

OUTLOOK

JAN 2015

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2015 Adventism: What Should it Look Like?

Welcome to the January 2015 issue of OUTLOOK magazine! We hope you enjoy the fresh design and splashes of color.

Our goal this year at OUTLOOK is to regularly provide you with information and insights regarding the history, high points and challenges of Adventism as we experience the 60th General Conference Session to be held July 2-11 in San Antonio, Texas.

Admittedly, our church structure and functions are complex. However, our identity as a worldwide movement is even more complicated. What is our role and responsibility as 21st century Seventh-day Adventists? To answer that, we must remember from where we have come, determine where we should be heading, and resolve our issues so we can decide how we intend to arrive.

There are many ideas currently being proffered by Adventists of all flavors and trying to sort them out can be confusing. But of one thing I am certain: Our only hope for fulfilling our God-given mission as a movement lies in the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling each heart.

—BRENDA DICKERSON, editor



Q&A with the president

Q: Our pastor and church board chairman are constantly clashing over how our church should do evangelism. It's causing a lot of turmoil. Can you help us?
—a local church leader

A: At least six to eight times per year I receive phone calls asking the Union to “do something” to fix their pastor, their local church or their conference administration. Many members don't understand the roles of various levels of church structure.

For example, local churches (and only local churches) have the final authority to decide how non-tithe donations to local congregations will be spent. They also plan their own evangelism and decide who will be members of their congregation.

Conferences budget expenditures from tithe, form and disband local churches and schools, hire and fire pastors and teachers, and own property related to their institutions.

Unions own and operate colleges and universities, grant approval of candidates for ordination and coordinate joint conference plans.

For more information or to leave a comment for the new Church Governance Committee go to nadchurchstudy.org.

—THOMAS LEMON, MAUC president

**I am the vine;
you are the
branches.**

John 15:5 NIV



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INSIDE

ON THE COVER

Shayne Daughenbaugh is exploring new (yet actually old) ways of forming spiritual connections. Photo by Cid Coto. Story on p. 6.

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1. HAPPY NEW YEAR

from your friends at the Mid-America Union. Visit our newly-updated website to see how we can serve you in 2015: www.midamericaadventist.org.

ONLINE

2. WORLD CHURCH

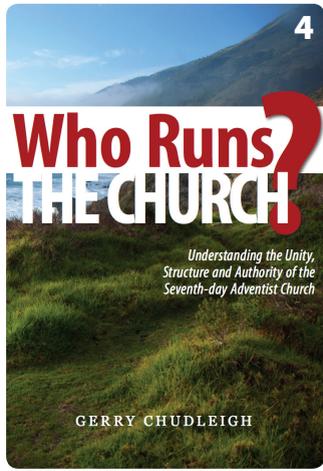
The ADVENTISTS Trilogy: Martin Doblmeier's award-winning documentaries are now available as a single, three-DVD set from your Adventist Book Center.

3. iENGAGE

NEW FOR 2015! Gatherings to begin or strengthen youth/young adult groups in local churches and university campuses in Mid-America. Visit www.midamericaadventist.org/iEngage.

4. WHO RUNS THE CHURCH?

Understanding the Unity, Structure and Authority of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A short history by Gerry Chudleigh: (www.session.adventistfaith.org/assets/454468). Print copies available from **AdventSource**.



OUTLOOK

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The Truth About Your Church



If you've gotten past the title, you know there are problems. We'll get to those. However, in my travels around the Mid-America Union and beyond I find quite a bit of confusion over the basic structure of the church, so perhaps now is a good time for clarification.

But first some history. Following the disappointment that occurred to early Advent believers when Jesus did not return on October 22, 1844, that very small group went back to their Bibles and intensely studied again and again—in parlors, barns and kitchens. Those believers hammered out much of what we as Seventh-day Adventists believe today: the Sabbath, the Second Coming, the essential unity of the body (soul is not separate and eternal), the Sanctuary, the Spirit of Prophecy and more.

They also agreed they did not want an organization. Most of them had been cut-off from fellowship in their churches before 1844 and believed that an organization was not only unnecessary but detrimental to the cause.

That feeling persisted until it became clear that the fledgling movement was at the mercy of those who owned the land, buildings, tents and other tangible assets. Also, with the Civil War raging, Adventist draftees who wanted to serve in non-combatant roles needed

a recognized organization to speak for them. Furthermore, the question persisted as to who had the authority to identify preachers as able to represent the movement.

How did structuring occur?

In 1861 the Michigan Conference was organized, followed by a few other states, culminating in the 1863 establishment of the General Conference in Battle Creek, Michigan. There was some dissension, but the church moved forward. Out of this grew the Sabbath school society, the “tract society” and many other forerunners of the various departments of the church we know today. By the middle 1870s the movement sent its first foreign missionaries and the resultant growth has been remarkable.

Guided by the counsel of Ellen White, in 1901 and 1903 the church reorganized itself, diversifying authority across several levels rather than having consolidated power in the hands of a small group of men in Battle Creek. Union conferences and divisions were formed and, with minor adjustments, by 1920 the organizational structure we have today was in place.

The local church joins with other area churches to form a local conference for a given territory (often reflecting state

or national boundaries). Those conferences band together to form a union conference. The General Conference is composed of all the union conferences in the world. And the General Conference has chosen to express itself in the 13 divisions, each of which is not a constituent group but rather a segment of the GC. Divisions normally reflect large geographic areas and provide cohesion among the unions.

What should I know for 2015?

In July 2015 each of the Unions will send delegates to the world church's General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas to transact the business of the organization. There will be about 2,000 voting delegates. Observers and guests will swell that number to more than 50,000 on Sabbath. Leaders will be nominated and elected through a complex representative process. The constitution and the by-laws may be adjusted to reflect current legal and practical exigencies. The *Church Manual* will be examined, as will the Statement of 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

Attendees will be treated to extensive and often thrilling reports of the progress of the Adventist World Church. And they will be challenged with news of the cost paid—even in blood—by those willing to go

where the gospel is unknown and unwelcome.

A question that is part of numerous church conversations as we anticipate this GC Session is the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. It has been on the minds of many since the early 1880s but more acutely during the last 40 years. Five years ago the General Conference convened a special Theology of Ordination Study Committee to try to reach consensus before next July. Over the last two years that committee of 106 members has met three times for multiple days each time in its quest for a workable conclusion.

TOSC, as it is known, reported to the General Conference Executive Committee at Annual Council in October. Unable to reach the bar of 90 percent agreement established by General Conference leadership, they reported three different positions on the matter. The first one, on the basis of Scripture, rejects women's ordination completely, including the now long established practice of ordaining women as local church elders. The second position, on the basis of Scripture, supports women's ordination to be decided on a division-by-division basis. The third position states that the Bible is not clear on the matter, in which case the church has the authority to decide and



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

Our 18.1 million church members are supported by their respective conferences, unions, divisions and the General Conference.

information source: www.adventist.org
(2012 statistics)



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH TIMELINE



should do so on a division-by-division basis.* Roughly two-thirds of TOSC members favored positions two or three.

How does this affect my local church?

The suggested changes to the *Church Manual* include matters of church discipline that may have a local impact, depending on what surfaces in your church. Proposed changes in the 28 Fundamental Beliefs are largely editorial. What really matters is how we use our beliefs. Do we share them as a way to reveal the wonderful character of our God, or do we use them as a filter by which to exclude those whose word choices may be

different from our own? As for the ordination of women, the option to allow divisions to make that determination for their territory is permissive in nature rather than prescriptive. Just because a division votes to allow it does not mandate that a union grant ordination; nor does it mandate that a local conference hire women and ordain them. The TOSC itself has clearly stated that all members of that committee, no matter their position, are solid Seventh-day Adventists.

So what's wrong with this article's title?

First off, it isn't your church, nor is it mine. Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates

of hell will not prevail against it" (Matt.16:18). The church is *His*. So lest we get all worked up about the issues and start flinging invectives around, we need to remember that the Lord Himself has preserved His church down through the ages without any help from us. And He is still in charge.

Therefore, it becomes critically important not that we get God on our side, but that we submit ourselves to His side. That means having a humble, teachable and Christ-like attitude. In addition, it is essential to realize that the truth about the church changes over time. James White and Joseph Bates would not recognize the Adventist church of today.

Organizational structure is a tool to promote the mission the Lord has given us, which happens in local churches and communities. When that functionality loses effectiveness, then we must be prepared to carefully and prayerfully make the changes that will propel His movement forward.

Please join the Pray One Million initiative sponsored by the North American Division and be in much prayer as we work through this pivotal year in the mission of God's church.

**This summation of the positions is my own terminology.*

Thomas Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.

Taking Spirituality Beyond the Sanctuary

Cid Coto



Josh Marshall (left) is excited about the new faith community Shayne Daughenbaugh is building.

His beard was fierce. The black-grey manliness dominating his face was impossible to miss as I entered The Egg and I. He greeted me with “Hey, Brother” as I slid into the booth and readied my computer to take notes.

I wanted to know why, after 10 years, Shayne Daughenbaugh had

decided to resign from his youth pastor position at College View Church in Lincoln, Nebraska to pursue a new venture. In our conversation, we discussed the Adventist church structure (large scale and local) as well as specific aspects of the church’s functions. What works? What doesn’t? Where could change take place?

Exploring the facts

Throughout the years, the church has developed an elaborate system that serves to organize and unite Adventists around the globe (see page 5). One of the biggest advantages this system offers is distribution of funds that helps rural churches afford a pastor. In addition to helping local churches, the Adventist church is well

known for its extensive missionary work, as well as its education system and hospitals.

But there are always two sides of a coin. While the distribution of money can help support smaller, needy churches, it can also get tied up in utilities for the larger churches and pastoral salaries. Some may wonder if there are better ways the money could be spent. And though missionaries are sent overseas to spread the gospel, the question must be posed as to what more could be done for local community outreach.

What’s the church’s purpose?

Why do we sit in pews and listen to someone talk week after week? To answer that, we have to remember the church’s history. In the Middle Ages, most peasants could not read. Therefore, it made sense for the people to congregate in a room and listen to the educated priest read and explain the Bible to them. Now, illiteracy is rare, yet we have maintained the same church service structure. We sit in pews, listen to a sermon, and maybe follow along in our Bibles.

But what happens when

we leave? From experience, I know that most of the message has disappeared by the time I finish my haystack. The sermon may have been compelling and finely phrased, but where are those words Monday morning?

So if the sermons don't have a lasting impact and the people sitting in the pews with us are essentially strangers, what is the church's true purpose? Since childhood, we've been told to bring outsiders into the church. Yet I find myself wondering what I would be offering them if I brought them into a place that does little for me. Therefore, my interest was piqued when I heard about Shayne's endeavor.

Creating spiritual community

"In a nutshell, what is it you're trying to do?" I asked.

"We're creating spiritual community for those who are disengaged—that have

baggage with the institutional church," he replied. In addition to the general disengaged crowd, Shayne believes that he will be able to better reach millennials,* a demographic the church has been scrambling to retain. Regarding the church's traditional youth retention tactics, Shayne commented, "We expect we'll build a great church, throw some fancy graphics up on a screen, and they'll be drawn to it. I don't think millennials are into that, especially the ones who are unchurched. They have the big fancy flash in the concerts or in the bars. What they really need and what I think people crave, in general, is community."

The Acts 2 model

A major part of the community Shayne is building includes "house church," where people meet in someone's home to worship together. Though he says it's become more prevalent

in the last 10-15 years, the house church model—based on Acts 2—has been around since Christianity began. The beauty of a house church is that, opposed to traditional church, things don't hinge on a pastoral staff. Rather than being dependent on those people, house churches embrace the concept of "being the body of Christ." There are leaders, but everyone in the community has a responsibility and opportunities to be involved.

In many ways the Adventist church has changed very little in the last 150 years. While it isn't obsolete, Shayne pointed out the need for room in our minds for other expressions of church. Initially, some people were concerned Shayne was turning his back on the church, but I'd say it's the opposite—he's branching out. He's breaking Adventism out of its shiny, suit-and-tie box. With Adventism at the heart of his ministry, he's free-falling out of a religious

comfort zone and into a bare-bones spiritual journey with God.

As an innovator, I'm intrigued and impressed at the faith going into the community Shayne is starting. As a millennial, it excites me to think of an alternative to church—without substituting spirituality. The traditional church service will be around for a long time, but it no longer has to be the only way for spiritual engagement. It no longer has to be a finish line to drag the unchurched across. Jesus' life showed us that what matters most is people, whether we're with them in the sanctuary or on a couch in someone's living room.

**Millennials (also known as Generation Y) make up the demographic born approximately between 1980 and 2000.*

Josh Marshall, a Lincoln, Nebraska native, is a 22-year-old writer and musician.



Jesus' life showed us that what matters most is people, whether we're with them in the sanctuary or on a couch in someone's living room.

Church: Next



Historical research shows that roughly every 500 years there is a reconstruction of the established structures of institutionalized Christianity. A simplified timeline would look like the one above. After each of these events a more vital form of Christianity emerged, brand-new expressions of faith were found, and an exponential increase in the range and depth of Christianity occurred.

We are now at the next 500-year mark.

Is Adventism ready for a new shift in church culture? Are we prepared to engage, encourage and equip millennials, and the generations coming after, to follow Christ when they might not “do church” in the typical way? For those who grew up in our denomination or those without a denomination, what do we have to offer them that is creative and authentic?

We find in many people a longing and hunger for God that is not satisfied with pat answers and once a week

church attendance. There is a renewed desire for the spiritual: a Jesus-centered rather than ritual-centered experience. There is also an emphasis on authentic community and belonging that lessens the need for institutional structures where people can be lost in the crowd. Another characteristic is an emphasis of faith above morality—wanting to be known by what we do rather than what we don’t do.

How will we respond?

Do we hold fast to what we have always done and known, or do we take advantage of the opportunities to become a spiritual home for those searching for a significant faith inside and outside our churches?

I’m not suggesting abandoning our belief system, but rather allowing new ways of expressing those beliefs. My fear is that if we don’t stretch ourselves outside our sub-culture and tradition we will miss many opportunities. I believe Western Seventh-day

Adventism is losing its young people because it is failing to see the need to engage them in new and creative ways. With the retirement of the boomer generation comes a massive leadership vacuum. Will we continue allowing large portions of an energetic and passionate generation to slip away untapped and unloved?

Change is uncomfortable, even scary.

But it is necessary for growth.

The coming years can be years of renovation and refreshment, exciting times of God’s Spirit moving in and outside the Adventist church.

Will we as the church continue to look the same? Probably not, but I hope that we will look more and more like Jesus as He grows and expands His body.

Read this article in its entirety, plus resources, at outlookmag.org/churchnext.

Shayne Daughenbaugh recently resigned from denominational employment and is branching out—retaining Adventist beliefs and values at the heart of his ministry—to build spiritual community through the Simple Church movement.



Religious or Spiritual?

Religiosity is a word that is somewhat of a burr under my saddle. Whenever I hear the word used in a conversation I tend to bristle just a bit. My hackles don't go up because I don't believe the negative connotations of the word being used...but more because I actually do.

In its most narrow sense, "religiosity" can be described very simply. It deals more with how religious a person is, and less with how a person is religious. If that last sentence seemed confusing, let me explain.

One does not necessarily have to be spiritual to be religious. One would think that being spiritual would be a prerequisite, but it's not. In fact, from what I've experienced over the years, real spirituality can be rather rare in some religious circles. Oh, a church and its members might look and act nicely in public, say the right things, and perhaps even

dress well...and yet still suffer from religiosity.

Being a member of a particular church doesn't make one a Christian any more than stepping into a McDonalds™ turns someone into a Happy Meal.™ I hesitate to bring up fast food as an analogy, but I couldn't think of anything that was more ridiculous.

Authenticity matters

Real spirituality and religion do not necessarily coexist. Don't believe me? Keep an eye on people who are having a discussion on a biblical topic about which they feel passionate. Watch what often happens when they totally disagree with the other person's point of view. It's often not very attractive, unless of course you enjoy viewing pride, self-sufficiency, and a dictatorial take-no-prisoners attitude when someone is discussing great "truths" in a "religious" setting.

I'm bothered when I see religiosity in others. I'm less bothered when I see it in myself. Why? Because I almost always have a plethora of excuses as to why my religiosity is somehow more justifiable. I can look religious, sound religious, and act religious without actually *being* spiritual...and that idea scares me to death.

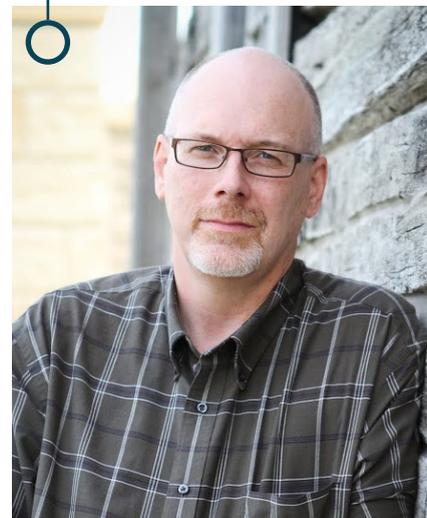
"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27, NKJV).

"Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16, ASV).

Religiosity—it's what I hate most in myself when I look in the spiritual mirror of God's Word. I don't want to go through the motions. I want to *live* my faith authentically for the world to see!

Michael Temple is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister serving in the Dakota Conference. He and his wife, Roberta, are the proud parents of three children: Taylor, Maddie and Michael.

Pastor Mike authors a daily e-devotional called The Open Word. Subscriptions are FREE at www.openwordshow.org.



MAUC Vice President for Finance to Retire

Elaine Hagele, Mid-America's vice president for finance since April 2006, plans to retire on January 31. She is the first woman in Adventist history to hold this position in any North American union territory.

For the past eight years Hagele has travelled extensively, providing financial leadership throughout Mid-America and the North American Division. She was an integral part of the conversion of the Mid-America Union, its conferences, and some academies to up-to-date accounting and payroll systems. She has tirelessly developed and maintained budgets, trained new personnel, and interpreted and reported the financial data of the union and its organizations. Constituents often remark that she possesses a gift for translating dollar figures on paper into tangible mission accomplishment for the Adventist Church and its entities.

Mid-America Union president **Thomas Lemon** said, "Elaine's clarity of explaining sometimes complex financial policies and transactions has been legendary and we have all benefitted greatly. Her advocacy for supporting the ministry and growth of Union College has been a demonstration of her commitment to Adventist

education. And her clean audits, year after year, reflect her expertise. We will miss Elaine very much and wish her every blessing as she turns the page of life to a new chapter."

Union College's vice president for finance, **Jeff Leeper**, said he will remember Elaine as always having a smile, a little laugh to get through things, and a hug and prayer for support. "As a friend of Union College she supported the development of the building needs on campus and chaired the Board Finance Committee with grace, strength and quiet dignity," he commented. "She cares for the people of Union College and Mid-America. She witnesses loving kindness in a most professional and Christian manner in both business and personal life."

Common sense leadership

After working as an educator, Hagele served in the General Conference Auditing Service, then accepted a position in Mid-America Union Conference as associate vice president for finance in 2001. Hagele has always fulfilled her responsibilities based on the conviction that tithe and offerings belong to God and must be handled as effectively as possible.

Iowa-Missouri Conference

treasurer **Rhonda Karr** said, "I have had the privilege of working with Elaine for the years she has served in Mid-America and she has always been available, willing and ready to help or give advice when needed. I will miss her leadership and common-sense approach to dealing with the varied treasury situations that arise."

The North American Division has also relied on Hagele's expertise. "Elaine has been a good friend and supporter of the NAD as one of the nine union treasurers," said **Tom Evans**, CFO and treasurer for the NAD. "From her experience in GCAS she has been one I could rely on in discussing policy changes regarding accounting and auditing. Elaine will be missed, but I am sure she will continue to help in the work of the NAD in various capacities."

Elaine and her husband, **Lowell**, a former administrator and mathematics professor at Union College, have three adult sons and five grandchildren. In addition to spending time with family, Elaine hopes to accept volunteer assignments anywhere to help schools, conferences or institutions with interim needs.

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



Blessed Reflections from Elaine Hagele

Between 2005 and 2007, requests came to the Mid-America Union Revolving Fund for about \$15,000,000 for church and school buildings. That more than doubled the notes receivable to the fund for building projects. So having funds available to meet the borrowing needs was an enormous challenge.

Throughout 2006 and 2007 we converted all the investments we reasonably could to cash, leaving primarily bonds invested. We encouraged conferences and institutions to put their money here where it could help with these projects. That proved to be an unforeseen blessing.

When the equity market dived deeply in 2007 the Revolving Fund monies had just been safely invested in church buildings rather than in the financial markets. We thank the Lord for His timing of so many significant building projects that now stand to give Him glory. Investments in God's projects are always dependable.

Lincoln SDA Credit Union Turns 50 *People Helping People*

Bruce Forbes



Lincoln SDA Credit Union employees are eager to serve members living in any location in North America. (l-r) Lisa Bednar Forbes, manager/CEO; Norman Peterson, assistant manager; Joyce Jensen, operations manager.

The Lincoln SDA Credit Union, organized January 19, 1965 by a group of visionary Lincoln, Nebraska Adventist business leaders to serve members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Originally sited on the campus of Union College, the Credit Union is now located on Prescott Avenue in the College View neighborhood.

According to Lincoln SDA Credit Union manager and CEO **Lisa Bednar Forbes**, credit unions are member owned, not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-led cooperatives. Members of the credit union pool their money in the form of deposits to lend to other members.

“Each credit union determines its field of membership in its bylaws,”

said Forbes. “The Lincoln SDA Credit Union serves any Seventh-day Adventist church member or minor family member of those qualified for membership living anywhere in the United States.”

Because credit unions are not-for-profit institutions, making money is not their goal. “We do not focus on making large profits to pay to a group of share holders,” Forbes explained. “Instead our purpose is to return profits back to the members in the form of higher dividends, lower loan rates, and products and services to meet our members’ needs.”

Celebrations and challenges

The credit union industry, which recently surpassed the 100 million member mark nationwide, is struggling to

cope with the massive amount of new regulations that resulted from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act passed in 2010 as a response to the Great Recession. “Many of the regulations make some sense in regulating the super-sized banks, but small credit unions and community banks must also comply with most of the regulations,” Forbes said. “Therefore, credit unions have gotten creative and developed ways to share resources.”

The extended low interest rate environment has further challenged financial institutions of all sizes. The Federal Reserve rate of 0% costs them thousands of dollars each year of interest income on reserves and investments. “No one predicted that the rates would remain this low for this long,” Forbes stated.

As a result, most financial institutions are charging more fees to their customers. The Board of Directors at the Lincoln SDA Credit Union has chosen not to add any new fees or increase existing fees at this time.

“We are extremely well-capitalized and it is the board’s goal to weather this storm with minimal impact to our members,” said board chairman **Bruce Griffith**. “We put people before profits.”

Norman Peterson, assistant manager for the Lincoln SDA Credit Union, says consumers have become more aware that credit unions offer the

same services as banks. “But credit union members aren’t customers,” he added. “They’re owners. And because credit unions are a financial cooperative, they return financial benefits directly to their members.”

The credit union was founded on the philosophy of *People Helping People* and Forbes affirmed that it’s still their mission.

Read this article in its entirety at outlookmag.org/sdacreditunion50.

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

Did you know?

The Lincoln SDA Credit Union is a full service institution offering savings, checking (share draft), share certificates, debit and credit cards, online banking, bill pay, and numerous loan products including personal, auto and home. Deposits are insured to at least \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

For more information call 402.489.8886 or toll free 800.244.7168 or visit www.lincolnsdacu.org. You can also email lsdacu@lincolnsdacu.org.

Central States Youth Director Launches New Ministries

Pastor Darriel Hoy shares her vision with OUTLOOK



You've served in multiple areas of ministry. How did you become passionate about youth?

Of all the ministries that I've served, youth and young adult ministries are my first loves—partly because I understand that they are foundational. If our church invests deeply in youth and young adults, our church will see a return from that investment both now and in the future.

My mother also inspires my passion for youth ministry. She was a teacher and then a counselor for abused girls. Not only did my friends gravitate toward my mother, but all youth did. My mom always had time and made room for youth. She still does.

Finally, I feel so strongly about youth and young adult ministries because these two ministries made a profound difference in my life. I'm alive today because of the Christian

adults who mentored me as a youth, and I'm a Christian because they made Jesus real and relevant to me. I was a pre-teen when my parents separated. To me, it was the end of the world. My church became my place of refuge. My pastor was **D.C. Hatcher**, and at one of the most traumatic times in my life, he walked with me and helped me understand that God would never abandon me. He and his wife, **Patricia**, engaged me and other youth in meaningful ministry—serving communion to the sick, making hospital visits, cooking a meal for a family in need, and praying with people facing life's challenges. In college, I didn't make good choices my first year. But I remembered that God will never abandon me, and that true success is doing God's will. I started attending Immanuel Temple SDA Church, and the elders there had the gifts of hospitality and

young adult ministry. Every week all the young adults were invited to a different elder's home where we ate, talked about life and prayed. This loving, spiritual community shaped my adult life.

Please briefly explain your goals for Central States Youth Ministries.

Central States Youth Ministries is instigating an uprising among youth and young adults. We're facilitating a rebellion by helping our youth reject the materialism, media messages, music and mean spiritedness of the world that keep them from rising up to be the young heroes that God has called them to be. Because of Christ-centered, holistic and revolutionary ministry, our youth will turn their backs on Satan's seductive systems of destruction and pledge allegiance to the God who loves them, gave His life for them, and has amazing plans for them.

We fulfill this vision through the following ministries: **Training** – Equipping our leaders to view our youth and young adults through the eyes of Christ and invest in their success. **Spiritual Boot Camps** – Moving beyond book knowledge of the Bible to critical thinking and applying God's Word to our everyday situations. **Service** – Inspiring disciples

who follow in the footsteps of Jesus, demonstrating true love through serving, empowering and being generous to others. **Life Skills** – Providing practical resources to help achieve life's goals.

What excites you about youth?

I love people of all ages, but youth are my favorite people on earth. I love and respect their ingenuity and how they challenge the status quo. I value their honesty, insight and opinions. I'm awed by their loyalty, compassion and courage. I love their sarcasm and jokes and I simply enjoy being with them.

I'm excited about the plans God has for this generation of youth and young adults. I believe that our youth are the Daniels of this day who will live and die for God. They are Josephs who rise above hate and injustice in our world. They are Jonathans and Davids who reject jealousy and fakeness to build true friendships and help each other succeed. They are modern-day Miriams who watch over their younger brothers and sisters. They are end-time Esthers who overcome challenging childhood circumstances—poverty, foster care, single parent homes, divorce, baby mama drama—and rise up to be leaders whose decisions change history for the better.



Photos: Courtesy/ Daniel Hoy

What are your concerns for the youth?

My biggest concern isn't for our youth. It's for adults. As adults we understand that

Satan intentionally targets our youth to trap them in a lifestyle of habitual sin. We say Christ has made a difference in our lives, and we're blessed with

resources our parents never dreamed of having. And yet, we sit back and watch Satan destroy our youth and young adults without intervening. God is calling adults to enlist in His army of prayer warriors, mentors, youth leaders, teachers, behind the scenes supporters, and generous

donors. My prayer is that more adults will be moved to invest their time, talents and treasures and join God in the fight for the lives of our youth and young adults.

Read this article in its entirety at outlookmag.org.

St. Louis Churches Present Truth in Black and White

Courtesy David Klinedinst



Bryan Mann, (middle) senior pastor of Northside church, his assistant Tatum Fowler (left) and David Klinedinst worked together to make the Stand Your Ground: Prophecy Edition experience one of great joy and fulfillment. Not pictured: Pastor Joseph Ikner.

Despite the continuing unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, pastors and church members from the Iowa-Missouri and Central States conferences recently carried through with plans to host evangelistic meetings together for the first time in St. Louis. **Bryan**

W. Mann, senior pastor of the Northside Church where the November meetings were held, said it's another step toward collaboration.

"Through God's omniscience He was able to place in ministry those who could work together, pray together and befriend one another," Mann said. "Over the last several years the pastors in the St. Louis area have become more than colleagues; we have become friends. That's a powerful force in building the kingdom of God."

About four years ago when **Pastor David Klinedinst** moved into the area he sought out a relationship with all the pastors. As the area evangelist for the Iowa-Missouri conference, Klinedinst encouraged area pastors to meet to plan, pray and discuss ways of expanding the ministry of the gospel in the St. Louis metropolitan area

As a result of these friendships, Mann approached Klinedinst about partnering with him in evangelistic meetings. Then **Pastor Joseph Ikner III** of the Berean Church said that he would love to join in the evangelistic meetings. The team conducted a three-week seminar called Stand Your Ground: Prophecy Edition.

The three pastors recognized events going on in Ferguson, and the death of Mike Brown less than one-and-a-half miles from the Northside Church, as a call not only for the Adventist community but the world to see that last day events were occurring right in their backyards.

"As we advertised the meeting we went to Ground Zero where the memorial for Mike Brown lay," said Mann. "We went door-to-door in the Canfield Apartments praying with individuals and giving them an invitation to the seminars. We even placed a Stand Your Ground flyer on the Mike Brown memorial" (photo right).

Night after night the pastors preached powerful, truth-filled messages and

at least four people made decisions to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Mann also reported that because of the diligent labors of the Northside Bible workers, four other individuals were preparing to be baptized before the meetings even began.

"With all the recent unrest in St. Louis, it was my prayer that in some small way we could show that people of different cultures, different ethnicities and different perspectives can work together and understand each other," said Klinedinst. "If any organization should be modeling this it should be the church, especially God's last day worldwide movement."

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



Courtesy Bryan Mann

Concert Benefits North Dakota Teen Challenge



Paulette Bullinger

Jodi Dossenko and Elder Harold Chin were featured vocalists for the Promise of Peace concert.

Adventist musicians from North Dakota presented a contemporary Christian and gospel music concert last October as a gift to residents of the Bismarck and Mandan communities.

Elder Harold Chin, pastor of the Mandan and Turtle Lake churches, organized the *Promise of Peace* concert where he and **Jodi Dossenko**, also of Mandan, were featured vocalists. **Arlo Heinrich** of Bismarck accompanied them. Chin's church members selected the organization Teen Challenge to receive funds raised during the benefit concert.

Teen Challenge, a network of corporations that offer faith-based solutions to youth, adults and families struggling with life-controlling addictions, was started in 1958

by **Reverend Dave Wilkerson**, author of *The Cross and the Switchblade*. The organization now has over 400 centers worldwide, many of which include residential recovery programs. Individuals are welcomed from every ethnic, socio-economic and religious background. North Dakota Teen Challenge is located in Mandan.

The church rented two large rooms at the Seven Seas Hotel in Mandan and advertised in both the *Mandan News* and the *Bismarck Tribune*. They also advertised on Facebook and with brochures.

During the intermission, Chin invited **Pastor Mike Evans**, the local Teen Challenge director, to talk about their programs and facilities. Evans explained that he thought Adventists were a cult and did research about the church before he would allow the residents and staff to attend the concert.

"If anyone was reached at this concert it was him!" said **Paulette Bullinger**, a Mandan church member.

"At least 20 young adult residents from ND Teen Challenge were there," commented another attendee. "They were a very enthusiastic group."

During Chin's call for a free-will offering at the end of the concert, he shared that when he was a child attending an evangelist series with his father, the person calling

for the offering challenged guests to give the highest denomination of money they had in their wallet. He remembers watching his dad pull out a \$100 bill and place it in the plate. Chin challenged his audience to do the same.

Over \$700 was donated to Teen Challenge from the *Promise of Peace* concert; and yes, there were several \$100 bills in the offering plates.

Promise of Peace was also shared the following evening with Chin's northern congregation in Turtle Lake. Joining them in song were **Pastor James Venegas** and his wife, **Kaylene**, of Jamestown, North Dakota.

.....
Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.



March 13-15, 2015 *

MEN'S RETREAT

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Aberdeen, South Dakota

Plan now to attend the Dakota Conference Men's
Retreat at Aberdeen, South Dakota,

March 13 – 15, 2015

Featuring Dr. Richard Davidson of Andrews University

Public Christmas Tree Displays Church Ornaments

Jacquie Billoff



members were excited to be granted the privilege of decorating a tree this year. They chose to make ornaments with pictures of every Adventist church built in South Dakota, whether currently open or closed. They also made ornaments of the Watertown conference office, the Pierre conference office, and the historical

Chamberlain Sanitarium.

Jon Brotherton used a special plotter to help size the photos in preparation. Encouraged by **Wendy Brotherton**, members met several times to assemble the ornaments and then decorate the tree.

Jacquie Billoff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Visitors sit on the grand marble staircase in the capitol building listening to musical performances by the Capitol City Children's Chorus and the South Dakota Chorale.

Pierre church members sponsored a uniquely decorated tree during the annual *Christmas at the Capitol* holiday display. The theme for 2014 was "125 Years of Christmas in South Dakota."

The *Christmas at the Capitol* display includes trees decorated by individuals and organizations from across South Dakota. A lighting ceremony commences the program the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Musical entertainment and story time for children continue throughout the holiday display period. Thousands come to view the display, which is open to the public from 8 am-10 pm daily.

At this year's lighting ceremony South Dakota

Governor Dugaard said, "The first Capitol Lighting Ceremony had 12 trees. This year we have over 100 trees, the largest one being this 37-foot blue spruce."

According to a 1988 issue of *Midwest Living* magazine, in 1980 then-governor **Bill Janklow** asked **Dottie Howe** to do an "old-fashioned" tree for the Pierre State Capitol building. By 1988 the tradition had grown from one tree to 30 trees on the main floor of the capitol, with the third floor used as a viewing gallery. Today there are over 100 trees on all three floors, each displaying a separate motif.

Knowing that the Bureau of Administration receives more requests than it has trees available, Pierre church



Richard Kurtz

From left: Ben Beierle, with daughter Madison, Tammy Johnson and Wendy Brotherton helped assemble ornaments for the Pierre Church's tree.

Students Meet Dr. Ben Carson

Courtesy Julie Olson



Students from J.N. Andrews Christian Academy met Dr. Ben Carson at a recent signing event for his book *One Nation*.

This past fall students from J.N. Andrews Christian Academy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa took a field trip to meet **Dr. Ben Carson** at a local book signing. Carson was on tour promoting his book *One Nation*. School principal **Julie Olson** bought one book per

family for her students to have signed. The 16 students waited patiently for nearly two hours to meet Dr. Carson and have their pictures taken with him.

“Going to see Dr. Carson was a moment to remember,” said **Leah**, a seventh-grader.

“Meeting someone who was raised having low self-esteem and who then became one of the most famous Christian neurosurgeons was great. Because of his faith in God, it encouraged me to always remember God and to never put myself down. Even

though people might see it as just shaking his hand in a little bookstore, I see it as a day to remember.”

Julie Olson is the principal at J.N. Andrews Christian Academy.

Rolla Pathfinders Acquire Miracle Trailer

Courtesy Linda White



While preparing for last summer's International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Pathfinder leader **Glenda Plank** noticed that their trailer was missing from the church parking lot. She wasn't concerned because it needed repairs and a family had agreed to make the necessary fixes. However, when Glenda called the family and they told her they didn't have the trailer the awful reality set in that it had been stolen.

The church collected insurance money for the trailer, but it was only two weeks until the camporee and the club had no trailer, tents or supplies of any kind.

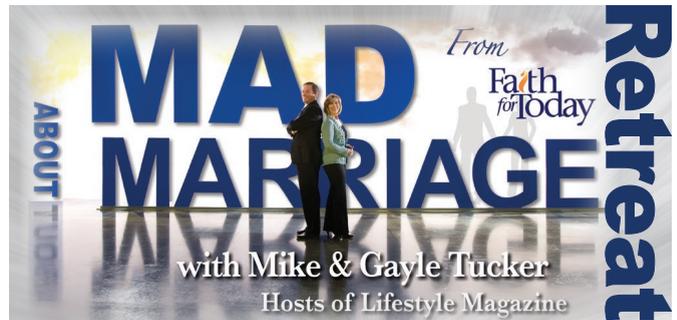
Shortly after the theft was discovered, church member **Richard Agean** mentioned the situation to a friend while they were having breakfast. Richard's friend got on his phone and quickly located a trailer for \$2,000—the amount Glenda had budgeted. This trailer had

When the Rolla Constellations Pathfinder club's trailer was stolen right before the International Camporee in Oshkosh, God worked miracles for them to purchase a new one.

only been used twice. It was truly a miracle!

Then the Bourbon, Missouri Pathfinder club came to our rescue by letting us borrow all their supplies since they weren't going to the camporee. Glenda purchased tents and banners and Rolla Church members donated towels, coolers, cooking utensils and more. We are so thankful for the mighty way God has moved all the puzzle pieces to bless our Pathfinder club.

Linda White is treasurer for the Rolla, (MO) Church.



February 13 & 14, 2015

**Hilton Garden Inn
West Des Moines, Iowa**

Retreat Registration

\$99 per couple now - January 13

\$109 per couple January 14 -
February 10

Hotel Registration

\$109 per night through January 23
or until all rooms are booked



**Register at
www.MadAbout
Marriage.com/DesMoines**

Student Disciplined for Sharing his Faith

Doris Reile-Kneller



Melissa Ramirez is happy that her children, Moises and Eva, are now attending the Great Bend Church School.

sharing his faith—now he’s encouraged to.

*Editor’s note: Moises’ teacher, **Betty Hay**, said that Moises and Eva are delightful students. “They bring so much to our classroom. They’re enthralled we get to talk about God. To have them here is a privilege.”*

Melissa Ramirez is a member of the Great Bend Hispanic Church.

In the fall of 2013 my husband and I purchased the *Amazing Adventure Study Guides* for our son, **Moises**, and our daughter, **Eva**. They were both very excited about the study guide illustrations and all they were learning.

Moises felt a real need to share his faith. At the time, he was a third-grader attending a public school. Although my husband and I believe in Adventist education, finances had prevented us from placing our kids in the local church school.

One day Moises’ teacher sent home a simple note. I read it with disbelief: “Dear Parent, this note is to inform you that your student has received disciplinary detention during the last

recess period. Please call or visit the school office to discuss this matter.”

The following morning I visited with his teacher. She explained that Moises had been sharing his faith with a friend in school during recess. His friend didn’t own a Bible and asked Moises if he could have one. So Moises took his Bible to school and gave it to his friend. During recess they would sit apart where they could read and share. His teacher said this was unacceptable playground behavior.

Since the fall of 2014 God has provided financially and Moises and Eva are both attending the Great Bend (KS) Church School. No longer is Moises disciplined for



WICHITA AREA CONVOCATION

January 30-31, 2015



SPEAKER:
KARL HAFFNER

Lead Pastor of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church and Mission Strategist for Kettering Health Network

Friday — 7:30 pm — Vespers
Wichita Three Angels Church
4558 N. Hydraulic St.

Sabbath — 9:30 am — Sabbath School
10:50 am — Church
2:00 pm — Afternoon Program

Wichita South Church
820 W. 27th St. South

Topeka Teacher Organizes Fundraiser

Cheryl Barker



Realizing the great need for a new gymnasium floor for the Topeka Adventist Christian School, teacher **Marcia Gifford** called on members, friends and the community to participate in a silent auction to help raise funds. More than 90 merchants and members donated items to be

auctioned—everything from Applebee's gift certificates to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Topeka Zoo.

Auctioneer **Travis Sager**, conference youth director, had the pleasure of meeting **Reggie**, the mascot of the Topeka RoadRunners hockey team. The RoadRunner's management team donated a

suite for 15 people, including the opportunity to drop the puck before the start of that game.

According to Gifford, more than \$7,500 was raised toward replacing the 22-year-old gym floor.

"We were thrilled by the

turnout and participation of so many who gave of their time, merchandise and money," she said.

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

RoadRunner's mascot Reggie gives Travis Sager some jerseys to be auctioned.

KS-NE Conference calendar

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT www.KS-NE.org

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Jan 23-25 | Pathfinder Rally/Honors Fest
Lincoln, NE |
| Jan 30-31 | Wichita Convocation |
| Feb 6-8 | Hispanic Elder's Retreat
Topeka, KS
info: robpaucorrea@hotmail.com |
| Feb 13-14 | Kansas City Convocation |
| Feb 21 | Pathfinder Bible Conference
Lincoln, NE
info: tsager@ks-ne.org |
| Feb 27-
Mar 1 | Engaged Encounter
Lincoln, NE
info: anhardt@ucollege.edu |

Exploring the Structure of Metro 2015 Evangelism

An interview with Minnesota Conference president Justin Lyons

Courtesy Brian Mungandi



Brian Mungandi (right) and Justin Lyons discuss plans for evangelism in Minnesota.

Elder Lyons, what is Metro 2015 Evangelism? Can we justify the effort and the cost?

Metro 2015 Evangelism is a concerted effort that began in 2013 to bring the gospel message to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area. We do this because the conference believes very strongly in the

great commission given to us in Matt. 28:18-20. Here we see the phrase “make disciples.” Jesus talks in terms of production and it appears there is a need to increase output. Jesus also tells us in John 4:35 that the fields are ready for harvest. We want to see a harvest in the Twin Cities.

What guides you in this endeavor?

I read in the writings of Ellen G. White statements like: “In preparation for the coming of our Lord, we are to do a large work in the great cities. We have a solemn testimony to bear in these great centers” (*Last Day Events*, 118).

Reaching the big cities is a challenge. Minneapolis/St. Paul is the largest metropolitan area in Mid-America and the 14th largest in the United States. There are about 3.7 million people living in the Twin Cities. Jesus loves every one of them and wants us to lift Him up to them.

Elder Lyons, 3.7 million is a lot of people. What structures have you put in place to facilitate reaching this goal?

We hosted a series of seminars with the North American Division Evangelism Institute that has trained members to do evangelism. We have our local congregations doing outreach activities, and we have Discover Bible Schools set up in almost every church. We also scheduled a reaping series in every Metro congregation. In the summer of 2014 we brought in a Magabook team to work the Twin Cities area. We plan to have about 300 lay Bible workers trained and in service by January 2015.

As a conference, we understand that we can only do all this if our members begin to see themselves as ministers, as fishers of men

Excitement Mounts as Volunteers Engage in Outreach



On Oct. 17-19 volunteers from the Twin Cities Metro area churches swarmed The Edge Christian Worship Center in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota for training sessions as part of the North American Division's ongoing campaign to evangelize the major cities.

Shawn Boonstra and his team from the Voice of Prophecy led out in training Bible workers, Discover Bible School directors, and Discover Bible School record keepers. **Karen Lewis** was on hand to train volunteers in the use of the *Lifting Up Jesus* Bible studies, which is the instrument of choice for our conference.

In the weeks preceding the training event over 310,000 interest cards had been mailed out within the territory, and the first response cards to arrive were distributed to Bible

workers who began making contact with the respondents. Correspondence schools were set up in the various churches for those individuals who prefer to study through the mail.

Over the next four weeks, volunteers met on Monday evenings at Minneapolis First Church for prayer, encouragement, and Q&A sessions with members of the VOP team and conference leaders and pastors. More cards were distributed as they came in—to date totaling over 1,300. Several hundred Bible studies are in progress, with more added each week.

We are excited about the ongoing reports of baptisms from meetings being held in many of our Metro churches, and about the upcoming meetings with **Shawn Boonstra** and **Julio Chazaretta**. We are also excited at the prospect of building up the work in some of the underserved parts of our conference, and are actively making plans for the future. Just as importantly, we are excited that the training of volunteers is not for a one-time event, but for ongoing mission work in all of our churches.

Doug English is Personal Ministries director for the Minnesota Conference.

and women, as harvesters and disciple makers. We have been trying to budge the culture in Minnesota so that every church sees itself as a center of influence and service.

We have a human goal for all this work we are doing. Our goal and our prayers are for 1,000 baptisms by camp meeting 2015, and that at the end of 2015 our conference membership reaches the 10,000 mark.

The efforts also go beyond the Minnesota Conference. In total, we have 41 congregations from four conferences and two unions working together in this outreach.

How do you plan to accomplish all that?

This is the Lord's work. We have the privilege of cooperating with Him. We are praying for God to do great things in Minnesota. We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit—and by our "lifting up Jesus" through sharing the hope, peace and purpose we have in God, and having our churches working together in unity—the Lord will bless abundantly.

This whole process began back in 2013 and the high point will be two large series of meetings in 2015. The first will be Feb. 27-Mar. 28 at the Minneapolis Convention Center with **Shawn Boonstra**, speaker/ director for the Voice of Prophecy. Shawn's meetings will be presented in English, but his slides

will also be in Spanish and Russian on separate screens. The audio will be interpreted into seven languages.

Then Mar. 29-Apr. 4 we have **Julio Chazaretta** from *El Centinela* magazine presenting Spanish meetings at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, near the international airport. This six-night series will end at a larger venue, the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Each congregation is expected to immediately hold follow-up seminars or programs to keep people on a discipleship track.

How can our readers help?

We still need human resources. There are many areas where church members can volunteer: prayer ministry, audio/visual, children's ministry, data entry, greeting, material distribution—the list goes on and on. As the Holy Spirit moves on your heart, please go to the Minnesota Conference website and volunteer or call the office at 763.424.8923.

Second, this is a very costly endeavor, so as the Lord impresses you please make a donation to the conference for evangelism.

Third, and most importantly, pray for this grand endeavor.

Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

Cañon City Church Collects Toys for Kids in Crisis



Photos: Judith Schwarz

Jackie Robinson has been collecting stuffed animals for 12 years. Her program has helped bring comfort to thousands of children during times of crisis.

Encouraged by Robinson, church members find these toys on sale, at thrift stores, yard sales and in their own collections, and put them in a toy bin that sits in the church lobby throughout the year. At least twice a year, after making sure the animals are clean, Jackie takes them to the various agencies. Some of this year's collection was donated to Toys for Tots for distribution to needy children during the Christmas holidays.

Robinson is not hesitant to share her enthusiasm for the project with others. Recently she had a God-appointed opportunity to speak to the regional manager of Burger King while he was visiting in Cañon City. After he found out about Jackie's project, he volunteered to set up an additional collection center in the Cañon City Burger King.

Judith Schwarz serves with her husband, Steve Schwarz, who pastors the Cañon City Church in Colorado.

On the Sabbath before Thanksgiving, 357 unusual faces greeted worshippers at the Cañon City Church. Arranged on a long bench and spilled over onto the floor near the church's entry were pink, brown, patchwork and rainbow colored bears; bunny rabbits with fancy hats or bows at their ears; a frog sporting a heart that reads, "You Make My Heart Jump;" a gorilla with a banana in hand; puppy dogs of various known or imaginary breeds; along with a baby elephant, baby dolls, chicks, cows and at least one snowman.

This latest collection of soft, cuddly toys was the result of eight months of collecting led by long-time church member **Jackie Robinson**, who has been responding to a

community need for 12 years. Whenever a fire, accident, arrest or other tragedy affects a child, representatives of the Cañon City Police Department, Fremont County Sheriff Department or the Cañon City Fire Department give a cuddly toy to the child. In some circumstances, distressed senior citizens receive something to cuddle as well. These toys help bring comfort during times of crisis.

The colorful faces of 357 plush toys await distribution to local law enforcement and fire department representatives.



RMC Welcomes Daryl Davison



Shari Bellchambers

Daryl Davison Sr. is the new associate director of Planned Giving and Trust Services for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Davison comes with his wife, **Gina**, from Mount Vernon, Ohio. He is an Ohio native and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Davison has extensive experience in insurance, having worked for an agency that provides guardianship and trust services for people with disabilities. In addition, he has experience in law enforcement. Davison also traveled throughout the Ohio Conference filling in as a guest speaker for local churches whenever there were needs.

He first felt called to ministry in his current capacity during a personal visit by a Planned Giving field representative. Davison asked the field rep how he got into this line of work and inquired about prospects for himself.

In the months to come, Davison found out about a training opportunity for Planned Giving being held in California. Since he was not employed by the church,

Davison would have to pay the expenses himself. He talked this over with Gina and they prayed that the Lord would open doors for him and that the funds would become available to attend.

The Lord answered their prayers, and Davison completed the training. He received offers from several other conferences and ministries but did not feel the Lord's leading for those positions. When the Rocky Mountain Conference contacted Davison, he sought advice from friends and colleagues and was assured that this was a great conference to work for as well as a great place to live.

"We are greatly pleased to have Daryl join us," said **Gerry Chapman**, director of Planned Giving and Trust Services. "Daryl is a deeply committed Christian who is joining us out of a deep desire to make a difference in ministry for God. He has demonstrated a love for people and the ability to give careful attention to detail. We look forward to a long working relationship together."

Daryl and Gina have two adult children and four (soon to be five) grandchildren. Please pray for the Davisons as they seek to find a home here and work through the challenges of relocation. "The Lord led us to come to RMC," Davison said, "and I know He will continue to lead us for His purposes."

Mark Bond is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Pueblo Members Feed the Homeless



Linda Jackson

On the second Sabbath of each month, members of the Pueblo First Church provide a hot meal for those in need at a local park.

For more than six years the Pueblo First Church has been feeding and clothing the homeless at the local Mineral Palace Park. The name of this special ministry is Angels of Kindness.

It began with a vision of **Ernie Reynolds, Carol Reynolds** and **Nadine Oldenburg** "to serve the poor, the helpless and the widows" as Jesus did.

On the second Sabbath of every month—rain, snow, sunshine or blowing wind—church members prepare hot meals for those in need. They provide selections such as pizza, spaghetti, salad, hamburgers, chili, stew, dessert and bottled water. They have even prepared a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings.

Through the community service outreach of the church they also gather gently used clothing and outdoor supplies such as tents and sleeping bags to be shared with homeless individuals. During emergency situations lodging has also been provided.

Every first Sabbath of the month Ernie distributes fliers to various soup kitchens and

support organizations telling about the Mineral Palace Park meal. At first, only a few homeless individuals would come. Currently, 50 to 100 show up. In addition to the hot meal, church members provide sack lunches for homeless individuals to take with them.

The recipients of the food often help by setting up tables and chairs, and also assist with cleanup and with prayers.

It's known throughout the community that Pueblo First Seventh-day Adventist Church feeds the homeless. If you ever happen to be in Pueblo on the second Sabbath of the month, come by Mineral Palace Park at 2:30 pm and participate in the awesome opportunity to serve like Jesus did.

Linda Jackson is a member of the Pueblo First Church in Colorado.

Tips for Surviving College

Becky Dewey Daniel and Tori Leddy share suggestions

Photos: Courtesy Union College



Tori Leddy, a junior biomedical science major, decided to transfer to Union when she discovered the focus on research in the science program.

Becky Dewey Daniel survived and thrived while earning a degree in communication at Union College. Now, as she directs marketing campaigns for Enrollment Services at Union, she is passionate about helping high schoolers and parents understand that with just a little preparation, it is possible to be a college success story.

Her blog, *College Survival*, tells the stories of many current students and alumni and what they learned about succeeding in college—from how to pick a major to how to find scholarships. Here's a page from her blog:

Tip #2—Choose a college based on fit, not friends

By Becky Daniel

For **Tori Leddy**, Union College is just the first stop on her educational journey.

A junior biomedical science major from Maryland, she plans to earn both a PhD and an MD so she can become a researcher and have the option to practice medicine.

"I like science," said the Auburn Academy alum. "I like asking questions and figuring out problems. I want a career that will help people, and I think research is the best way I can do that."

So I asked Tori more about her experience at Union.

BD: What made you interested in Union College?

I transferred from Walla Walla University, because my family was moving across the country. I have two brothers attending Union and it would be financially easier to travel home to Maryland from Nebraska versus Washington.

Also, I'm a sixth or seventh generation Union College student and I have a lot of relatives who are alumni, so my dad wanted me to attend Union.

I had a research job at WWU and told him I wouldn't attend Union if I didn't have the same job opportunities. When we visited Union College, my dad set up a meeting with **Dr. Frankie Rose**. Dr. Rose told me they wanted a student worker with research experience, so I was set. I didn't have anything else (other than friends) holding me back. I had to choose whether to be near friends or family. I chose family.

BD: What makes Union special?

I really like the student and teacher interaction. Teachers have more one-on-one time with students. I was shocked when students called their teachers by their first names. My other school was so much bigger and more formal. This is a nice change.

BD: What is one of the hardest things about college?

It's hard to not get the grade you wanted even though you worked for it. In high school, you can do a little bit of work and get the grade you want. In college, you can put a lot of time into a subject and you still don't always get the grade you wanted.

BD: What is one of the best things about college?

I appreciate eating at Union Market. It's so nice to not have to prepare your own meals all the time. Everyone else eats there, too, and that's definitely a perk to be able to eat with my friends every day.

BD: What would you tell your younger sibling or friend about choosing a college and choosing a major?

1) Don't choose a college based on where your friends are going. They are choosing a college that's a good fit for them. It might not be a good fit for you. Choose a college that's right for you. You can always make more friends.

2) If there's nothing you're really passionate about, take a lot of different classes. You'll stumble across something you're excited about. If you change your major, that's OK. If you don't have a major, get your general classes out of the way first.

3) You're at college for a reason. It's easy to give up. If you do, you'll waste your experience and your money. I see kids who have one semester left before they graduate and they quit school. They have a lot of personal reasons, but it's just a waste. Don't give up.

Discover more college survival tips from Union College students and alumni at www.union.edu/survival-guide.

Why Visit Union?



Hope Sajdak, a freshman nursing major, was surprised to find that Union College is not surrounded by corn fields.

For **Hope Sajdak**, Lincoln was just another Podunk town tucked away in endless Nebraska cornfields—far from anything that might interest a typical college student.

“I thought it would be kind of like *The Wizard of Oz* and there would be nothing to do at all,” said the freshman nursing major. “I thought there was a lot of corn and nothing else.”

Sajdak, a native of Parker, Colorado, graduated from the 2000-student Chaparral High School and despite urging from her father, Union College never was a serious option for her. “My dad graduated from Union, but he didn’t spend all four years here and he really regretted that,” she explained. “So he was a big supporter and really wanted me to go here.”

But as she visited other colleges, she couldn’t find a school that felt right. *What could it hurt to visit Union?* Sajdak asked herself. “It was free to visit so I decided to check it out.”

Sajdak immediately noticed the winter air didn’t seem as frigid as expected. “And the city is really nice,” she said. “It wasn’t in the middle of a cornfield or anything like that. Lincoln reminded me a lot of where I live.”

During preview days, Sajdak experienced the Union College campus and what the city of Lincoln has to offer. But that’s not what stuck with her. “I noticed that everywhere I went people would smile at me even though they didn’t know me,” she remembered. “I instantly felt part of the community. It was contagious and inviting.”

And though she likes her classes and her job working in the Enrollment Services office, it was the people who brought her to campus that helped her fall in love with Union.

“When I came to visit Union, I knew only one person,” she said. “But I got to meet the other students visiting Union for preview days. In fact, I met my roommate that weekend.”

Sajdak now believes more than ever in the importance of visiting a campus before making a decision on college. “I think visiting is vital to experiencing the atmosphere of a campus,” she said. “The atmosphere is not the same at all schools and one can’t really experience that by clicking through pictures on the website. You have to actually experience life with the college students.”

And for her it paid off. “I think the people and the community were the most influential part of making my decision to attend Union,” Sajdak said. “God is the center of this college and it shines through the people here. They are really awesome.”

Ryan Teller is director of public relations for Union College.

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Are you thinking about attending college in the next year or two? Know someone who is? Visit as many schools as you can. While you’re at it, why not visit Union College? It’s free. We’ll even pay up to \$250 toward your travel expenses.

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Jan. 29-Feb. 1
Mar. 26-29
Apr. 16-19

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Feb. 27-Mar. 1

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Held at the Mid-America Union office building
8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE

Creating a Healthier Workplace

CREATION Health makes a difference for hospital employees

Photos: Courtesy Centura Health



Sally Heaton and Mary Walker, CREATION Health coaches for the Quality Improvement department at Littleton Hospital, stand in front of the Reciprocity tree, a place for posting healthy recipes to share with their coworkers.

Seventh-day Adventist hospitals in the Denver area have discovered an innovative way to save money while also improving the lives of their employees. The idea isn't entirely new. Its roots are in the Adventist health message shared 150 years ago by Ellen White.

This effective program, called CREATION Health, was originally pioneered at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida. The CREATION acronym stands for Choices, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. It was originally

conceived as a way to share Adventist health principles with local communities.

Community health is still a major goal of the program, but in the interest of "practicing what we preach" the five Adventist Hospitals in the Denver area have developed a four-part strategy that includes reaching patients, physicians and hospital employees, as well as community members.

To be successful, such a health initiative must be supported from the top down in addition to gaining viral energy from the bottom up. Accordingly, to date, about 150 hospital leaders and 150 additional "CREATION Health Coaches" have been trained across the five campuses, according to project director **Jim Feldbush**, also director of Pastoral Care at Denver's Porter Adventist Hospital.

It's a case of positive peer pressure at its best. The health coaches are volunteers from each department identified by their supervisors as having a strong interest in health and a strong willingness to inspire coworkers to engage in health-related activities. They were trained and charged with thinking of fun, creative ways to involve their colleagues in healthy behaviors.

The current coaches are presenting their departments with a variety of healthy activities and challenges. Some set daily step goals with accompanying tracking plans;

others encourage coworkers to take the stairs instead of the elevator; still others provide healthy alternatives to donuts during staff meetings or encourage their peers to "count their blessings." These activities and more are designed to impact every part of a healthy, more abundant life. They are simple solutions that should add up to noticeable improvements in the health of the corporation's employees.

A holiday grassroots version of The Biggest Loser is one of the more creative activities planned. Participants encourage each other to *drop* rather than *gain* pounds during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. Organizers bring a whole-person care approach to the contest, rather than making it simply about losing weight. Prizes are planned for employees who lose the most weight during the contest.

"We are hoping that by creating a culture of health inside the walls of our hospitals, we will have happier,

healthier employees," says Feldbush. "And healthier employees have fewer sick days, lower health costs, and higher morale and productivity, all of which makes us better financial stewards as well."

The ultimate goal of the CREATION Health model is to enlist the corporation's more than 4,000 employees as part of a vibrant, enthusiastic, grassroots team of ambassadors for health in their local communities. This will bring the program's health strategy full circle, creating a vibrant health partnership between the five hospitals and the communities they serve.

To find out more about CREATION Health and how you, your church or your organization can benefit from this program, visit www.coloradocreationhealth.com or call the office of Pastoral Care at Porter Adventist Hospital at 303.778.5683.

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/Centura Health, where he serves the five Adventist hospital campuses in Colorado. It was written by Mark Bond.

The Blessing Tree gives employees the opportunity to share positive things that are happening in their lives.



Allen, Dorothy J., b. Dec. 24, 1928. d. Nov. 12, 2014 in Chattanooga, TN. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by parents. Survivors include husband James; daughters Nona Kassner and Michelle Depezensky; sons James and Joel; 1 sister; 10 grandchildren.

Bagley, Hattie S., b. Oct. 27, 1927 in Chester, SD. d. Nov. 28, 2014 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by husband Melvin; parents; 6 siblings. Survivors include children Harland Bagley, Sally Kreutzbert and Janine Bagley; 1 sister; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Barnes, Eunice E., b. Feb. 25, 1965. d. Nov. 9, 2014. Member of Alliance (NE) Church. Survivors include daughter Colleen; son Edward; 2 siblings; numerous nieces and nephews.

Beck, William, b. Oct. 5, 1942 in Jamestown, ND. d. Oct. 9, 2014. Preceded in death by father. Survivors include wife Karen; daughter Michelle; son Matt; mother; 5 sisters.

Bercha, Miriam M., b. Aug. 12, 1918 in Naper, NE. d. Sept. 6, 2014 in Hebron, NE. Member of Fairbury Church. Preceded in death by parents. Survivors include numerous friends and relatives.

Bergen, Florence L., b. Mar. 14, 1920 in Topeka, KS. d. Mar. 10, 2012 in Fredonia, KS. Member of Fredonia Church. Preceded in death by first husband Howard Kofoid; second husband

Victor Bergen; daughter Linda; sons Harley and John. Survivors include daughters Vicki Hopmann, Martha Bing and Suzann Lemire; 1 brother; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Braithwaite, Treva F., b. Aug. 28, 1918 in Hettinger, ND. d. Oct. 3, 2014 in Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. Member of Rapid City Church. Preceded in death by husband David; son Glen; parents; 4 brothers. Survivors include son Dennis; 4 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Dickerson, Robert, b. Sept. 6, 1934. d. Aug. 29, 2014 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Gladstone (MO) Church. Survivors include daughters Connie Dickerson, Stephanie Dickerson-Kazarian and Iris Haynes; son Donald.

Hartman, Aaron P., b. Nov. 24, 1924 in Java, SD. d. Oct. 30, 2014 in Bowdle, SD. Member of Bowdle Church. Preceded in death by parents; 1 sister. Survivors include wife Darlene; daughters Kay Stover and Michelle Hartman; sons Leslie and Daaron Hartman, Paul and Jason Job; 1 brother; 9 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Hegney, Emma L., b. Apr. 12, 1910 in rural Carrington, ND. d. Nov. 29, 2014 in New Rockford, ND. Member of Dakota Conference. Preceded in death by husband Martin; daughter Dorene Olson; son Tharold; parents; 2 siblings. Survivors include daughter Bernice Ruchotzke; son

Darol; 1 grandchild; 2 great-grandchildren.

Knapp, Elsie "Mae," b. Mar. 17, 1912 in Ravenden, AR. d. Sept. 29, 2014 in Pittsburg, KS. Member of Pittsburg Church. Preceded in death by husband Albert; 2 siblings. Survivors include 1 brother; numerous nieces and nephews.

Marsh, Elaine, b. Sept. 21, 1932 in Alliance, NE. d. Nov. 18, 2014 in Alliance, NE. Member of Alliance Church. Survivors include sons David, Brad and Peter; 2 siblings; 13 grandchildren.

Mash, Flossie, b. Aug. 1, 1937 in Kewanee, MO. d. Mar. 24, 2014 in Cuba, MO. Member of Bourbon (MO) Church. Preceded in death by

6 siblings. Survivors include sons Arthur Junkerman III, Mark and William Mash; 2 siblings; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Moyer, Theodore, b. Feb. 16, 1925 in Wymore, NE. d. Oct. 18, 2014 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include wife Helen; daughter Kay Johnson; son Tom; 4 siblings; 4 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Portell, Timothy, b. May 4, 1947. d. Oct. 12, 2014 in Potosi, MO. Member of Farmington (MO) Church. Survivors include wife Audrey; daughters Cindy and April; sons Tim Jr., Tim III and Richard; 15 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

SUNSET CALENDAR	Colorado					
	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	
Denver	4:47	4:53	5:01	5:09	5:17	
Grand Junction	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33	
Pueblo	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:11	5:19	
Iowa						
Davenport	4:44	4:51	4:58	5:07	5:15	
Des Moines	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:19	5:28	
Sioux City	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:28	5:37	
Kansas						
Dodge City	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:01	
Goodland	4:35	4:41	4:49	4:57	5:05	
Topeka	5:12	5:18	5:25	5:33	5:41	
Minnesota						
Duluth	4:32	4:39	4:48	4:58	5:09	
International Falls	4:30	4:38	4:47	4:57	5:09	
Minneapolis	4:43	4:50	4:59	5:08	5:18	
Missouri						
Columbia	4:58	5:04	5:12	5:20	5:28	
Kansas City	5:07	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:37	
St. Louis	4:51	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:20	
Nebraska						
Lincoln	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33	5:41	
North Platte	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:49	5:57	
Scottsbluff	4:35	4:42	4:50	4:58	5:07	
North Dakota						
Bismarck	5:06	5:14	5:23	5:33	5:43	
Fargo	4:50	4:58	5:07	5:17	5:27	
Williston	5:12	5:20	5:30	5:40	5:51	
South Dakota						
Pierre	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:48	
Rapid City	4:26	4:33	4:42	4:51	5:00	
Sioux Falls	5:02	5:09	5:17	5:26	5:35	
Wyoming						
Casper	4:43	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:15	
Cheyenne	4:42	4:49	4:56	5:05	5:13	
Sheridan	4:39	4:46	4:54	5:03	5:13	

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EMPLOYMENT

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, Maryland is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities: review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, prepare reports to government agencies, record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centers. Visit www.adra.org for more information.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

International in Silver Spring, Maryland is seeking a full-time Senior Program Finance Manager. Responsibilities: provide day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. Visit www.adra.org for more information.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, Maryland is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities: prepare reports and evaluate internal control systems, procedures and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. Visit www.adra.org for more information.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Sudan is seeking a full-time Finance Director. Responsibilities: prepare all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintain accounting records. Visit www.adra.org for more information.

Announcing: Executive Director opening for Adventist Heritage Ministry. Full-time salaried position, including benefits; located at Ellen White Estate office, Silver Spring, Maryland. For information, job description, or to submit resume, contact James Nix, Ellen White Estate: nixj@gc.adventist.org. Application deadline: March 31, 2015.

Biology Department at Southwestern Adventist University is seeking qualified applicant (PhD preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to Schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

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Hope Channel in Silver Spring, Maryland seeks a Director of Fundraising to develop and execute direct-response and event fundraising strategies to gain from viewers and other supporters the voluntary financial support necessary to fund current operations and desired expansion of broadcast services. More information and required qualifications at hopetv.org/about/ employment. Email cover letter and resume to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

Now hiring early childhood teachers to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package based on competence and experience. Must be native English speaker and hold a Bachelor's degree, preferably with early childhood teaching experience. Education Center run by Adventist professionals. Visit sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm or email gateway@sgg.com.sg for more details.

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Pacific Union College is seeking full-time manager of Albion Biology Field station, to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess bachelor's degree (business administration preferred) and strong organizational/communication skills. Expertise in budget management and knowledge of boat operations desired. For more information or to apply call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

Pacific Union College is seeking Special Collections Librarian to begin July 1, 2015. Ideal candidate will possess Master of Library Science degree from ALA accredited institution and have experience in academic librarianship, archives, and

information literacy programs for students. For more information or to apply call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

Pacific Union College Religion Department seeking full-time faculty for 2015-16 academic year. PhD in Religion preferred (open to ABD), with emphasis in Old or New Testament, or any branch of Theology. Must have successful teaching experience. For more information or to apply call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

Southwestern Adventist University Education and Psychology Department seeks a full-time qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

The Kinesiology Department at Southwestern Adventist University seeks a full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum

vitaie and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817.202.6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

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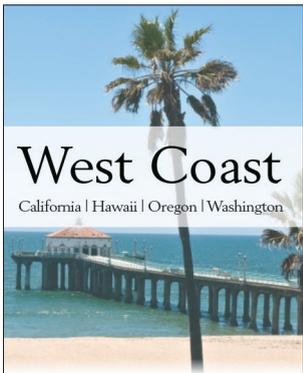
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EVENTS

La Sierra Academy Alumni Reunion, April 24-25, 2015. Registration: Friday at 9:30 am, on campus. Friday evening reception: 7 pm. Sabbath worship: 10 am. Class reunions TBA. Honor Classes: '55, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '05. Info: visit www.lsak12.com, email JNelson@lsak12.com, or call 951.351.1445 x244.

SEEDS St. Louis: Spirit-led Harvest Impact, January 23-24 at the St. Louis Central SDA Church, 5 N. Skinker Blvd in St. Louis, Missouri. This vital training event is for anyone interested in learning how to plant a church.

Union College Homecoming April 2-5. Honor classes are 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Special tribute to business and computer faculty and graduates as well as a Gymnares reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402.486.2503, 3800 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.



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Photo by Gerry Chudleigh

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