

NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MID-AMERICA

# OUTLOOK

JUNE 2012

**ANNUAL  
K-12  
EDUCATION  
SPECIAL**





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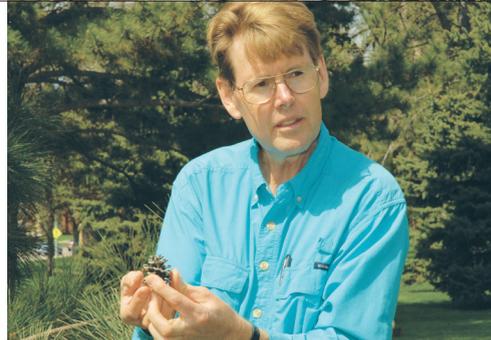


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## IN THIS ISSUE

*Among the most dedicated Adventists in Mid-America are our educators. My office is next door to the education department, which keeps me updated with what's happening in our schools. I'm impressed with both the spirituality and the quality of what God is accomplishing through our educational system. Evaluate this for yourself as you read the vision of our union director of education, John Kriegelstein, whose editorial follows that of our president, Tom Lemon. As you continue through this special issue, perhaps your heart will be touched, as mine is, with the news of what our teachers and students are doing and experiencing. Enhancing Adventist K-12 education is one of three major initiatives of the Mid-America Union this year (along with fostering young adult involvement in our churches and large-city outreach). Please pray about what you might do to support your local church school and express loving gratitude to teachers and staff.*

**—MARTIN WEBER**

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Cover Photo: Dakota Adventist Academy students are experiencing Christ's love—and sharing it (see p. 6). Photo by Derek Timms.

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# What's Online?

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##### AdventSource Plans for New Building

NAD ministry resource center takes "big step forward"

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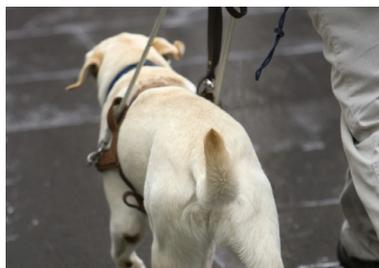


#### News:

##### Union College Graduate Receives Military Honor

Felipe Pereira's heroic actions earn awards

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#### Article:

##### Trust and Forward Momentum

If Alan had trusted Bixby, he wouldn't have fallen

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#### Article:

##### How's Your Driving?

Too fast? Too slow?  
Too many bunny hops?

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# Adventist Education: The Vision Endures

by Thomas L. Lemon



Somewhere there must be yellow receipts, cancelled checks or moldy ledger books reflecting how much my 18-plus years in Adventist education cost. Likely tens of thousands of dollars just in tuition alone. Add to that amount the subsidies contributed by local churches, conferences, the Union and the Division and it would be little exaggeration to see a six-digit figure attached to my transcripts and diplomas. While that formal classroom experience ended some years ago, I still want to say to my parents (my mother will no doubt read this) and to those local churches and sponsoring organizations a heartfelt *Thank You*. I am so grateful for the huge investment my church made in me.

It was more than 50 years ago that, from a seat next to my first elementary teacher, I decided to go forward during an altar call and place my life in the hands of Jesus and join this church in baptism. The memory is so clear it could have been yesterday.

It was in a biology classroom a few years later that my teacher asked me to prove my faith. In that experience, I learned that faith by definition is just a bit beyond proof; it is a choice. In giving me that task, he helped me sustain my choice for faith.

In college it was a music teacher who would not take anything less than perfect as good enough; it was a theology professor who called me into his office simply to pray with me. He did it again a few years later in my master's program.

I could fill this OUTLOOK with stories—I won't. Many of my educational mentors rest in the grave awaiting the trumpet blast and the shout of the archangel calling them to life when Jesus returns. When I see them again I will simply be constrained to say *Thank You*. The world movement that is Adventism owes much to its schools, and particularly teachers. We would not make the impact we do, given our small size, were it not for the vision planted in the hearts of students by those inspiring, tireless and deeply compassionate people standing before them in our classrooms. Day after day, with much diligence—sometimes after sleepless, prayer-filled nights—they get up to lead their students (your children and grandchildren) one step closer to Jesus.

Everywhere I go, I connect with Union College graduates. It is so gratifying to hear their experiences on our Lincoln campus, often mirroring my own from my alma maters. One day one of them will

likely be writing this column. That would be entirely right.

The theme of this issue of OUTLOOK is Adventist K-12 Education in Mid-America. No, it is not perfect—yet. We are working for that. But let me suggest that, despite its shortcomings, it is one of the best things we have going for us. I am so proud of our schools, our teachers and students.

To those who continue their support for our schools through their philanthropic gifts, their offerings, and their faithful returning of the Lord's tithe (all of which are vital) I want to say again *Thank You*. The return on your investment is a heavenly one, beginning right here and right now.

For those of you who may be wondering about the future of Adventist education in MAUC, that future is in our hands. I ask for your prayer support, your encouragement for our teachers and staff, and your generosity. Without those pieces in place, the future will be less than it can be. But with them operating maximally, the best days are still before us. ■

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Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.



# Creating an Adventist Education Advantage

by John Kriegelstein

**T**hese days everything is rapidly changing; nothing appears “cast in stone.” In the resulting chaos of uncertainty, many begin to question everything. The economy, politics, church, school, family—even the importance of long-held religious beliefs—all seem to be viewed as suspect. Without the anchor of a biblically-based worldview, personal inner stability is unsustainable.

A worldview is a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group. “A worldview serves as a conceptual tool or framework for perceiving and interpreting reality, which, in turn, informs the philosophy, mission/vision, and goals of an organization [or individual]. The Adventist worldview accepts the Bible as the standard by which everything else is measured.”<sup>1</sup> I believe it is this Adventist worldview that provides an anchor in the current global storm.

What are you doing to provide stability for your kids during the storm? Significant values are transferred to them during the many hours they spend in school. What specific values are being transferred? Who are you choosing to be the transmitter of those values in your absence? “Our students need

a conceptual framework that ties everything together, enabling them to understand themselves, their world, and their place in it.”<sup>2</sup> It is our God-given responsibility to provide guidance for our kids in developing their personal worldview (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9). I want the teachers of my grandkids to hold a biblical worldview that does not create conflict between home and school.

The North American Division has spent millions of dollars on the development of curricula. Why? Because our church wants our students to use curriculum materials infused with our Adventist worldview to minimize conflicting influences during the critical period when kids develop their own worldview.

There are four key concepts in the biblically-based Adventist worldview that form a lens for the Adventist curriculum development process: 1) Creation – What is God’s intention? 2) Fall – How has God’s purpose been distorted? 3) Redemption – How does God help us respond? and 4) Re-Creation – How can we be restored in the image of God? The Adventist worldview formed around these key concepts has been the scope under which the Adventist Pathways language arts program, Stepping Stones kindergarten program (available

2013), By Design science program (also available 2013) and the Bible curricula have all been developed for our schools.

The recent CognitiveGenesis four-year study of achievement and ability of 30,000 students enrolled in Adventist schools compared to national norms showed clearly that the longer students remain in Adventist education, the greater their achievement out-performs predicted results—regardless of their ability, grade or school size.<sup>3</sup> Combine performance like this with curricula developed with our unique Adventist worldview and there truly is an Adventist education advantage—both academic and spiritual.

I am grateful for our Adventist education system that serves as a rock-solid anchor for our kids in a confusing and chaotic world, while providing appropriate academic encouragement that results in growth beyond the predicted. **U**

John Kriegelstein is director of education for the Mid-America Union.

<sup>1</sup>*The Core of Adventist Education Curriculum*, [www.nadeducation.org](http://www.nadeducation.org)

<sup>2</sup>Kainer, G. (2011). “Worldviews make a world of difference.” *The Journal of Adventist Education*, 73, 11-15.

<sup>3</sup>[www.cognitivedesign.org](http://www.cognitivedesign.org)

# STUDENTS BASE CHOICES ON Principles, Not Circumstances

*Because following Christ is a lifestyle, not a light switch*

by Derek Timms



All photos courtesy Derek Timms

(left) DAA students studying the Bible and books by Ellen White

(right) DAA students cooking up some hospitality

**Now is the time for the youth of the church to prepare to stand with Christ by learning and applying His principles to their individual circumstances.**

At age 17, Joseph decides that God will rule in his life. As a common shepherd boy, David accepts God's leadership and anointing as the next king of Israel. A teenage Daniel resolves during his march to Babylon that he will always keep walking with God.

Focusing on the future parts of their stories, where these youths become heroes, neglects the point that God trains the young to live by His principles, not individual circumstances.

God uses uncertain and humble beginnings as preparation. As a young man, Joseph confidently led the most powerful nation in the world. How? Because he already knew he could trust in God from his life as an Egyptian slave and prisoner. King Saul identified David as too young to battle Goliath, but David, remembering God's teachings from tending his father's sheep, declared: "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37\*). Daniel became a prophet and helped lead God's people through one of their darkest hours, because he refused to go along with the

idoltrous customs of Babylon.

Ellen White writes, "Daniel and his associates...had been taught that God would hold them accountable for their capabilities, and that they must never dwarf or enfeeble their powers... No power, no influence, could sway them from the principles they had learned in early life by a study of the word and works of God" *Prophets and Kings*, p. 482). Now is the time for the youth of the church to prepare to stand with Christ by learning and applying His principles to their individual circumstances.

Based on biblical examples, I have designed an educational philosophy I call "Principles, Not Circumstances." Its purpose is to help my students discern God's will for how to live. His principles are defined by the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and are illuminated by the fruits of His Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22). The life and teachings of Christ harmonize these two descriptions of God's character. Daily learning and practicing these principles create and strengthen

the character necessary to always choose to stand with Christ.

While I was student teaching at College View Academy (CVA) in 2011, an earnest desire for a Christ-centered lifestyle was revealed by a student's prayer request in Religion III class. "I'm just tired of the way things are," the student lamented. At the time, my response was to just stay strong in faith and God would lead. However, in the days that followed those words became much more than the prayer request of a single person or class. The statement represented an academy who desired a change for Christ.

A few weeks later I created a homework assignment that spoke to that prayer request. Each day for one week I had students choose a specific challenge that would evoke change in their community. Examples included: "practice passion," "treat other classes like they are in our class," and "be kind to your teachers and supervisors." Each student individually decided how to practice God's principles on campus and then recorded the results in their journals. The assignment became known throughout campus as the "CVA Atmosphere Project."

During the "encourage the discouraged" challenge, one student purchased something special for her sister. When she received the unexpected gift, the younger sister then asked for prayer for her sister during science class. "My sister did something nice to me—something must be wrong!" The astute science teacher turned that into a worship thought, emphasizing that nothing had to be "wrong" to do an act of kindness. This small gesture intended for one person made a positive impact on many.

Sometimes the students completed objectives in groups.



For the “put tough situations in a positive light through prayer” challenge, students gathered in small prayer teams. Instead of rushing on to their next appointment, they prayed with others in the hallways. Their prayer topics ranged from the quiz next period to silent requests concerning friends and family. God brought individuals together by His principles and built them into a stronger, Christ-centered community.

God’s influence quickly spread beyond the classroom as students began assigning themselves challenges over weekends and during vacations, including intentional acts of kindness for friends and family, innovative vespers programs and Afterglow activities, and a paper prayer chain that wrapped around their chapel. (Its online counterpart, created using Facebook, still exists.) With the inclusion of other classes in this project, their goal evolved into establishing a lasting legacy of change for Christ through challenges designed to pass on from class to class until Christ returns.

Not surprisingly, the devil instigated resistance to positive change. During these times of adversity, the administration and teachers supported the students by directing them back to Christ. Students realized through these trials that in Christ they are stronger together than alone.

When I learned of the struggles, I asked my new students at Dakota Adventist Academy (DAA) to write letters of encouragement to all the CVA students. I paired each DAA student volunteer with one to four CVA students. Initially, the DAA students felt nervous about writing to peers they had never met, but they quickly laid their hesitation aside to help those in need. This activity launched “Adventist Pen Pals” (APP). Encouragement – God gave us an APP for that!

The DAA Religion Department mailed the letters in a single packet to the Religion Department at

CVA. Receiving the unexpected letters of encouragement stirred up excitement on campus. Meanwhile, DAA students eagerly awaited a response. Throughout the school year, CVA and DAA students continued to exchange letters.

Again God’s influence rapidly spread beyond the original project. To help my DAA students understand life at CVA, I showed them photos from my CVA 2010-2011 Yearbook. The students were quick to inquire about the picture of the paper prayer chain, which resulted in the desire to create their own. Then CVA approached DAA for help collecting bottle caps for their “Bottle Caps for Cancer” ministry. The DAA students also shared their APP-like ministry called Insta-Cookie, where students write up to four lines of encouragement on “cookie sheets” included with the delivery of a cookie to every student twice a month during lunch.

In February a CVA worship team visited DAA for a spiritual weekend that focused on the theme “Change for Christ.” Student-led worship and personal testimonies from teens at both schools moved many to seek a closer relationship with Christ.

“The trip to DAA was incredible,” said one CVA senior. “The impact it had on my heart and spiritual focus was life-changing. I’m a part of something so much bigger than I ever imagined.”

News about the relationship between the youth of CVA and DAA has spread. As a result, in February the Mid-America Union Education Council voted to endorse the idea of APP expanding union wide. Academies coming together today to encourage each other will improve the present while preparing for life in heaven.

Changing our lifestyles to become more like Christ’s is no small task. It is not something we can just turn on and off. It takes discipline, courage and commitment no matter what happens. The students prepare for challenges through their school ministries, Bible study and prayer. God provides them with “evidence of His supremacy, of the holiness of His requirements, and of the sure results of obedience” as He did with Joseph, David and Daniel (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 480). They choose to stand with Christ in favor of His eternal principles rather than earthly circumstances.

If you are tired of the way things are, choose to become the change you seek. Choose to stand with Christ today and make a positive daily difference. You are not helpless. Jesus is leading us. Follow Him.

Derek Timms is chaplain and teaches religion at Dakota Adventist Academy.

*\*All Scriptures are from the New International Version.*

**If you are tired of the way things are, choose to become the change you seek.**

**(left)** College View Academy students (on left) visited DAA and made new friends.

**(right)** DAA teens during Fall Week of Prayer





## She Changed My Life

*The legacy of a wise and loving dean of girls*

by Therese Nagel Oneill

Courtesy Therese Oneill



Lois Simmons forever changed how I perceived Christianity. She was my dean at Gem State Academy, a 60ish southern lady in slacks. I was a 14-year-old atheist, and I wanted everyone to know it. I was eager to pinpoint hypocrisy and fallacy in my parents' religion. Mrs. Simmons made that very difficult to do.

It was the little things. Teenage girls en masse can be an absolute plague, but not for Lois Simmons. She opened her door to every knock, even at 3 am on her night off. She fed the girls, disciplined them gently, drove them to the doctor's office, and

listened to their heartbreaks. Her Christianity wasn't about dogma, though she respected the rules of the church deeply. Her Christianity was about love—shown in quiet moments with unfaltering consistency.

She began deaning at Ozark Academy in 1970, continuing for the next 26 years. In the meantime, she raised her boys as a single mother. Her divorce had been not only biblically sound, but necessary for the well-being of her two sons, Lee and Kent. And so they thrived—Lois would have it no other way. She told them, "People are going to expect less of you because you come from a broken home. I'm here to tell

you the Lord and I expect no less from you. You will not fall by the wayside."

With their mother's love wrapped around them and supported by an unfaltering faith in Jesus, Lee and Kent prospered. They both married and pursued careers in medicine, continuing their mother's legacy of compassion. Kent is a nurse practitioner and Lee is a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Lois' two grandchildren furthered the tradition of service: Brian Simmons is a youth pastor and Zachary Simmons is finishing his surgical residency at Wright University.

Among the many lives Lois

touched was a girl named Winter Sigh. She arrived in Idaho in 1995, nervous to be the only African American attending Gem State Academy. She says, "I had heard horror stories of how people my color weren't welcome in the Northwest. Mrs. Simmons picked me up from the airport and was truly kind. The silences weren't awkward, just warm, and she had a way of making me feel like it was okay to be different from the other girls and yet still a part of the dorm."

Lois' one-time assistant dean, Deb Hornbacher, was grateful for her guidance. "She demonstrated that unconditional love and patience is the best way to handle any situation. I've yet to measure up to the high standard she set for me."

Mrs. Simmons saw me baptized my sophomore year, and she retired to Missouri the year I graduated. She belongs to the Pittsburg (Kansas) Seventh-day Adventist Church. Last summer she celebrated her 80th birthday. She has remained the unjudgmental voice of wisdom and compassion, of strength and love in my life.

Recently, her church asked that she take a young girl with nowhere to go into her home. She did, of course. If anyone knows what a troubled girl needs, it's Lois. If you were to ask her, though, she'd take no credit for any of the good she has done, any of the lives she has blessed. She's merely a servant, allowing her love of the Lord to work through her.

---

Therese Oneill attended Gem State Academy from 1992-96.



## New Principal for Campion Academy

*Spencer Hannah shares his passion for Adventist education*

Courtesy Sherrandoah Valley Academy



I am an educator because of the impact teachers had upon my life. At Mount Vernon Academy, they helped

me build a relationship with Jesus Christ. I then knew that I wanted to be a teacher at a boarding academy.

My career as an educator began at Campion Academy in 1982, and I've been working on boarding academy campuses ever since. God has placed a burden upon my heart to build relations with young people, and through those relationships have opportunity to impact their lives—just as He impacts my life.

I am excited to return to Campion. My wife, Eva, and I both have strong and fond memories of Campion and we are eager to get reacquainted with our friends there. Both our children—Seth (29) and Erin (26)—were born in Loveland.

I know that Campion (like other academies) faces challenges—finances, enrollment, physical plant, and a society distracted by so many things. I want to touch as many lives as possible, and I

am praying that God will send many young men and women our way so that they may be led to see Him.

My commitment is to provide as many opportunities as possible for Campion students to get a view of God that requires them to decide what role He will play in their lives. This is the heart of Adventist education for me! I love being involved with teenagers—their energy and typical genuine authenticity is inspiring.

I like to play most any sport—basketball, softball, football, snow skiing—and really enjoy golfing. I also have a passion for mission trips, as I see them as the most impacting single event we do with our students. I have been on 25 short-term trips with students and hope that will continue.

## The Garden Project

*Central States students explore agriculture*

by Donnette Wickham

Darlene Small



Through the gardening program, V. Lindsay students experience the agricultural cycle firsthand.

V. Lindsay Adventist School is on the Kansas City (Kansas) campus of Central States Conference headquarters, which offers a rich and varied learning environment. Despite the inner-city location, pre-K through 8th grade students enjoy the natural beauty of God's creation. Tall trees and open spaces of manicured lawn are ideal for many outdoor projects and activities—including agriculture.

Last fall V. Lindsay teachers and students accepted the challenge of developing a school garden. On a beautiful autumn day, Dr. Compton Ross (CSC Health Ministries director) and the Kansas City Community Gardens Team

helped them construct four wooden raised-bed garden plots. As winter gave way to spring, they planted seeds of lettuce, broccoli, onions, radishes, beans, collard greens and cabbage—produce to enjoy for themselves and share with the community. The school garden also has enhanced the earth science program by generating environmental awareness while deepening an appreciation for God's works through nature. What a rich educational harvest!

.....  
Donnette Wickham is principal of V. Lindsay School.



# Minnesota Youth Save Children's Lives

by Shawn Walls

Courtesy: Central States Conference





Between 8 and 10 pm on Friday, February 10, about 1,800 children died of malnutrition in the horn of Africa. During that time 52 members of Great Lakes Adventist Youth Federation in Minnesota watched a slide presentation at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Distressed to learn about children needing emergency food, they resolved to “Do Our Honest Part” through the Feed My Starving Children program.

Adventist youth packed 1.5 million meals for children in Haiti and the horn of Africa. Participants included the Capital Fellowship Pathfinder Club, the Ebenezer Fellowship Church and the Federation TLT Committee. In one evening, 433 volunteers packed

511 boxes of Manna Rice, providing 110,376 meals—enough to feed 302 children an entire year.

One participant remarked, “The speaker shared facts that brought some of us to tears. But by the end of the two-hour event, we all sensed that God used us to feed His starving children. As our tears dried and smiles filled the room, we knew that we are here to serve in action—not just in words.”

The youth found inspiration in Christ’s promised commendation: “For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat” (Mathew 25:35).

Shawn Walls is Central States Conference M.A.P coordinator.

## Reaching the World One Bible at a Time

### Over a Million and Counting



Courtesy Central States Conference

**Elder Jesse Caffey** of Lincoln, Nebraska is 83 years old, but that doesn’t stop him from partnering with his wife, **Vernice**, in blessing many people overseas who need Bibles.

Five years ago the Lincoln, Nebraska-based couple were watching 3ABN as **Danny Shelton** interviewed a young man recently returned from South Africa. The Caffeys learned that 4 million people there want Bibles. Many forgo food for several days to buy a Bible, one of which typically serves 20 people. They also heard how a 90-year-old woman, upon receiving a Bible, hugged it to her chest. Looking up toward heaven she exclaimed, “My first Bible!”

“Here is something we can do,” the Caffeys said. To date, they have collected and

delivered for distribution 1,000,000 new Bibles, 4,000,000 Bible studies, 80,000 used Bibles, 41,000 Spanish Bibles (for Cuba) and 100,000 books by Ellen White.

In addition, Jesse and Vernice learned that evangelists and Bible workers in South Africa use bicycles frequently as transportation. With the Lord’s blessing, they have sent 35 mountain bikes to South Africa for use in outreach.

Jesse and Vernice praise the Lord for those who have partnered with them to “reach the world one Bible at a time.” For more information, contact the Caffeys at 1710 W Plum St, Lincoln, NE 68522 or call 402.476.9993.

Jesse and Vernice Caffey are members of Allon Chapel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Courtesy Central States Conference





Northern Lights  
Flag Mountain  
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Summer 2012

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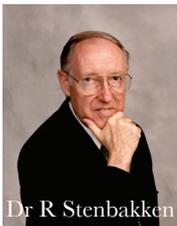
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JUNE 5 - 9

*Campmeeting in Bismarck*



Dr Paul Dybdahl



Eld Doug Johnson



Dr Michael Olivier



# Dakota Conference Builds New Office

by Jacquie Biloff



Neil Biloff

Boom truck pouring foundation for the new Dakota Conference office

Like most conferences, Dakota has a rich and interesting history. From the first request for Adventist literature in the 1870s, the Lord has steadily built the work in the northern plains.

After a constituency vote in June 2009, plans were made to build a new conference office in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Executive Committee had stipulated the need to raise \$375,000 before the project could begin. Then, with the sale of the office located in Pierre, South Dakota, conference reserves and continued fund raising, the new office could be built without the necessity of a loan.

Fund raising began late in 2010 and three acres were purchased on the north edge of Bismarck at the intersection of Washington Street and Highway 1804. The initial goal to begin construction in the summer of 2011 was not possible because of the delayed permitting process due to the backlog of flood-related projects in the Dakotas. However, fund raising continued.

As with any project that involves change, there are those who are opposed. One letter stated, “Just bleed the members once again and most of you conference workers will move on sooner than later. There are plenty of already

built spaces with lower cost. Did that thought cross anyone’s thoughts?”

Indeed, every suitable building in Bismarck and Mandan had been visited; but with remodeling costs they would become more expensive than building new.

Then there were the widow’s mite donors. One gift of \$2 was accompanied by a note, “Am sending a couple dollars to help with conference building. Almost a shame to send that but after several years in nursing home, you send a little of what’s left if you’re willing to share, so hope you’re willing to accept it...” There were several \$5 gifts as well. They are as much a

blessing as the larger donations. To date, over \$530,000 has been donated to this project.

Ground breaking at the new conference location was held July 24, 2011. Excavation began this spring and the basement walls have been poured. Many hours of volunteer labor and donated equipment use have been a blessing to the advancement of the project. The completion date is set for late this autumn.

A slide show of current progress is available at [www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org).

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Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.



# Family Ministries Training

by Michelle Miracle

Michelle Miracle



Claudio and Pam Consuegra, family ministries directors for the North American Division

Iowa-Missouri Conference Family Ministries department sponsored a local church

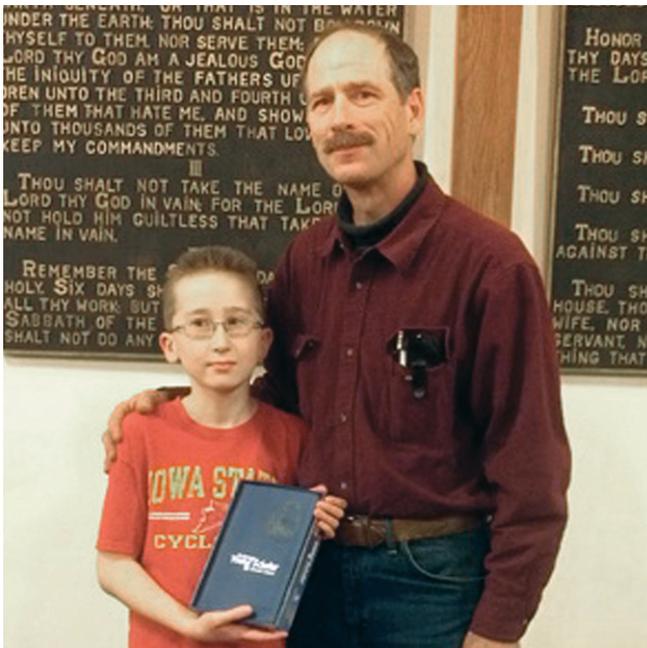
leader training weekend at Kansas City (Missouri) Central Church in March. Conference

FM directors **Tony LaPorte**, St. Louis Mid-Rivers district pastor and his wife, **Nerida**,

organized the educational weekend in collaboration with the North American Division, Mid-American Union and Kansas-Nebraska Conference. The purpose was to promote an overall vision of family ministry and to help local churches launch their own such program.

Over the weekend, participants attended seminars in Biblical Foundations for Family Ministry, Human Growth and Development, Spiritual Parenting and more. Training sessions were led by the LaPortes, **John Sweigart** (Kansas-Nebraska FM director) and his wife, **Susan**; and **Claudio and Pam Consuegra**, FM directors for North America.

Courtesy Barbara Greer



Dan Spilger, an elder at the Muscatine (Iowa) Church, invited a young member, Josh, to a series of evangelistic webinars and showed him how to run a PA system. This piqued Josh's interest so much that he attended all 20 Revelation Today webinar meetings by It Is Written speaker/director John Bradshaw. At the conclusion of the series, Spilger presented Josh with a Bible.

Judy Hansen



The Vinton (Iowa) Better Living Center has been helping people for 16 years with free clothing, seminars on healthy cooking, stop smoking/drinking programs and literature. In the past six months volunteers have served more than 2,200 clients in giving them 12,966 items. The Center's volunteers are also committed to spreading God's word through Bible studies, conducted Tuesdays, Fridays and Sabbaths (both morning and afternoon).



## Ottumwa Dedicates New Church Facility

by Michelle Miracle

Michelle Miracle



Elder Dean Coridan, president of the Iowa-Missouri Conference, gives a dedicatory message at the Ottumwa Church.

A new facility for Ottumwa (Iowa) Adventist Church

was dedicated in April. The former building had sustained

fire damage four years ago. Meanwhile, members met in the neighboring First Church of God sanctuary while deciding how to move forward.

Realizing that repairing the church wasn't the best option, the church voted to sell the old property. With the proceeds they purchased nearly four acres of land, and 10 months later the new church building was ready.

During the dedication service, **Elder Dean Coridan**, conference president, shared the story of Jesus visiting the pool of Bethesda. "The type of religion represented there had a 'me first' mentality," said Coridan. "That is not how Jesus operated then, nor is it how He operates now." Christ went to the crippled man at the pool and asked if he wanted

to be made well. When the hopeless sufferer replied that his situation was impossible to remedy, Jesus gave the simple invitation: "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

"How often must we stand in long lines for things we want?" asked Coridan. "I'm telling you that when it comes to Jesus Christ, there is no line—He forgives your sins immediately." The president then concluded: "I pray as we dedicate this church that those who say, 'There is no one who can help me,' will find hope here."

Michelle Miracle is communication and Sabbath school director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

## Mission Impossible in Jefferson City

by Sheri Dye

Sheri Dye



Baptisms followed the Mission Impossible Week of Prayer in Jefferson City, Missouri.

After receiving their Mission Impossible assignment for Week of Prayer, students of the Jefferson City (Missouri) Church homeschool group learned that "with God all things are possible."

Training for this rigorous assignment included spiritual lessons, Bible memorization,

physical fitness, knot tying, orienteering, first aid, rappelling and basic survival skills. The training was led by Tom Shaffer, Cedar Rapids Church member, who came to Jefferson City once a month for five months to prepare students for their upcoming mission.

In March two teams set off with assignments to find hidden articles along Missouri's Katie Trail. One group went by boat up the Missouri River and the other ventured forth in vehicles.

One team found a mysterious package—not to be opened until a special order was given. Students constructed a litter to transport the 80-pound parcel. After the teams met on the trail, they received instruction to rappel down an 80-foot drop. Training had prepared them to accomplish this feat.

Later the package was opened, revealing copies of *The Great Controversy* and food. They enjoyed a feast and distributed the books in the nearby community.

One week after the Mission

Impossible Week of Prayer, three young people were baptized into the Jefferson City Church. Through their influence, their mother rededicated her life. After meetings with **Elder Neil Dye**, **Aleksandr Iliuts** also consecrated his life to the Lord and followed through with baptism.

That same Sabbath **Ina Heatwole** chose to be rebaptized after sensing the Spirit move upon her during an appeal. She had always felt the need to reconfirm her walk with God, and now she embraced the opportunity to be rebaptized.

Sheri Dye is a member of the Jefferson City Church.



# Youth Ministries Offer Summer Fun and Inspiration

by Travis Sager

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Campers having fun at Broken Arrow Ranch

What do the Oregon, Santa Fe, California, and Lewis and Clark trails all have in common? Each crossed Kansas or Nebraska, taking hopeful pioneers west to a new life.

The Kansas-Nebraska Conference Youth Department hopes to provide the same experience to campers this summer as they make their way to Broken Arrow Ranch for “Trails Unlimited: Finding the Path to Jesus.” We won’t be taking your children to Oregon, California or Santa Fe, but we will take them on a journey leading to new life with Jesus as their Savior. And while we won’t be riding wagons on a western bound trail, we will traverse the “Bible Trail” on Sabbath afternoons.

Imagine seeing Bible stories acted out in front of you and then actually participating in some part of the story as it comes to life. Imagine joining David on the battlefield facing Goliath, or cooking “pottage” with Jacob as hungry Esau approaches. We hope to profoundly impact campers with experiences they will

always remember.

Each day at camp will have a great line-up of summertime activities, such as horseback riding, swimming, zip lining, crafts, waterfront and nature adventures. Nighttime programs and worship services offer a change of pace that leave campers with thoughts of Jesus’ love and care in their lives. All that and more is in store with “Trails Unlimited” this summer at Broken Arrow Ranch.

### Mid-America Union Camporee

Additionally, Kansas-Nebraska Pathfinder Clubs are looking forward to an awesome Mid-America Union Camporee—an event that comes along just once every five years. This campout, themed “Truth2Freedom,” will be held in the Black Hills in Custer, South Dakota.

Activities include exploring Wind Cave and Jewel Cave, panning for gold, mountain biking, visits to Reptile Gardens and Bear Country USA, plus much more. Every

Pathfinder will be marching in the Gold Rush Days Parade. Closing program and worship will be held in the Mount Rushmore amphitheater.

There is a \$50 discount for Pathfinders attending both the Union Camporee and a week of summer camp at Broken Arrow Ranch.

Travis Sager is youth director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

## KS-NE YOUTH HIGHLIGHT

A hearty “Good Job!” goes to a Bible Experience Team from Piedmont Park Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. They earned a first place finish at the Union level and qualified for the North American Division level in Silver Spring, Maryland. All Kansas-Nebraska Pathfinder Clubs deserve congratulations for hard work and the study of God’s word.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**July 25-28**  
Union Pathfinder Camporee (Custer, SD)

**Sept. 7-9**  
Adventurer Family Campout (Clinton Lake, KS)

**Nov. 9-10**  
KS-NE Conference Youth Rally  
Speaker: James Black, NAD youth director

## KANSAS-NEBRASKA CALENDAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.KS-NE.ORG](http://WWW.KS-NE.ORG)

May 30-  
June 2

**KS-NE Campmeeting**  
Live Streaming: [www.ucollege.edu/uclive](http://www.ucollege.edu/uclive)

June 7-10

**Single Moms & Kids Retreat**  
Contact: [scarlson@ks-ne.org](mailto:scarlson@ks-ne.org)

June 10-17

**Junior Camp I**  
Contact: [tsager@ks-ne.org](mailto:tsager@ks-ne.org)

June 17-24

**Junior Camp II**  
Contact: [tsager@ks-ne.org](mailto:tsager@ks-ne.org)

June 24-29

**Science Camp**  
Contact: [steveschaffner@msn.com](mailto:steveschaffner@msn.com)

June 24-  
July 1

**Teen Camp**  
Contact: [tsager@ks-ne.org](mailto:tsager@ks-ne.org)



# Teaching 41 Years at the Same School

by John Treolo



David Farchild

**Keith Vollmer (center) with some of his 600 former students at Midland Adventist Academy: During the 2011 MAA Alumni Weekend, Vollmer was joined on stage by all the students in attendance, past and present, whom he has taught.**

Many teachers relish the thought of transferring to a different school—fresh start, new surroundings, colleagues and students. Not **Keith Vollmer**. His 41-year teaching career came to a close just where it began: Midland Adventist Academy.

Fresh out of college with a bachelor's degree in education, Vollmer and wife **Becky** moved from his native South Dakota to Lincoln, Nebraska, in hopes of securing denominational employment. Before even unpacking their suitcases, Vollmer was interviewed by then Kansas Conference education superintendent, **Charles Case**, about an opening at Midland Adventist School in Overland Park.

"I got the job Thanksgiving Eve of 1971. We had a great Thanksgiving the next day," he remembers. "I was raised in a little town of McLaughlin, South Dakota and lived there all my life until going away to academy and college. Moving around hasn't been part of my make up."

What has been a constant in Vollmer's life is the

teaching profession. Reared by a mother who was a teacher, Vollmer knew early in life what he wanted to become as a working adult.

"My mother was a Christian teacher in the public school system. She loved her students but could not share her great love of the Lord with them. I wanted to be like her but also wanted to be able to share the Lord with my students."

A Scripture that has motivated Vollmer through the years is 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." He declares, "This applies not only to my own children but to all the students I have taught."

Practicing what he teaches, the Vollmers' two children, **Tracy** and **Adam**, both attended Midland through grade 10 (before the school attained full academy status), graduated from Enterprise and Sunnydale academies, respectively, and then went on to Union College. Now their four grandchildren all attend the same school where their grandfather taught all these years.

"What I appreciate most is being able to teach my second generation of students. I've had their parents and now I have their children," he says. "So many of my previous students are not just students, they are friends. Being able to watch them grow up and now their children grow up has been rewarding."

In 1996, Vollmer's teaching abilities were recognized when he received the Zapara Award for Teaching Excellence in education.

Vollmer's plans for retirement do not include a moving van. "This area has been home and will continue to be home. We plan to stay in the area to watch our grandchildren go through Midland."

Current Midland principal, **Trudy Hoffman**, shares, "Rarely does a teacher come to a school and leave such a lasting impression that will be felt for years to come. For 41 years he has been a role model to his students spiritually, academically and socially. Midland Adventist Academy has been richly blessed by Mr. Vollmer and his commitment to serving

our youth through Adventist education."

Kansas-Nebraska Conference education superintendent **Gary Kruger**, who also spent six years as Vollmer's principal, adds, "Forty-one years of teaching! But 41 years of teaching in the same school? What a remarkable achievement! For 32 years I've known Keith in numerous capacities. He's been a colleague; I've been his principal. He's taught my sons, and above all he's been a friend. My life will forever be impacted because I had the privilege of knowing this man."

One of the more than 600 students Vollmer taught at Midland, **Mitch Seltman** from the class of 2009, may have summed it up best: "Thank you for being one of the most kind-hearted teachers I have ever had. You are the Midland experience."

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



# Southview Celebrates a Decade of Miracles

by Dr. Pat Johnston

Dr. Pat Johnston



The Kelley family at Southview Christian School celebrating the grand opening of its new kitchen in honor of the late Christine Kelley

**How thrilled Chris would be to know that SCS is debt free because of “the sacrifice and dedication of Southview’s members and friends”—words she herself used 10 years ago.**

Southview Christian School (SCS) has three big reasons to celebrate its 10th anniversary in a new facility.

First, the school has grown from a dozen students to more than 50. Second, the school’s half-million dollar mortgage has been paid off.

Among joyful participants at the mortgage burning ceremony were **Emmett Johnson** and **Bruce Houchins**, the initial and current treasurers, respectively. Speakers included Southview Church pastor **Jim Hiner, Jr.** with the pastor from a decade ago, **Don Davis**; **Ed Barnett**, Minnesota Conference president; **Rayleen Hansen**, SCS principal; and **Dennis Castle**, who chaired the project committee. **Don Nelson** and **Phil Lane** shared recollections of God’s leading in finding land and securing it at a reasonable cost. Fund raising then began for the “Fulfilling the Dream Together” project. Speaker after speaker at the celebration exclaimed, “It was all a miracle.”

The third reason for celebrating at SCS was the

ribbon cutting ceremony for a new state-of-the-art kitchen. It was dedicated to the memory of **Christine (Chris) Kelley**, who passed away in 2010. Chris was a strong supporter of SCS when it was still just a dream. Later, she chaired the school board. Known and loved by her church family and the community, Chris expressed the wish that any gifts in her memory be directed to SCS. Members generously contributed to assure that the kitchen in her

name could be dedicated debt free. **Orville** and **Betty Wetzell** oversaw the details necessary for completion, assisted by many church volunteers.

How thrilled Chris would be to know that SCS is debt free because of “the sacrifice and dedication of Southview’s members and friends”—words she herself used 10 years ago.

Dr. Pat Johnston is a member of Southview Church in Minneapolis.



Burning the school’s mortgage are current treasurer Bruce Houchins (right) and former treasurer Emmett Johnson with wife, Deanne.

Dr. Pat Johnston



## Minnesota Adventists Visit Arizona Navajos

Adapted from an article by Doug Hanneman in the Hutchinson Leader, March 28, 2012.

Courtesy Linda Vigil



MWA team helping to build a handicapped-accessible concrete ramp

Northern Arizona is known for many natural wonders, including the Grand Canyon. But 11 Maplewood Academy students and nine adults from the Hutchinson area will likely best remember the region for its people.

The group traveled there in mid-March to assist tribal members of the Navajo Nation, a sprawling territory the size of West Virginia. During their 11-day visit, the Minnesota Adventists finished construction of a new community center and shared their Christian faith.

Students said the experience opened their eyes to a new culture and way of life. The Navajo people, many of whom live in poverty and experience health problems ranging from alcoholism to diabetes, expressed gratitude for the group's work. Team member **Angelika Veldhouse** remarked, "Everything you did or said, they were thankful for."

Minnesota Adventists also exposed the Arizona Navajos

to new ideas. **Jacob Guptill** recalled one Native who visited the group's worship services. "He didn't know the meaning of Christianity."

**Eldon Johnson**, a Hutchinson contractor who organized the mission trip and hauled materials and tools before the students arrived, said most Navajos have little understanding of Christian teachings due to established Native traditions.

To prepare for the mission, Johnson first visited the area in 2011. His main contact was **Allen Fowler**, a Navajo who had left the Nation years ago but returned in 2008 with his wife, **Kelley**, and their three children after becoming an Adventist. "He had a dream in which the Lord told him to go back home to teach his people," Johnson said.

Johnson worked with Fowler to learn what was needed at the community center. The list included a handicapped-accessible concrete ramp, a 16-by-32 foot deck and a set

of double wood doors. The Hutchinson group brought along more than \$10,000 worth of construction materials. Additionally, each team member raised \$500 for travel expenses, accommodations and meals.

The students didn't have much trouble raising their quota. **Hannah Israel** from Wadena visited two area churches and spoke about the work she would do. "They gave me half of what I needed," she said. Veldhouse, whose home is near Hinckley, sent letters to neighbors who own a farm once cared for by her family. They provided the total amount she needed.

The site was somewhat remote, with a gravel road "like a washboard on steroids," Israel said. The Hutchinson team labored on construction during the day and in the evening taught cooking classes. Six Maplewood students demonstrated preparation of plant-based foods locally accessible and affordable such

as oatmeal, vegetables and fruits. The experience helped them bond with locals. One evening a Navajo woman trusted Israel to watch her two children outside while she attended the class.

On both Sabbaths of the mission journey, the Hutchinson adults led worship with music. The team was invited to several homes, bringing coloring books, toys and fruit baskets.

On one visit, Guptill and others interacted with a family who lived in a small trailer. Feeling uncomfortable about going inside because he was the only male present, he stayed outside until the father arrived in his pickup truck. "You want to see a good picture?" Guptill recalled the man asking. "So I got in his truck, and we drove about three-quarters of a mile down a road in his backyard. It was the beginning of the Grand Canyon, the most beautiful thing I ever saw." After a few minutes, Guptill and the man summoned others from the Hutchinson team to the site, where the sun was setting. Guptill said the man was thrilled to share the experience with them.

The group enjoyed several other sightseeing adventures, including the Glen Canyon Dam and the south rim of Grand Canyon. But the best sites, they said, were those on the Navajo Nation, which can generally be visited only when accompanied by a tribal member. "We got to go places that people never get to go," Guptill said.



# Rocky Mountain Conference Goes "Social"

The Rocky Mountain Conference is using social media tools to keep its members informed with the latest news. Through implementation of tools such as an e-newsletter and Facebook, RMC leaders are poised to reach their members faster than ever.

## Facebook

"The first thing needing attention was our Facebook page," says communication director **Mark Bond**. "There wasn't much activity there, and what *was* there was outdated, and unmoderated."

The RMC Facebook page has seen a significant increase in traffic since the emphasis on new content and information. A new photo gallery featuring images of recent baptisms from around the conference has also been a positive addition.

## RMC News Nuggets

"The other thing we felt was very important was to create a weekly e-newsletter," continues Bond. "Our president, **Gary Thurber**, was impressed with the weekly email from the desk of **Don Schneider**, back when he was the NAD president. We wanted to do something similar, but with colorful photos—using new technology to manage the list and distribution."

News Nuggets currently has a distribution of just over 1,000 subscribers, but compared to the more than 17,000 members across the RMC, there is plenty of room to grow.

"I've been getting so many positive comments about News Nuggets as I travel around the conference," says Thurber. "I'm so excited to have this new way to reach out and touch our extended church family."



Each week, news and information from the desk of Gary Thurber is delivered via email through News Nuggets. To subscribe to the Nuggets, please visit <http://bit.ly/rmclist>.

CONNECT WITH US **ON THE GO!**



Each week, news from around the Rocky Mountain Conference is delivered with upcoming calendar events. To subscribe to the Nuggets, please visit <http://bit.ly/rmclist> or scan the QR code at left with your smart phone camera.



To visit the new Facebook page, visit <http://facebook.com/rmcgsda> or scan the QR code at left with your smart phone camera. Be sure to "Like" us in order to receive updates and information.



The Rocky Mountain Conference Facebook page is new and improved. Visit us at <http://facebook.com/rmcgsda>.



# ASI-Mid America Convenes in Denver

by Mark Bond

The Mid-America Chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) came together for its spring convention in Denver over the weekend of April 19.

Each year, ASI members from around the Mid-America Union come together to be inspired and equipped to "Share Christ in the Marketplace." That motto is more than just a catch phrase for ASI members. The lay-led organization assists self-supporting ministries and lay-members to better fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

This year's theme was "practical evangelism." Attendees were blessed by uplifting messages from **Shawn Boonstra** and **Don Mackintosh**. Additionally, many "Members In Action" interviews featured ASI lay people sharing what Christ is doing in their ministries around the globe.

Special musical guests from Daystar Academy in Moab,

Utah, shared choral and bell choir selections on Sabbath afternoon.

Attendees at an ASI event never go hungry, and this year was no exception. The vegetarian options offered a healthy opportunity to "break bread" together with new friends and old.

"We always look forward to spending time at an ASI event," shared **Terry Anderson** from the Franktown (Colorado) Church. "Our family has been blessed over the years by being a part of the larger ASI family."

The International ASI convention will be held this summer in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 8-11. Many describe the annual ASI International Convention as a "mini-GC session." For information and to register, visit [www.ASIministries.org](http://www.ASIministries.org).

Mark Bond is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Mark Bond

Don Mackintosh, director of NEWSTART Global Weimar Health Evangelism, shared practical ways for personal outreach.



Mark Bond

Jesse Johnson (left), ASI Mid-America president, and Denzil McNeilus (center), former ASI president, enjoy a conversation with Martin Weber, communication director for the Mid-America Union.



Mark Bond

The room was filled nearly to capacity for Sabbath morning's session at the ASI Mid-America convention in Denver.



# Helping in the Himalayas

by Kelly Phipps

The mountains seemed to roll into the hand-painted sky. The tiny clinic almost clashed with the inescapable rural beauty. Yanking the door open, **Ben Herzel** had to let his eyes adjust to the dim lights inside. It pained him to think this was the only clinic in the area. In time, the senior international rescue and relief major hopes to change that.

“I was surprised to see the conditions and how understaffed it is and how so many people are in need of healthcare,” said Herzel.

Just a year earlier he never would have guessed his involvement with a non-profit organization in Lincoln would land him in the rural landscape of Nepal. But when a Tiny Hands International representative spoke at Union about their efforts to improve the lives of Nepalis, Herzel’s own life was forever changed.

Tiny Hands International is a Lincoln-based aid organization endeavoring to stop sex trafficking and provide homes for orphans in Nepal. They specialize in intercepting enslaved women and girls at the border and helping them overcome the trauma of rape and abuse. The organization also operates a dozen children’s homes in Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

“I was drawn to Tiny Hands because it is local, grassroots, and God-centered,” said Herzel. “So I applied to be on a vision team and traveled with six people for eight weeks in Nepal.”

When they first arrived, the group traveled the country visiting Tiny Hands restoration homes for rescued girls and gaining an understanding of the culture. When the orientation was complete, each group member was challenged

to develop a vision for a Tiny Hands project and see it accomplished.

“I took on a medical mission project,” explained Herzel. “Tiny Hands already had a long-term goal to establish a medical work, so I wanted to help see that dream realized.”

For Herzel’s last four weeks in Nepal, he traveled alone, interviewing hospital administrators and missionaries, studying the feasibility of a medical facility. Many previous medical outreach programs had failed in Nepal, but Herzel “wanted to help build a strong base and figure out a solution that will be sustainable.”

While his passion for making a change took him more than 7,000 miles away, Herzel made it clear that sex trafficking, child neglect and homelessness are also pressing issues back home. “Although

Tiny Hands isn’t set up yet to fight those injustices in America, we should all be aware of it and get involved to stop it,” he said.

Much of Herzel’s success came from the unique training he received in the international rescue and relief degree program at Union College. A Bachelor of Science degree for students who want to serve humanity through disaster and humanitarian relief or public safety, IRR is designed to equip graduates with specialized service skills. The trip to Nepal continues to fuel Herzel’s desire to help the orphan children and victims of sex trafficking.

Back in Lincoln, he worked to raise money for Amnesty International and Tiny Hands. He helped coordinate the third annual Tiny Hands, Big HeARTs art and craft sale at Union College, which raised nearly \$4,000 for the charity. Herzel also launched a DecemBEARD campaign encouraging Union’s male student population to get sponsors and grow their beards for the month. Several Union students, including Herzel, are doing internships for Tiny Hands and often work to raise money on campus.

“So much success is based on prayer and community,” said Herzel. “A major portion of what we did was talk about spiritual issues. It’s important to build community around spirituality. It’s a Christian movement more than a humanitarian movement.”

For more information about how Union College students make a difference on their campus and in their community, visit [www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu).

Courtesy Ben Herzel



**Ben Herzel, a senior international rescue and relief major at Union College, spent several weeks volunteering with Tiny Hands International in Nepal.**

Kelly Phipps graduated from Union College in May with a degree in communication.



## Radical Retirement

Biology professor retires to be a missionary

by Kelly Phipps

Steve Nazario/Union College



**Dr. Don Abbey, a biology professor at Union College for 14 years, has retired. He and his wife, Janella, will become the Asia Project field directors for Adventist Frontier Missions.**

Retirement dreams of sitting on a beach watching sailboats and playing with grandchildren were pushed aside when **Don and Janella Abbey** felt the call to serve God in a new and different way.

After 14 years of service to Union College, the couple accepted the role of Asian Projects field directors for Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM). Stationed in Thailand, they will provide support to missionary couples in India, Philippines and other South and Southeast Asian countries while researching new projects in their region.

Their journey working for God started many years prior. The Abbeys taught at Canadian University College (CUC) for five years, went to Zimbabwe for two years to work at Solusi University, and then returned to CUC for 25 more years.

When Union College was looking for a biologist, a family friend suggested Don. In 1998, the Abbeys moved to Nebraska. They were immediately touched by the campus atmosphere.

“It is very open and inclusive,” said Janella. “The faculty and staff have always been affirming and supportive.”

“There’s a real sense of service here, among both faculty and students,” added Don.

Don served as the chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics from 2001 to 2009 and for 13 years was the primary advisor for pre-med students. His guidance helped many become successful in the next step of their medical careers. His office bulletin board is covered with notes from past students all with the same simple message: thank you.

“I was in the first General Biology class he taught at Union,” recalled **Frankie Rose**, now an assistant professor of biology. “Dr. Abbey has the extraordinary ability to engage students in learning. He frequently singles out students in class to ask them questions. These questions require much more than rote memory to answer, and this gets students truly thinking about the subject matter. He is a master in the arena of the classroom.”

While at Union, Don has helped the international rescue and relief program coordinate summer experiences in Colorado. He also arranged five of the Central American study tours, Hurricane Katrina disaster relief trips, and worked with John Thomas to coordinate a spring break trip after the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Janella also served Union College, first as a research assistant in the Physicians Assistant program and then as administrative assistant to the vice president for academic administration.

As the Abbeys prepared for retirement, AFM advertised a position opening for a field director. The mission of AFM lines up with what the Abbeys believe is Christ’s method: living among the people, finding their best interest and meeting their needs.

“We have been interested for a long time in mission work,” said Janella. “It’s been clear through the entire process that this has been God working; it’s His call. We can choose whether or not to join Him.”

As the Asian Projects field directors, the Abbeys will support, encourage and mentor frontline missionaries. They will also research

potential projects for other areas of southeast Asia. AFM follows the “tentmaking” model of outreach, based on the example of the Apostle Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-4). The organization sends missionaries to study the local language and culture while practicing a profession in unreached areas. While the goal is to plant new congregations, the approach differs from historical mission work in its sensitivity to the host culture and its emphasis on personal relationships. As field directors, the Abbeys will work to support AFM missionary couples, including Union graduates serving in their territory, such as **Jared and Tanya Wright**, **Dan and Cara Greenfield**, and **Garrett and Katrina McClarty**.

“When you’re working with these missionaries, you learn so much from them,” explained Janella. “They are living directly with unreached people and within that culture. They learn how their people think.”

The Abbeys believe it is necessary to explain the gospel in a way that makes sense within each culture and can apply to everyday life. “We’ll work at learning Thai,” said Janella laughing. “But we won’t be able to learn the languages of all our territory. We’re praying for the gift of tongues.”

While excited for the next step in life, the Abbeys know they will miss the dynamics of a collegiate environment. “It’s a privilege interacting with students who want to serve,” said Don. “On the other hand, we’ll have the privilege of interacting with people who have made deep commitments to places where that service is very challenging.”



# The Healing Power of Art

## *Parker Adventist Hospital brings healing and peace to patients*

When therapeutic harp practitioner MariAnne Lounsbury arrived in the patient room, doctors and nurses were concerned. The patient was paralyzed on one side from a stroke, and was extremely agitated and unresponsive to their efforts to calm him. “Would some harp music help?” she asked. After playing for just half an hour, his heart rate had slowed, the rapid arm and leg movements had diminished and he had fallen into a peaceful asleep.

The power of art to soothe and heal has been demonstrated over and over since the creation of the Healing Arts program at Parker Adventist Hospital. Through the visual arts, music and other initiatives, the goal of revitalizing the mind, body and spirit of patients, families,

visitors and staff becomes reality.

For program director Jude Keller, the art goes straight to the heart of Seventh-day Adventist health care. “Our patients expect and receive excellent clinical care,” says Keller. “But what truly delights them are the extra things, the ways we’re able to use art to support the healing environment and demonstrate the mission of the hospital.”

A central component of the Healing Arts program is the array of paintings adorning the walls of the hospital and its three rotating galleries. Local artists are invited to submit works that celebrate themes of dignity, healing and compassion. Patients, family members and local residents are invited to Meet the Artist receptions. “It honors families

and gives them a respite, and enlarges the experience for the artist as well,” says Keller.

In a particularly inspiring example, a recent art show featured the work of Judy Haigh. A beloved former Parker employee, Judy had suffered a debilitating stroke that left her with a language disorder, making it difficult for her to speak or write. Even though her right hand was paralyzed, Judy refused to give in to her new limitations, and began painting with her left. “She’s an inspiration to all of us,” says Keller, “communicating what artistic expression and faith in God can do.”

For Lounsbury, the privilege of working at a faith-based hospital where she can bless others with her heart and musical talents is a continuing source of inspiration. One

day recently, she learned that a patient she knew had just passed away. When she arrived at his room, his loved ones were still with him, so she played for them for almost an hour, then continued at the request of the nurses as they performed final tasks. “What an awesome dignity she offered,” says Keller. “It was a message from the hospital to the family, honoring them in their time of loss.”

“God led me to that room,” Lounsbury still believes. “Every day, He shows me where I’m supposed to be and blesses my ministry.”

.....  
This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for mission and ministry for Rocky Mountain Adventist Health System/Centura Health, where he serves the four Adventist hospitals in Colorado. It was written by CMBell Company.

Courtesy Adventist Health System



“Music helps bring the message of peace through God to patients, families and staff,” says MariAnne Lounsbury, therapeutic harp practitioner at Parker Adventist Hospital.



## CREATION Health: Trust

by Mark Stoddart

Courtesy Adventist Health System



In the CREATION Health acronym, “T” is for Trust. Trust implies relationship. It is a condition enjoyed by people who rely on each other for mutual benefit. The idea of trust paints two vivid pictures in my mind: First is the image of an infant being nursed by his mother while he gazes into her eyes. That picture conveys to me the complete and unwavering trust that little baby has in his mother to take care of him. The second picture is of a lamb in the arms of a shepherd, which also presents the idea of complete confidence in the shepherd to take care of his little lamb.

Are there people on whom you rely? Have they ever let you down? Have you ever let them down? The reality with which we are forced to deal as humans is that we don’t always come through for those who place their trust in us. We forget to keep our promises.

We get caught up in the demands of our responsibilities and deadlines. We run out of time. And sometimes we just don’t feel like doing it, whatever it is.

Webster defines trust as “assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.” Since we have established that we cannot completely trust other people because we will fail each other from time to time, whom then can we trust? Is there one whose character, strength and ability are completely trustworthy?

Psalms 90:1, 2 says, “Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”\* Now that sounds like someone I can trust. He has

existed forever and has the power to create the world from nothing.

The power of “Trust” resides in the object of our trust. If I put my trust in an all-powerful God, it gives me a “can do” attitude because He can do anything. The New Testament makes it even clearer, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Trusting in God gives me the power to get out of bed on days when things are not going well. Trust in God gives me the courage to attempt big things that seem completely out of my reach, because I know they are not out of God’s reach. Trust in God gives me the confidence that things will work out somehow even when my situation is so dark that I can’t see past the end of my nose. Trusting in Divine power doesn’t mean things will never go wrong—it means that when they do, I can have hope that they will work out.

The benefits of “Trust in Divine Power” go beyond the spiritual and emotional. Research has shown that trust in God can lengthen your life while improving physical health. *The Oxford University Press Handbook of Religion and Health*,

published in 2001, presented a review of 1,200 studies in the fields of physical, mental and social health. The result: “...the majority of studies indicate that religiousness is associated with less coronary artery disease, hypertension, stroke, immune system dysfunction, cancer and functional impairment, fewer negative health behaviors (e.g., smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, risky sexual behaviors, and sedentary lifestyle) and lower overall mortality.”

Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Not only does Christ desire this for us, but through the principles of CREATION Health (derived from the Genesis account of creation), He has given us a plan through which we can experience that abundant life.

You can choose today to live your life to the fullest. God wants that for you.

Mark Stoddart, MDiv, is administrative director for Spiritual Wellness at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Shawnee Mission Medical Center offers a series of lifestyle transformation classes using the CREATION Health principles. For information visit [ShawneeMission.org/CreationHealth](http://ShawneeMission.org/CreationHealth).

\*Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

Creation<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTH



# Mid-America Union Breaks the 66,000 Barrier

by Martin Weber

Mid-America Union has crossed the 66,000 member mark, thanks to God's blessing upon enthusiastic outreach by six local conferences. There was not a soul to spare in the first quarter's report for 2012, with the total being 66,001.

Thomas L. Lemon, union president, notes: "There are several ways to look at a number like this. 1) We can celebrate—and we do. 2) We can wish there were more and the growth rate was faster, and that we also do. 3) We can look at the size of the task before us and feel much like Gideon

with his hundreds in the face of tens of thousands, and we do.

4) We can look at this number and realize that together we are resources in the hand of God to grant success to His mission in our lives, in our churches and in our communities. This last one must be our main focus as we move forward, together today to transform tomorrow."

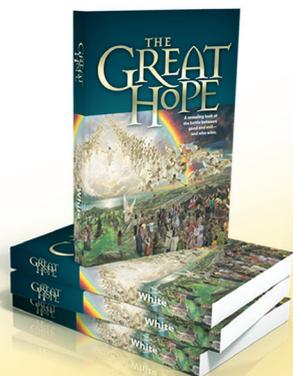
Lemon concludes, "We have come a long way, but there is still a great opportunity in front of us."

.....  
Martin Weber, DMin, is editor of OUTLOOK.



**The Great Hope Project** is a Spirit-filled witnessing opportunity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The purpose is to spread the life-changing message of *The Great Controversy (The Great Hope)*, by Ellen G. White, around the world. Members are personally invited to help with the "relational distribution" of this powerful volume. Also, church departments are challenged to make distribution plans a part of their ministry outreach.

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**Bender, Sophie (Zimmermann)**, b. June 11, 1922 in Russia. d. Jan. 20, 2012 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by husband Albert. Survivors include daughter Edie Kary; son Lynn Bender; 3 siblings; 1 grandchild.

**Brockmeier, Bess J. (Thiebaud)**, b. Dec. 3, 1929 in Great Falls, MT. d. Jan. 15, 2012 in Fort Worth, TX. Member of Denver South Church. Survivors include husband Milton; daughters Heidi Nelson and Michelle Brockmeier; son Tim Brockmeier; 3 sisters; 4 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

**Bunger, LeRoy**, b. Feb. 16, 1936 in Franklin County, NE. d. Mar. 9, 2012 in Kearney, NE. Member of Kearney Church. Survivors include wife Verdella; daughters Debra Greuter and Angela Bunger; son Craig Bunger; stepsons Jerald and Dean Helm; 11 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

**Casebolt, Kathryn W. "Sunnie"**, b. June 22, 1924 in Girard, KS. d. Mar. 24, 2012 in College Place, WA. Survivors include husband Donald; daughter Constance Godenick; sons Douglas and Keith Casebolt; sister Ruth Burgener; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

**Chunestudy, Mitchell**, b. Apr. 8, 1923 in Stillwell, OK. d. Apr. 1, 2012 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park Church. Awarded various medals for service in US military. Preceded in death by wife Bobbie Jo. Survivors include daughters Loyola Harmon, Mae Ellis and Mitchellene Sylvester; sons William and Joseph Chunestudy; 1 sister; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

**Darcy, Evelyn (Schield)**, b. Apr. 28, 1921 in rural Dodge, ND. d. Mar. 29, 2012 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Beulah Church. Preceded in death by husband Laurie. Survivors include daughters Prudy Renner and Karen Breuer; sons Bryan, Charles and Bruce Darcy; 5 sisters; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Diede, Elmer**, b. June 17, 1924 in Eureka, SD. d. Apr. 7, 2011 in Ceres, CA. Member of Ceres Church. Preceded in death by wife Doris; 1 sister. Survivors include son Barry Diede; daughter Cyndi Lemos; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

**Hanson, Pamela E. (Jones)**, b. Aug. 26, 1936 in Wayzata, MN. d. Mar. 22, 2012 in Ortonville, MN. Member of Artichoke Church. Preceded in death by daughter Sarah Fillingham. Survivors include husband Charles; sister Dorothea Jones.

**Imler, Toleda L. (Niedens)**, b. Oct. 4, 1914 in Herington, KS. d. Mar. 11, 2012. Member of Chapel Oaks Church. Survivors include sister-in-law Shirley Niedens; brother-in-law Ralph Imler.

**Kaiser, Magdalena "Lena"**, b. Jan. 9, 1916 in Logan County, ND. d. Mar. 24, 2012 in Wishek, ND. Member of Lehr Church. Preceded in death by husband Joseph. Survivors include daughters Evangeline Herpel, Jo Vilhauer and Kelly Kaiser; sons Rudy, Roger and Stanley Kaiser; sister Ella Schmidt; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

**Knopp, Frances**, b. July 30, 1926 in McIntosh County, ND. d. Sept. 3, 2011 in Oakes, ND. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by parents John and Lydia Knopp.

**Mathwig, Helen V (Noble)**, b. Jan. 12, 1913 in Kalamazoo, MI. d. Mar. 9, 2012 in Spearfish, SD. Member of Spearfish Church. Preceded in death by husband Willard. Survivors include sons Jack and Larry Loree; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

**North, John**, b. Oct. 3, 1926 in Los Angeles, CA. d. Feb. 20, 2012 in Colorado Springs, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Survived by wife Lola.

**Perekrestenko, LeRoy**, b. Aug. 12, 1939 in Minot, ND. d. Apr. 13, 2012 in Minot, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by father George. Survivors include mother Alvina; brothers Duane and Merel.

**Romero, James L.**, b. Dec. 5, 1939 in Trinidad, CO. d. Dec. 22, 2011 in Pueblo, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Survivors include daughter Cynthia Myrick; sons Daniel and Philipe Romero; 2 brothers; 8 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

**Ruggles, David**, d. Feb. 25, 2012. Survivors include wife Evelyn; daughters Susan Schwab, Karen Lemoine and Martha Ruggles; son Daniel Ruggles; 3 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

**Sanders, Blanche M.**, b. June 7, 1915 in Brooksville, FL. d. Jan. 24, 2012 in Denver, CO. Member of Denver South Church. Preceded in death by son. Survivors include 3 daughters; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

**Schander, Eugene F.**, b. Apr. 21, 1922 in Heaton, ND. d. Dec. 9, 2011 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Preceded in death by parents and 15 siblings. Survivors include wife AnnaLee; daughters Lonnie Davis, Julieann Chunestudy and Cheryl Woods; 11 grandchildren;

18 great-grandchildren.

**Schlisner, Dorothy (Bell)**, b. Mar. 15, 1920 in OK. d. Mar. 2, 2012 in Madison, SD. Member of Dakota Conference Church. Preceded in death by husband Lyle. Survivors include daughter Sandra Watson; son Graydon Schlisner; 7 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

**Schnedler, Ethel C.**, b. Mar. 22, 1907 in Cordell, OK. d. Jan. 13, 2012 in Pueblo CO. Preceded in death by husband. Survivors include daughters Ruby Wickiser, LaVerne Salvo, Charlotte Hill and Susan Carew; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

**Schultz, Keith J.**, b. Sept. 19, 1958 in Rapid City, SD. d. Apr. 13, 2012 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Survivors include wife Mindy; sons Matthew, Phillip and Isaiah Schultz; parents Jerry and Bernie Schultz; 4 siblings.

**Scott, Dr. Floyd E. Sr.**, b. Feb. 28, 1919 in Sioux Rapids, IA. d. Jan. 16, 2012 in Denver, CO. Member of Denver South Church. Survivors include wife Vonsella; daughters Barbara Silvas, Nancy Danelson, Kathryn Ratliff, Karen Clark and Michelle Tassia; sons Larry and Floyd Scott, Jr.; 11 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

**Shiple, Jessamine Richards Welsh**, b. May 10, 1928 in Elm Creek, NE. d. Jan. 7, 2012 in Visalia, CA. Survivors include husband David; daughters Esther Lair, Maggie Carnes and Valinda Gordon; sons Norman and Wally Welsh; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

**Sierra, Jose "Bill" G.**, b. July 23, 1916 in Cali, Colombia, South America. d. Mar. 26, 2012 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include wife Olina; daughters Nancy Nelson and Stella Link; son William Sierra; 2 siblings; 7 grandchildren.

**Skinner, Jeannie**, b. Apr. 8, 1947 in Manchester, NH. d. Feb. 22, 2012 in GA. Taught at various academies. Survivors include husband Ron; 2 sons; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren.

**Waldrep, Lamar C.**, b. Apr. 28, 1927 in Anniston, AL. d. Apr. 12, 2012 in Mitchell, SD. Member of Mitchell Church. Survivors include wife Veda; daughters Becky Phillips and Marlene Hargreaves; 3 sisters; 4 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

**Werner, Iva R.**, b. Nov. 28, 1915 in Beaver Creek, IL. d. Jan. 28, 2012 in Greeley, CO. Member of Brighton Church. Survivors include son Kelly Werner; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

SUNSET	CALENDAR	Colorado	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
		Denver	8:22	8:27	8:30	8:32	8:32
		Grand Junction	8:35	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44
		Pueblo	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:26
		<b>Iowa</b>					
		Davenport	8:30	8:35	8:38	8:40	8:40
		Des Moines	8:43	8:47	8:51	8:53	8:53
		Sioux City	8:57	9:02	9:05	9:07	9:07
		<b>Kansas</b>					
		Dodge City	8:56	9:00	9:03	9:05	9:06
		Goodland	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:17	8:18
		Topeka	8:43	8:47	8:50	8:52	8:53
		<b>Minnesota</b>					
		Duluth	8:55	9:01	9:05	9:07	9:06
		International Falls	9:08	9:14	9:18	9:20	9:20
		Minneapolis	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:04
		<b>Missouri</b>					
		Columbia	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38	8:38
		Kansas City	8:39	8:43	8:46	8:48	8:48
		St. Louis	8:20	8:24	8:27	8:29	8:30
		<b>Nebraska</b>					
		Lincoln	8:52	8:56	9:00	9:02	9:02
		North Platte	9:09	9:14	9:17	9:19	9:20
		Scottsbluff	8:23	8:28	8:31	8:33	8:34
		<b>North Dakota</b>					
		Bismarck	9:30	9:36	9:39	9:41	9:41
		Fargo	9:14	9:20	9:24	9:26	9:25
		Williston	9:47	9:53	9:57	9:59	9:58
		<b>South Dakota</b>					
		Pierre	9:19	9:24	9:28	9:30	9:30
		Rapid City	8:30	8:35	8:38	8:40	8:40
		Sioux Falls	9:02	9:07	9:10	9:12	9:12
		<b>Wyoming</b>					
		Casper	8:38	8:42	8:46	8:48	8:48
		Cheyenne	8:26	8:31	8:34	8:36	8:36
		Sheridan	8:47	8:52	8:56	8:58	8:58



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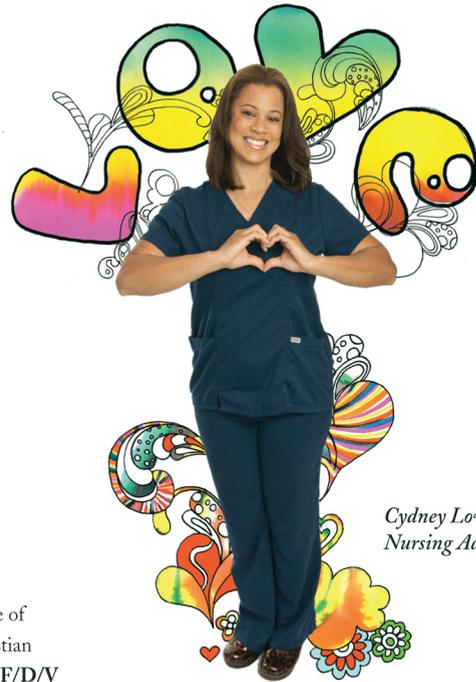
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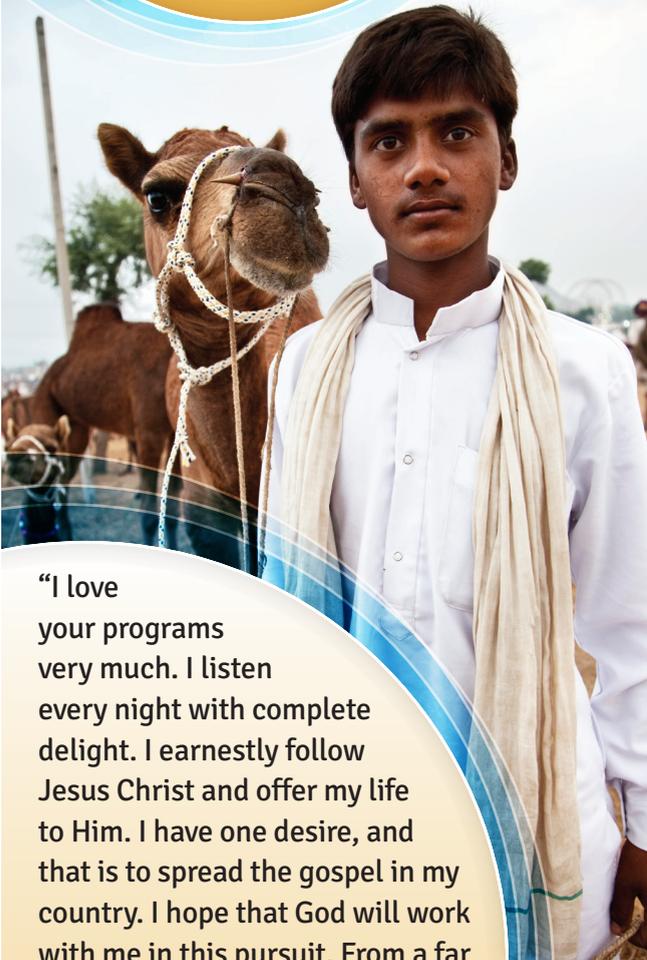


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