, 1936 in Napoleon, ND. d. Dec. 20, 2022 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Bernice; daughters Lori Sutton, Jodi Bretzman, and Vicki Meyer; 5 sisters; 1 brother; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild. Teacher for 34 years in Adventist schools in the Dakotas.

Johnson, Corrine Ann (Lang), b. May 19, 1930 in Cleveland, ND. d. Jan. 10, 2023 in Breckenridge, MN. Member of Wahpeton (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Ernest; son Brian; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughters Jeannine Hehir and Cheri; son Kent; 1 brother; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Leatherman, Beverly Jeanene (Potter), b. Nov. 5, 1964 in Wichita, KS. d. Jan. 19, 2023 in Kansas City, KS. Member of West Lenexa (KS) Church. Preceded in death by father Bobby Potter; 1 sister. Survivors include husband Tom; mother Betty Potter; 3 sisters.

Malcom, Tammy Sue, b. Jan. 18, 1963. d. Jan. 8, 2023. Survivors include mother Phyllis Gardner; 1 sister.

Miller, Shirley Ann (Fulcher), b. July 2, 1938 in Roanoke, VA. d. Jan. 17, 2023 in Enterprise, KS. Member of Enterprise Church. Survivors include husband Philip "Phil"; daughters Sheryl Larson and Teresa Peterson; son Philip "Lee"; 1 sister; 2 brothers; 17 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren.

Pitcher, Lawrence "Larry" b. Sept. 13, 1946 in Chicago, IL. d. Jan. 7, 2023. Member of College View (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Leilani; children Todd, Christine, and Rob; 4 grandchildren. President of Christian Record Services for 20 years.

Pitman, Penny Lynn, b. Nov. 30, 1953. d. Aug. 20, 2022 in Minot, ND. Member of Williston (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include husband David; daughter Pysethanie Dean; sons Daniel, David, Darren, and Dustin; 1 sister; 1 brother; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Russell, Joy Marylin (Conner), b. May 20, 1937 in Worland, WY. d. Nov. 28, 2022 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 son-in-law. Survivors include husband Ron; daughters Anita Busby and Alane Britt; son Gary; 6 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Schelske, LaVerne Reuben, b. March 30, 1937 in Woodworth, ND. d. Jan. 22, 2023 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Marjorie "Margie"; daughters Doreen Decker and Michelle Ellenson; son Tim; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

SUNSET CALENDAR

March 2023

COLORADO	MAR 3	MAR 10	MAR 17	MAR 24	MAR 31
Denver	5:52	6:00	7:07	7:14	7:21
Grand Junction	6:07	6:14	7:21	7:28	7:35
Pueblo	5:52	5:59	7:06	7:12	7:19
IOWA					
Davenport	5:53	6:01	7:09	7:17	7:24
Des Moines	6:05	6:13	7:21	7:29	7:37
Sioux City	6:16	6:24	7:32	7:40	7:48
KANSAS					
Dodge City	6:34	6:41	7:47	7:54	8:00
Goodland	5:39	5:47	6:54	7:01	7:08
Topeka	6:15	6:23	7:30	7:37	7:44
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	5:54	6:05	7:14	7:24	7:34
International Falls	5:58	6:09	7:19	7:30	7:40
Minneapolis	6:01	6:10	7:19	7:28	7:37
MISSOURI					
Columbia	6:02	6:09	7:16	7:23	7:30
Kansas City	6:11	6:18	7:25	7:32	7:39
St. Louis	5:54	6:01	7:08	7:15	7:21
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	6:18	6:26	7:34	7:41	7:49
North Platte	6:34	6:42	7:50	7:57	8:05
Scottsbluff	5:45	5:53	7:01	7:09	7:17
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	6:29	6:39	7:49	7:59	8:09
Fargo	6:13	6:23	7:33	7:43	7:53
Williston	6:39	6:50	8:00	8:11	8:21
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	6:30	6:39	7:48	7:57	8:05
Rapid City	5:42	5:51	6:59	7:08	7:17
Sioux Falls	6:16	6:25	7:33	7:42	7:50
WYOMING					
Casper	5:55	6:03	7:12	7:20	7:28
Cheyenne	5:50	5:58	7:06	7:14	7:21
Sheridan	5:56	6:05	7:14	7:23	7:32

OUTLOOK

www.outlookmag.org

SUNSET CALENDAR

April 2023

COLORADO	APR 7	APR 14	APR 21	APR 28
Denver	7:28	7:35	7:42	7:49
Grand Junction	7:42	7:49	7:56	8:02
Pueblo	7:25	7:32	7:39	7:45
IOWA				
Davenport	7:32	7:40	7:47	7:55
Des Moines	7:44	7:52	8:00	8:07
Sioux City	7:56	8:04	8:12	8:20
KANSAS				
Dodge City	8:07	8:13	8:19	8:26
Goodland	7:15	7:22	7:29	7:35
Topeka	7:50	5:57	8:04	8:11
MINNESOTA				
Duluth	7:43	7:53	8:02	8:12
International Falls	7:51	8:01	8:11	8:22
Minneapolis	7:46	7:55	8:04	8:13
MISSOURI				
Columbia	7:37	7:44	7:50	7:57
Kansas City	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:06
St. Louis	7:28	7:35	7:41	7:48
NEBRASKA				
Lincoln	7:56	8:03	8:11	8:18
North Platte	8:12	8:20	8:27	8:35
Scottsbluff	7:25	7:33	7:40	7:48
NORTH DAKOTA				
Bismarck	8:18	8:28	8:37	8:47
Fargo	8:02	8:12	8:21	8:31
Williston	8:31	8:41	8:51	9:01
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Pierre	8:14	8:22	8:31	8:40
Rapid City	7:25	7:34	7:42	7:51
Sioux Falls	7:59	8:07	8:15	8:23
WYOMING				
Casper	7:36	7:44	7:52	8:00
Cheyenne	7:29	7:36	7:44	7:51
Sheridan	7:41	7:50	7:58	8:07

OUTLOOK

www.outlookmag.org

SERVICES

Adventist School of Massage:

The only Adventist School of Massage in the country! Professional training at the beautiful Black Hills Health and Education Center. This is a state-recognized school, preparing students for licensing in most states. Classes forming now. Start your rewarding career today. go to BHHEC.org or call 605.255.4101.

Health and Wellness Center:

The team at the newly remodeled Black Hills Health & Education Center are ready to transform your life. Chefs Mark Anthony and Melody Prettyman-Caviness are here! They will show you how to make it easy to stay healthy. Sessions now forming. Go to: BHHEC.org or call 605.255.4101.

Summit Ridge Retirement Village:

An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities and transportation as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: www.summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

Ultimate Adventist Vacations:

The perfect place for relaxing getaways or family vacations. Newly Remodeled Black Hills Health & Education Center. Close to Mount Rushmore and Custer State Park in Hermosa, South Dakota. Healthy meals, wellness center, massages, great hiking areas. Packages starting at \$99 nightly. Book early. Visit BlackHillsHealthRetreat.org or call 605.255.4101.

Yes, I'm still open. No, you haven't sold me those coins yet. 531.333.6858 or email lawrencejlee42@gmail.com. Dr. Lawrence J. Lee, World Coins and Medals, PO Box 6194, Lincoln, NE 68506.

FOR SALE

Shop for new/used Adventist books: TEACH Services offers used Adventist books at www.LNFBOOKS.com or new book releases at your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com. AUTHORS let us help publish your book with editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800.367.1844 for a free evaluation.

EMPLOYMENT

Andrews University Seeks Faculty in Architecture:

The Assistant or Associate Professor of Architecture holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching of assigned lecture courses and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For details and to apply: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2

Summer Camp Ranger needed:

The Dakota Conference is looking for someone with general maintenance skills to serve as a camp ranger for Flag Mountain Camp in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This position extends from June-August of 2023 and offers a stipend and other benefits. Contact camp@dakotasda.org for more information.

Summer Internships and Employment:

Black Hills Health & Education Center in South Dakota is searching for Wellness Center Interns wanting to learn Medical Missionary Work. Position available for RN too. Also Hiring Forestry Team to do clearing and landscaping. Meals, lodging and/or wages provided. Email applications to info@bhhec.org or call 605.255.4101.

Union College is building new graduate programs and is searching for candidates

for the following positions. Please view the job descriptions at ucollege.edu/employment and direct any inquiries to Debbie Eno at debbie.eno@ucollege.edu. Occupational Therapy Program: *Academic Fieldwork Coordinator*; Public Health Graduate Program: *Program Director and two half-time faculty positions*; Leadership Graduate Program: *Program Director and one faculty position*.

Union College seeks applicants for History Professor.

Ph.D. in History preferred, master's degree in history required. This is a full-time, exempt position to begin June 1, 2023. See the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. Full benefit package includes tuition subsidy for dependents. Direct inquiries to Bruce

Forbes at bruce.forbes@ucollege.edu.

Union College is searching for candidates for Athletic Director.

This individual will provide overall leadership to the Warriors Athletic program to provide a positive learning experience for the students and to share the character of Christ within all areas of athletics. Bachelor's degree required, Master's preferred. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. Direct any inquiries to Kim Canine at kim.canine@ucollege.edu.

Walla Walla University is hiring!

If you or someone you know is looking to advance your career, check out opportunities and apply at jobs.wallawalla.edu.

ASI MID-AMERICA CONVENTION



with speakers
Mark Finley AND **Eric Flickinger**



APRIL 20-23, 2023



"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." *Isaiah 60:1-3*

Location: Delta Hotels by Marriott Denver Thornton
 10 E 120th Ave, Northglenn, CO

To register, visit ASIMidAmerica.org



All are Welcome

OUTLOOK

PO Box 6128
Lincoln, NE
68506-0128

PERIODICALS



See yourself here.

jobs.adventisteducation.org



Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church

MID-AMERICA UNION

Inspire others. Become a teacher.

Teaching is much more than a job; it is a calling with a deep purpose. And teaching in an Adventist school means you also inspire students to find their own true purpose in God. Experience the satisfaction of challenging youth to dream big and to make those dreams come true. Become an Adventist teacher and inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service.

Early Childhood | **Elementary/Secondary** | **College/University**

