

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

OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 2013



ENCOURAGING OUR **PASTORS**

PRACTICAL WAYS
TO SHOW SUPPORT
p.6



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Cover Photo: Pastor Sean Ho Kim and his wife, Young Soon, have ministered at the Denver Korean Church since 2009. Read their story online (see page 3). Photo by Mic Thurber.

Adventists Lead Worship at MBE

St. Louis members share their hope during Missouri's Black Expo

BY FELICIA KING COOLEY

Jordan Crossing Celebrates First Baptism

"The Bible makes perfect sense!"

BY BRIANNA SCHENKELBERG

From Crime to Christ

One pastor's journey

BY JOHN TREOLO

IN THIS ISSUE

I will always remember that bright Sabbath day when my childhood pastor gently lowered me into the lake waters in baptism. I will always remember the night when another pastor knelt on the floor of our apartment and prayed so comfortingly after an unexpected death. I will always remember the happy celebrations when various other pastors performed family weddings, consecrated new homes, and dedicated our newly-born children to God.

Through the years, my pastors have provided practical and challenging sermons, wise words of advice and special encouragement. In every stage of my life a dedicated, compassionate pastor has traveled nearby on our spiritual journey, offering support and growing my understanding of what God is like. How blessed I have been! How compelled I am to express appreciation to our faithful pastors! I pray that this issue of OUTLOOK will inspire you to do the same.

—BRENDA DICKERSON

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Membership has its_____.

by Thomas L. Lemon



In the last issue of OUTLOOK we considered briefly the privileges of belonging to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—something I have come to treasure deeply as I have matured over the years. This editorial will focus on the second part of a three-fold sequence on building a healthy church: membership has its responsibilities.

I was an early primary grades pupil when an American president immortalized in his inaugural address words that most of us can still recite: “ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” Whether or not you agree with that politician’s policies, leadership or values is beside the point. The admonition is a good one for every earthly citizen.

For Americans, Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence has chiseled “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” into our consciousness. But a government, in order to function, must depend on its citizens. To borrow from (and add a bit to) Abraham Lincoln, “government of the people, by the people and for the people” requires some responsibility from the people.

So it is with families; so it is with sports teams; and so it must also be

with the church. The default is either dictatorship or anarchy.

We expect the church to have a coherent message and an effective structure; we expect the church to be user friendly for those who are members AND for those who will yet join; we expect the preacher to preach well and to value us as we value her or him; we expect leaders to be people of integrity with a solid work ethic; we expect the church to be a safe place in which we are nurtured in growth; and we expect it to be a cove of safety for our children. All of these and more are legitimate expectations of a healthy church.

But those things do not happen by wishing. They require people working in harmony to make them a reality.

Belonging to a local healthy expression of the body of Christ presupposes the individual taking responsibility for his or her part. In actuality, that entails significant investments from the church member, namely investments of resources and a commitment of the heart.

Investments mean different things for different people, but there will be some commonality. The Lord Himself asks for a portion of our treasure starting with His tithe and continuing with offerings. To withhold for any reason is to rob God. The church that

does not need money is either dead or very unhealthy. Even if the church doesn’t seem to need money, members have both a need and a responsibility to give.

In the natural world the only things that take in but never give out are bodies like the Dead Sea or the Great Salt Lake. Practical life is not long sustainable in those waters. They become large cesspools.

Another investment is one of time. If the church had all the financial resources in the world, but no one was willing to invest in it with time on task, again, the church would seriously lack health.

A third investment is that of talent. No church can expect to be healthy enough to grow if the membership merely sits on their abilities and expects the pastor to do it all. That is not good for the church body, the individual member, the pastor or the community.

A paraphrase of that long-ago speech might go like this: “ask not only what your church can do for you—ask also what you can do for your church.”

Next time we will consider the concept that membership has its opportunities. ▀

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



Easy Investment; High Returns

by Mic Thurber

Caffeine Addiction Recovery Month, Home Eye Safety Month, National Caramel Month, National Sarcastic Awareness Month—these were among the 111 items that showed up when I googled “October Monthly Observances.” But one was missing: Pastor Appreciation Month. Whoever compiled that list forgot. I hope we remember.

What makes pastors so special that they should receive such notice? I believe that expressing your appreciation to your pastor for his or her contribution to your spiritual life is a worthy investment for the body of Christ. Paul said it this way in Rom. 12:10: “Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another showing honor” (RSV). Competition among church members is common. But what would our churches be like if our competition was about showing honor and affection?

I suggested above that expressing appreciation is a worthy investment. Of course, you want a good return on any investment, so what might that be? It's painfully simple, really. Your pastor is called and gifted by God; his or her ministry has been recognized by the church at large; and pastors are placed in churches to minister

to your spiritual needs. But they are also human. People function best when they are loved, appreciated and supported. They will excel when they feel that their lives and their work matter to others.

There is an old story about a husband and wife sitting on their front porch in his-and-hers rocking chairs. The wife turns to her life partner and says (a bit perturbed), “You know, it’s been years since you told me you loved me.” To which he replies, “I told you I loved you 50 years ago. If I ever change my mind, I’ll let you know.”

When it comes to expressing affirmation and appreciation, we should never rely on the assumption that the ones we appreciate know it. Sometimes we just need to say it! And the truth is we all need to hear it—even pastors.

I've already discovered during my short time in Mid-America, to my delight, that the pastors who work here have really big hearts for their congregations. I have seen it on their faces and heard it in their voices as they've shared their experiences of being part of your lives. They love their work, they love you, and they want nothing more than to see their church family walk together right into the kingdom. I believe the vast majority of our pastors feel about you

the way Paul, Silas and Timothy felt about their dear flock in Thessalonica: “After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy” (1 Thes. 2:19-20, NLT).

I personally want to thank all the men and women who are dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus to our congregations in Mid-America. I want you to know that you are prayed for, loved and supported in your union office. Thank you for your many sacrifices of praise that you offer up each day for those whom you serve.

I invite each reader to join me in expressing affirmation and appreciation for your pastor(s) in whatever way you wish—a dinner out, a paid weekend away, a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble or the ABC, or even a card saying what he or she has meant to you. Just find a way to let your pastor know.

This is an easy investment because they already love you! If you just love them in return, there will be no limit to what pastor and parishioner can do together in the cause of Christ. ▀

Mic Thurber is ministerial director for the Mid-America Union.



Encouraging

Mid-America's ministerial directors share

Pastoral ministry: no higher calling

by Robert Wagley, IA-MO

God has called all Christians to share the good news of salvation and transformation by grace through faith as we heed the Great Commission of Christ. Yet, like Isaiah of old, the gospel minister responds to this call in a specific manner saying, "Here am I, send me." Not unlike the days when the Lord spoke to His servant and prophet, individual men and women are clearly called to specific pastoral roles in serving others and leading the body of Christ. There is no higher calling than to the role of servant leader, gospel worker, biblical preacher and shepherd of the flock.

However, in today's society respect for those who serve as pastors has diminished, largely as a result of leadership scandals and moral failures. Pastors generally live under the "glass house" scrutiny of both the general public and their congregations. People's expectations are limitless and their demands often unrealistic

and frustrating. Long hours and marginal salaries amplify challenges to the pastor's health and family life. There is no doubt that the landscape has become more diverse and the task more daunting.

For the most part, our pastors are champions of the faith and truth we love. They have carried great burdens and spiritual responsibilities with remarkable accountability and effectiveness. We must not allow the failures or misdeeds of a fallen few to taint us with cynicism or faultfinding that results in a less than supportive spirit.

I believe the best way we can show appreciation to those who serve us is to serve with them. We can and should support and encourage our pastors and their families by taking up the work God has called us to individually as elders, lay leaders and members.

Why I appreciate our pastors

by Sherman McCormick, MN

Minnesota has a great

pastoral team! Yet our pastors are not unlike many other Mid-America pastors who also exhibit the following qualities:

1. Our pastors love Jesus and have a burden to share the story of His love with other people. They are passionate about evangelism.

2. Our pastors have a shepherd's heart. A good shepherd is constantly aware of the sheep's need for good pastureland and fresh water. So the good pastor is constantly seeking to provide fresh spiritual nourishment for parishioners. Many times this will manifest itself in long hours late at night or early in the morning, seeking out and preparing spiritual food to serve the following Sabbath. A shepherd's heart is also manifested through caring for hurting and wounded sheep, binding up their wounds and encouraging them as they grow in spiritual vitality.

3. Our pastors have a "whatever it takes" attitude. This is evidenced by the fact that many of them are handling three or four church districts. This means doing a lot of

We can support our pastors and their families by taking up the work God has called us to individually.



Our Pastors

*why it's so important (and ways to do it)**

driving and spending long, sometimes lonely hours on the road away from their families.

4. Our pastors maintain a cheerful, positive attitude. Some other pastors talk discouragement. There could be many factors that impact that attitude. Like those pastors, our pastors are sometimes misunderstood and criticized. Like others, our pastors may find themselves the subject of cruel gossip. Like others, our pastors sometimes face financial difficulties. Every pastor I know could receive a higher monthly income doing something else for a living. Yet our pastors press on courageously.

Our pastors are not superheroes. But they do have a super spirit—a spirit of cooperation, compassion and service. Thank you pastors, for your dedication!

The power of encouragement

by Bryce Pascoe, DA

Someone once said, "An encouraging word makes all the difference in carrying a

burden." This is especially true of those who carry pastoral leadership in today's environment. A young pastor shared with me the results of a recent national survey indicating that the role of pastoral leadership was one of the top three most demanding job descriptions—similar to being CEO of a large corporation. While we might debate those results, the reality is that the many and varied tasks confronting pastors on a 24/7 basis do equate with the all-absorbing nature of those secular roles.

Heb. 13:17 gives some inspired counsel to consider as we affirm the pastors in our territories this month: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (NIV). This implies that we are in the work of ministry for the Master together—leaders and laity—and that it is an advantage to all of us for it to be a joyful experience.

More than that, it is an honor to God that we fulfill well our respective roles in the church.

It has been my recent privilege to get acquainted with the pastoral team in the Dakota Conference and observe their expressions of servant leadership. They are emulating the ministry of Jesus, whose selfless service for humanity is inherent in the pastoral calling. An encouraging, appreciative word from time to time to our pastors and their spouses for their service and dedication is a very helpful, meaningful part of the life of the church.

Thank you for the sermon!

by Reuben Roundtree Jr., CS

During my 30-plus years of ministry I have rarely treated myself to the opportunity of sharing the Word of God outside my congregations. I exercised that rare privilege about a year ago before a large southern congregation of predominately African descent. As I engaged them with a selected discourse that I had previously proclaimed to

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my own flock, their reaction seemed to be relatively the same. I finished without much idea as to the impact of my message. Being conditioned to affirm to myself that God had spoken mightily through me, I stood at the doorway expecting the same casual appreciation—or lack thereof—to which I was accustomed.

To my surprise nearly every member gave the same response with a handshake and a smile: “Thank you for the sermon!” I never grew weary of hearing it, although it was repeated nearly 500 times.

What a profound expression of pastoral worth and appreciation! To affirm the messenger, whether or not you affirm the message. To give due regard to the laborious investment placed upon the spoken word by the one who spoke it. To place value on its rendering and the one who rendered it. “Thank you for the sermon!” is what God meant by the double honor to be placed upon the pastor who serves members faithfully. “Thank you for the sermon!” rewards the laborer as worthy

of appreciation.

During this season of pastoral appreciation I recommend those five encouraging words I heard after one Sabbath sermon that atoned for the thousands of prior Sabbath sermons that went void of expressed appreciation. “Thank you for the sermon!”

Pastoral mentoring: a reciprocal blessing

by John Sweigart, KS-NE

A group of pastors with whom I’ve recently been privileged to work are those mentoring new pastors in our conference. We have asked them to focus on 50 different ministerial tasks in the first two years of the intern’s employment to help increase the necessary practical knowledge and skills that result in successful ministry. Mentors meet regularly with interns for prayer, study and to demonstrate how to conduct various tasks.

A recurring theme in the mentors’ reports is the quality of the interns with whom they

work. One mentor commented, “I have benefitted as much—maybe more—from being a mentor as my intern has. Because of the distance we often call or email each other and have developed quite a friendship.” Another mentor said, “Thanks for asking me to be a mentor. My intern’s enthusiasm and zeal has helped rekindle mine!”

What is true of these younger pastors is also true of pastors who have invested 20, 30 or more years in ministry: No one will ever know the number of hours they spend serving their members. These pastors respond when members make emergency calls at 3 am, travel great distances to visit, pray and preach in multi-church districts, even cut vacations short to hold funerals. No wonder Paul writes that we should “esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake” (1 Thess. 5:13, NKJV). Their dedication is intangible, and the results are often not measurable in attendance or baptisms. But count me among their loyal fans!



Affirming your pastor in the balancing act of ministry

by Craig Carr, RM

As I've interacted with my pastoral colleagues in the Rocky Mountain Conference, I've come to believe one of the greatest gifts a church can offer their pastor is the permission to be a balanced human being. While clarity of congregational expectations of your pastor and vice versa is helpful, it is also wise to consider your pastor's overall well-being. This may be as simple as asking how often he or she takes a day off to spend with family, or inquiring in other ways about your pastor's health and wellness. While Sabbath is a day of rest for most of us, it is often the busiest and most intense day of the week for pastors, requiring a reciprocal period of rest at some other point during the week.

Another means of support and encouragement can involve a simple phone call, email or text when you do not have a complaint or concern

on your mind. Pastoral leadership can be a lonely existence when interaction with members revolves mostly around the snags and challenges that arise. Remembering that your pastor is also a member of your church with similar needs of friendship and support can infuse some humanity back into what is often an isolated vocation.

I hope each of you will partner with me in the important work of lifting up our pastors so they feel encouragement coming from every side. Let's affirm them in setting aside the unfinished work of serving others in order to take regular time to rest, renew, regroup and then reengage with their congregations in the greatest vocation in the world. ▀

*Web Extras:

Read all these articles in their entirety at
<http://bit.ly/PrAppr13>



Seven Practical Ways You Can Support Your Pastor

by John Sweigart

- Discuss with others in your church the unrealistic expectations placed on your pastor by the members
- Determine how you as leaders and members can share some of your pastor's responsibilities
- Partner with your pastor in local community ministry
- Work to keep church conflicts to a minimum by helping members resolve issues between themselves
- Don't allow requests for prayer to serve as a cover up for gossip
- Shower your pastor with gifts, cards and "we appreciate you" notes
- Pray daily for your pastoral family (like Aaron and Hur holding up the hands of Moses in Ex. 17:12)

These gestures will go a long way toward encouraging and preserving your pastor so he/she doesn't become one of those who find themselves crying out, "Lord, please get me out of here!"



Des Moines Members Impact their Community

by Sharon Tate

The Philadelphia Church in Des Moines is following Christ's method by seeking to mingle with people, meet their needs, win their confidence and then bid them follow Him. This approach has been successful in impacting the community with the love of Christ.

On Monday evenings, the Personal Ministries

team, led by **Elder Derek Covington**, takes Bible studies to the Churches United Homeless Shelter. Recently, Philadelphia church members fed 225 people at the shelter before the weekly Bible study.

Elder Covington shares relevant topics like Why So Much Pain? with the many unchurched people who have been attending.

He also presents messages on the first Sunday of each month at local nursing homes.

Another community ministry led twice a month by **Elder Maurice LaMay** focuses on patients in the Rehabilitation Center of Des Moines. This ministry has motivated others to find creative ways to impact the community.

On Valentine's Day kids from Philadelphia Church made cards for patients that included Scripture verses. They also sang a song and handed out snacks.

Sharon Tate is communication director for the Philadelphia Church in Des Moines, Iowa.

Noah's Ark Comes to Life

by Philip Baptiste

Courtesy Central States Conference



Pastor Roosevelt Williams and the Emmanuel Church in St. Joseph, Missouri wanted to host a creative community event, so for three weeks in August Pastor Williams preached

from a 40-foot long Noah's Ark. He portrayed himself as a modern day Noah, with the goal of energizing people to get ready for the second coming of Jesus. Members and visitors were inspired

by the lively, Spirit-filled way Pastor Williams shared refreshing biblical truth. Souls were won to the Lord and lives were transformed by this innovative event. The church is already

making plans to host another creative community outreach event in 2014.

Philip Baptiste is communication director for the Central States Conference.



St. Louis Adventists Lead Worship at MBE

by Felicia King Cooley

For the first time in the 22-year existence of Missouri's Black Expo, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was asked to direct the citywide church service held at the Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis, Missouri. Leading the worship experience on Sunday, August 11, was a tremendous opportunity to share our faith in a venue that seats over 10,000 people.

There was an enormous turnout for the service, sponsored by the Central States Conference and organized by **Danise Taylor**, outreach coordinator and member of the Berean Church in St. Louis. The Iowa-Missouri Conference and the Lake Region Conference also assisted with this event.

The SLAM (St. Louis Adventist Ministry) Choir, directed by **Robert Bramlett** and **Carla Drake** with **Cherrise Carroll** as lead vocalist, ushered in the Spirit of the Lord with their angelic voices. Special music was presented by New York's own **Alicia Olatuja**, song leader at President Obama's inauguration. Alicia is the daughter of **Valencia Wallace**, who is also a member of the Berean Church.

Helvius L. Thompson, senior pastor of Grace Temple Adventist Church in Forth Worth, Texas brought the message. The Spirit of the Lord speaking through him moved all under the sound of

his voice, including the vendors. After the worship service, people were able to stroll around to various booths. At the Adventist Church booths we had the opportunity to give out literature, explain who we are and share our beliefs, including our hope in the soon coming of Jesus.

Missouri Black Expo (MBE) was co-founded by **Thomas R. Bailey, Jr.** and **David Board** in 1991, and debuted in St. Louis at Cervantes Convention Center in 1995 with 252 booths and exhibits of Black-owned businesses such as not-for-profits, corporations, city, state and government agencies.

In 1995, Bailey gained 100 percent control of MBE, which has since sky rocketed into the largest African-American consumer event in the state of Missouri. Its current mission is to improve the lives of attendees in the areas of youth development, health education and awareness, and community development.

Adventists were at the forefront of this summer's event, creating another historic movement for our Church. We thank God for using Danise Taylor to form connections that built a bridge Adventists can cross at least once a year.

Felicia King Cooley is an award-winning photojournalist and member of the Berean Church in St. Louis, Missouri.



Cherrise Carroll and the SLAM Choir led the audience in Spirit-filled musical worship.

Weekend of Service





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Pathfinders Meet Challenges at Camporee

by Joann O'Hare

Twenty Pathfinders from several clubs and an equal number of leaders, parents and helpers arrived at Northern Lights Camp on Lake Metigoshe the weekend of Aug. 9-11 for the annual conference camporee.

Led by retiring Pathfinder director **Anne Wham**, the camporee brought clubs together to participate in events and activities that challenged them, promoted camaraderie, ingenuity, and commitment to each other, their families and, most importantly, to their God.

Friday's activities involved working on honors (archery, basic water safety, and ecology) interspersed with relay races using water balloons, a race to thaw a T-shirt frozen in a bucket of ice enough to put it on, and cardboard boat races. Each club brought their own pre-assembled boats made exclusively from cardboard, duct tape and paint. Ribbons were awarded for the most creative boat, paddling the boat to a specified location, and the number of occupants the boat could carry. The Grassy Butte (ND) Club

won the ribbon for highest number of occupants (nine), and the Watertown (SD) Club won the ribbon for most creative boat, thanks to their use of colorful duct tape.

A visit by **Mr. Pierre Bottineau**, a local park ranger and "French voyager," was another highlight of the day as he expounded on the challenges of life as an early French fur trader and trapper.

On Sabbath the group worshiped together and enjoyed a nature walk. In the afternoon, Wham taught the new prayer

honor. Evening activities included a talent show, singing and some very creative Bible charades by the Pathfinders and their leaders. The day concluded with an ice cream cone relay race followed by eating banana splits.

The camporee provided a great opportunity for Pathfinders to learn, share, renew friendships and make new friends.

Joann O'Hare is a Master Guide and Pathfinder Area Coordinator for the Dakota Conference.

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DAA Students Engage during Camp Week

by Mike Temple

Kim Boyko



DAA students and staff experienced an active retreat at Northern Lights Camp.

What a way to start the school year! This enthusiastic exclamation was echoed throughout the week as Dakota Adventist Academy (DAA)

staff and students enjoyed a five-day assembly at Northern Lights Camp on Lake Metigoshe in northern North Dakota. The camping event,

which takes place at the beginning of each school year, was filled with exciting and educational activities that included team building, water

sports and engaging worship.

During a Friday evening worship appeal to be “sold out” to Jesus Christ, many students stepped forward and 12 made decisions to go all the way with Christ and prepare for baptism. DAA is committed to providing a Christ-centered approach to education, and Camp Week was a spiritually dynamic way to begin that yearlong journey.

Mike Temple pastors the Grand Forks Church in North Dakota. He was camp pastor for the week.

Loren Nelson III



Staff at Dakota Adventist Camps hosted a record number of Junior campers this past season during an exciting summer filled with activities, songs and the telling of the story of David, “The Man after God’s Own Heart.”

Many improvements were made to Flag Mountain Camp’s existing buildings, including a new roof, new doors and new locks. In addition, hundreds of dying trees were felled due to the pine beetle infestation. Northern Lights Camp now has a new climbing wall, as well as a new roof on the girls’ bathroom.

Best of all, 42 campers made decisions for baptism, and many other campers expressed interest in renewing their relationship with God.

Jacqueline Blaloff



Ten Pathfinder leaders were invested as Master Guides on June 8 at the Dakota Conference camp meeting by retiring Pathfinder director Anne Wham. The investiture achievements these candidates pursued included personal growth, spiritual discovery, serving others, making friends, health and fitness, outdoor living and honor enrichment.

Those invested were Jody and Coreen Schumacher, daughter and mother, of Lehr, ND; Joann and Charles O’Hare, husband and wife of Bismarck, ND; Tiffany and Kent Thomas, husband and wife of Grassley Butte, ND; Charlene Shrock of Nome, ND; Nichole Roffler of Grassley Butte, ND; Darla McCrary of Watertown, SD; and Sheryl Lund of Bottineau, ND. Also present on stage were four young people illustrating the levels of youth ministries.



Moberly Church Evangelism Personalized

"The harvest truly is great..." Luke 10:2

by Julie Peterson

In April the Moberly (MO) Church held a Revelation seminar series with speaker **Phillip Sizemore**, pastor of the Cape Girardeau district. As a result of those meetings 12 people have been baptized to date—each with a unique story.

Steve came just to please his friend who had been trying to get him to attend meetings. He planned on coming only one or two nights. However, he was so impressed as he heard questions being answered straight from the Bible that he never missed a night.

Ann sent in a Bible study request card and was studying with a church member. She had already begun attending church when the seminars started. She came to every meeting and joined through profession of faith.

Two days before the seminar started **Michaela** moved in with her grandmother, who was a church member, and decided she wanted to attend. She accepted the Bible truths, was baptized and transferred from public school to Sunnydale Academy.

Fred was familiar with Adventism because his son had married an Adventist. Fred knew they attended church every Saturday, and Fred himself attended once. When the pastor asked Fred if he had ever thought about becoming Adventist, his

reply was, "No." Sometime later Fred met an Adventist lady on a family camping trip, and when they began dating he started studying with another church member. About that time the Revelation seminars began and he and his fiancé attended. They only missed one seminar—the day they were married.

Milton had been out of the church for several years, but he and his wife **Sarah** were searching to fill their spiritual emptiness. Although Milton had been an Adventist, he didn't feel it would be fair to push Sarah into those beliefs. Yet their searching was leaving them feeling hopeless. About that time Milton's mother invited them to attend the Revelation seminar. After the fifth meeting Sarah knew God had answered her prayers. It was as if the light went on and

everything fit together like a puzzle. At the end of the meetings Milton and Sarah answered God's call to their hearts as Sarah was baptized and Milton was rebaptized.

Hannah has grown up in the Adventist Church and attends the Maranatha Adventist School. She committed her life to Christ in baptism after attending the Revelation seminars.

Bill and Joyce joined the Adventist church in the '70s through profession of faith. Sadly, they drifted away and did not return for 20 years. During that time, they separated. So even though they were coming to church, they lived separate lives. While attending the Revelation seminar Bill became convicted that he needed to give up the things that were separating him from God. He rededicated his life to Christ and chose to be baptized. Joyce agreed

to join him in baptism as a symbol not only of their rededication to Christ but also their recommitment to one another in marriage.

Lowell had been invited by his neighbors to attend a previous prophecy seminar. What he heard made sense to him, so he began coming to church. This spring Lowell again attended all of the meetings and made his decision to be baptized.

Pastor Tom Michalski is currently conducting a Bible study on the book of Daniel for those who would like to study deeper. There are several more in this group preparing for baptism.

Julie Peterson is a member of the Moberly Church.



Pastor Tom Michalski (back row, in suit) rejoices with Moberly's 12 new members.

Courtesy Julie Peterson



Jordan Crossing Company Celebrates First Baptism

by Brianna Schenkelberg



Gideon Cheboss

Brian Tice (center front) is supported on his spiritual journey by his extended family.

The Jordan Crossing church plant in West Des Moines, Iowa recently celebrated their first baptism. **Brian Tice** publicly committed his life to Jesus on July 6, becoming the first new member to be baptized into fellowship with the Jordan Crossing group.

Native to Urbandale, Iowa, Brian often visits his family in Charles City. Little did he know that one such trip would initiate a journey toward renewing his relationship with Christ. During one of Brian's visits his father, **David**, felt compelled to invite his son to a prophecy seminar being held in the area. Though Brian had been a consistent attender of a Sunday-keeping church, his yearning for more from the Bible and a stronger relationship with Jesus

inspired him to accept the invitation.

One meeting was all Brian could attend at that time, but it was enough to create a new spark in his spiritual life. Brian said he was able to learn more about the Bible in that one hour than he ever had before.

Following this experience, David introduced Brian to **Rob Alfallah**, pastor of the Jordan Crossing group, which is conveniently located only a few miles from Brian's home. Rob invited Brian to the Prophecy Awakens Bible prophecy seminar that the Jordan Crossing group would be hosting in just a few weeks. Excited by the opportunity and passionate to continue learning, Brian attended almost every night of the

seminar.

Shortly after, Brian decided to attend the weekly follow-up Bible studies, reviewing material covered during the Prophecy Awakens meetings. Being daily rejuvenated by the Holy Spirit, Brian signed up for the Delve Deeper class at Jordan Crossing led by Pastor Rob that covered Daniel and Revelation. The more he immersed himself in the Bible, the more things Brian comprehended that had never clicked before. "It was like light bulbs went off in my head," he recalled. "The Bible made perfect sense."

That's when Brian made the decision to be baptized into the Jordan Crossing church family. "Going through the studies, I wanted to be closer to

Jesus and that was the next step in my life—to be baptized," said Brian. "I wanted to do it as soon as possible." Members of his family attended his baptism including his parents, two daughters, sister and nephews.

"I will most remember Brian's personal testimony," said Pastor Rob. "It was very Christ-centered. He definitely appreciated learning the biblical truths that had been obscured for so long, but his main appreciation was how those biblical truths focused on Christ and strengthened Brian's relationship with his Savior."

Brianna Schenkelberg is a member of the Des Moines Church.



Educators Receive Awards

by John Treolo

Photos: John Treolo



Kansas-Nebraska Conference education superintendent Gary Kruger presents the Superintendent's Award to Tania Miller (left), Enterprise Elementary teacher, and the Teacher of the Year Award to Suzette Powell (right), College View Academy teacher.

At a recent pastor/teacher retreat in Branson, Missouri, conference education superintendent **Gary**

Kruger presented awards to two educators for their outstanding contributions to the classroom.

Tania Miller, who began teaching in 2011 at Enterprise Elementary School, received the

Superintendent's Award. "I felt very honored, surprised and appreciative," said Miller.

The Teacher of the Year Award, voted by teachers, went to **Suzette Powell**. She has served at College View Academy (formerly Helen Hyatt Elementary) since 1994.

"I just felt like this was a big hug from my peers and friends," said Powell. "My greatest wish was that everyone could start their school year knowing the prize they are and how God feels about them."

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

KS-NE CONFERENCE CALENDAR FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.KS-NE.ORG

Oct 4-6

Hispanic Men's Retreat

Broken Arrow Ranch
Olsburg, KS
Info: robpaucorrea@hotmail.com

Oct 11-13

College View Academy Alumni

College View Academy
Lincoln, NE
Info: ydoering@cvak12.org

Oct 11-13

Midland Academy Alumni

Midland Adventist Academy
Shawnee, KS
Info: maa@midlandacademy.org

Oct 25-27

Christian Women's Retreat

Grand Island, NE
Speaker: Adrienne Townsend
Info: scarlson@ks-ne.org

PANHANDLE CAMP MEETING

OCTOBER 4-5, 2013

SCOTTSBLUFF, NE



SPEAKER: ELIZABETH TALBOT

Speaker/Director

Jesus 101 Biblical Institute

CONCERT: BIDDLE BRADLEY & DALE JENSEN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:00 pm
Scottsbluff Adventist Church
3102 Avenue D

SABBATH, OCTOBER 5

9:30 am Sabbath School
11:00 am Worship
2:00 pm Concert/Preaching
West Way Christian Church
1701 W. 27th St.

Fellowship dinner at Valley View Adventist School

415 S 31st Street

Photo by: Richard Teller



From Crime to Christ

One pastor's journey

by John Treolo

John Treolo



Otavio and Bellamy McKenzie praise God for opportunities to minister.

It's a cliché worth repeating: a life of crime doesn't pay. **Otavio McKenzie**, pastor of the Salina (KS) District since January 2012, learned this lesson the hard way. It's a part of his past he'd rather forget, yet he wouldn't be a minister today had he not spent time in an Ohio prison.

A native of Jamaica born between his two biological sisters, Otavio and his family moved to Florida before settling in Columbus, Ohio. At age 15, he, his mother and one sister, **Patricia**, joined the Adventist Church. Although new-born by outward appearances, his inner self was not ready to "do church."

His life became a typical

inner city story: young man needs cash, sells drugs to make money, uses drugs to take his mind off his struggles, worries about who his real friends are, commits robberies while brandishing a gun, gets arrested, goes to prison.

After hearing the judge's sentence of 13-25 years (a rather stiff sentence for a first offense), Otavio's lawyer, **Frederick Benton**, plea bargained his sentence to two years, much to the prosecutor's objection.

"I can't take cases personally," Benton told Otavio. "But as I look at you I realize the person who committed these acts is not you. You're better than this. I want to do whatever is in my power to help you."

Much to Otavio's surprise, **Chaplain**

George Huggins at Noble Correctional Institute in Caldwell, Ohio was an Adventist. "Chaplain Huggins was so clear, so biblical. In prison I discovered my calling to be an Adventist. God was calling me into ministry. I couldn't deny it," Otavio said.

Outside prison, another person was willing to take a chance to help Otavio lead the straight and narrow life. **Bellamy Patterson**, good friends with his sister Patricia, also looked beyond the prison garb he was wearing to see a man with great potential to do something special for God.

Released after 15 months for good behavior, Otavio enrolled in the Mission College of Evangelism. Bellamy shared his passion

for ministry and attended the same school. They were married July 27, 2008.

Having been invited to do Bible work in Central California Conference, the McKenzies enjoyed working with the Santa Cruz church members. It was while they served at this church that the invitation came to join the Kansas-Nebraska Conference pastoral team.

"Otavio came into the Salina District during a time of great confusion, doubt and hurt. He brought a strong focus on the gospel, a positive attitude and an endearing wife who serves the churches with zeal and joy," said **John Swegart**, conference vice president for administration.

Thrilled to be serving and praising God for the opportunity, Otavio is at peace and has finally found the happiness he searched for as a teen. "The greatest reward is to see someone make the decision to have Jesus as their forever Friend," he stated.

Bellamy added, "Ministry to me is an opportunity to reach people's hearts and to share with them the journey I've had and the journey on which God wants to take them."

From prison to the pulpit has been quite a passage for Otavio. With God and Bellamy by his side, he would admit this trip has been well worth it.



No Child Left Behind at North Star Camp

by Elizabeth D. Rodriguez

NCLB, better known as the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, ensures that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. NCLB is focused on the academic aspect of education and what a teacher must do to help every child finish school. But for the Christian teacher it's different because Christian education emphasizes holistic living and making sure the main focus is Jesus.

Similarly, an Adventist

summer camp is so much more than just any summer camp. This became a whole new reality to me this summer at North Star Camp. Camp director **Pastor Jeff Wines** invited my husband, **Pastor Rodriguez**, to be the speaker for Tween Camp (12-13-year-olds). We thought it was a great opportunity and brought our 13-year-old daughter to experience summer camp for the first time. I must admit that I have always been skeptical of the idea that a parent can

leave a child with complete strangers for a whole week. So, knowing that I would be present, the idea was not as horrifying to me. But what I learned was amazing!

I had a preconceived idea that camp was all about outdoor activities and plain fun. Instead, I learned that it was also a tremendous spiritual experience for everyone involved—including myself. The camp staff had a daily skit on the life of Paul and how he influenced people from different walks

of life to accept Jesus. I saw campers connecting spiritually to the staff, the pastor and to one another on a daily basis. The staff made learning about Jesus fun, and the campers were excited to participate. They wrote songs, poems and skits of what they learned and experienced about the Bible.

The staff were very tuned in to their campers, and because of this the campers confided in the staff more every day with their personal struggles and

Elizabeth Rodriguez



North Star Camp Director Jeff Wines (above) and his staff regularly pray with campers of all ages.



problems. During game time campers who did not feel up to playing were not "left behind." I saw the staff checking on them and caring for them. Right in the middle of the games, they stopped to pray with them.

The connection these young adults had with the campers was amazing! God was working through the camp staff and almost overnight these young adults became role models and mentors to the campers. Like Paul, these young adults, mostly high school seniors or college students, were modeling Jesus. They were witnessing every moment. I even experienced prayer before going on a boat ride.

I asked Pastor Wines, "How do you find staff like this?" He replied that he gives all his concerns to Christ and allows the Holy Spirit to guide him through this selection process.

It's the only answer that makes sense since he was not just looking for staff; he was looking for holistic staff who could make the difference at North Star Camp. I know that someday these young adults will become pastors, teachers, counselors or other professionals using their God-given gifts to reach the world for Christ.

Friday evening the staff concluded their story of Paul. Then Pastor Rodriguez delivered a powerful message about

the sacrifice the Father made for us. He illustrated it by asking the campers to participate in a difficult fictional exercise. They were to write five names on a piece of paper: their best friend, pet, mom, role model and Jesus. If those listed were tragically removed from their lives, what order would they choose and who would be last? As the names were being slowly deleted, the facial expressions of the campers and staff became sad. At the end, Pastor Rodriguez told them that if the last name was Jesus they had made the right decision, because Jesus is the only One on whom we can rely. As hard decisions and circumstances come

our way, Jesus will always be the One we can trust and only through Him will our loved ones be returned to us.

As the Sabbath began the staff washed the campers' feet. The program director explained that this camp was about the campers, and the staff were there to "serve" and make them feel accepted. What a way to end a wonderful week! There were circles of prayers and tears. The joy could not be described with words. This was yet another way of demonstrating that no child gets left behind at North Star Camp.

Elizabeth D. Rodriguez is principal of the Capital City Adventist Christian School.

Twin Cities Evangelism School Continues

by Doug Inglis

More than 100 people gathered for the first weekend seminar in a series being offered by the Minnesota Conference Personal Ministries Department. **Dr. Ed Schmidt**, associate director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) and a professor at the Andrews University Theological Seminary, presented the topic Lay Model and Church Growth at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. Members came from 17 churches, including one in Canada and one in Kenya.

Dr. Schmidt presented clear ideas on practical

things we can do to share the gospel. People who would be uncomfortable giving a Bible study learned about ways to witness that fit their personalities. They learned that every personality type is needed to reach out to our communities. They also learned how their personal gifts complement the gifts of others, and how we can use those gifts in harmony. Schmidt pointed out that since everyone who has accepted Christ as Savior is called and equipped to share with others, Jesus works in each of us in different ways to grow the kingdom of God.

The Minnesota

Conference has partnered with NADEI for a total of eight seminars, with various seminary professors presenting a broad range of topics designed to promote healthy, growing churches. In order to make the seminars accessible to as many members as possible, they will be held in various locations around the metro area. Costs are being held to a minimum, and Sabbath lunch is provided.

Our next event will be Nov. 15-17, with Dr. Schmidt returning to teach Witness for Life. Although this seminar builds on the previous one, people who come without having attended the first event

will learn enough about witnessing to bring positive changes to the world around them. The location will be announced as soon as we have settled on a venue. As before, online preregistration is available through AdventSource or by calling the Personal Ministries Department at the Minnesota Conference office.

Doug Inglis is director of Personal Ministries for the Minnesota Conference.



RMC Schools CHERISH Students

by Mark Bond

Schools across the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) are in full swing, and as reported in the June issue of OUTLOOK, a new set of educational Core Values has been adopted across the conference.

The original Core Values were prayerfully chosen during the summer of 2012 by a group of leaders, administrators and teachers from around the RMC. Five pilot schools tested the Core Values last year. Teachers, students and parents alike greatly appreciated the emphasis on this collection of Christian values that represent the way we treat each other in our schools.

The Core Values

originally chosen were Christ-Centered Living, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Exploration, Courage and Service. In preparation for rolling out the Core Values concept to the entire RMC school system, the Education Department decided to reformulate the wording of the chosen values so they would form an easy-to-remember acronym. By substituting two of the original Core Values for words that had nearly identical meanings, they settled on the acronym CHERISH. The revised Core Values are Christ-Centered, Honor, Exploration, Responsibility,

Integrity, Service and Heroism.

Colorful posters, postcards and buttons have been created to aid in sharing the CHERISH Core Values in classrooms and with parents.

"We wanted to make our Core Values a memorable, easy-to-grasp program that children from the earliest grades all the way through academy would be able to understand and embody," shared **Lonnie Hetterle**, RMC vice president for education. "We 'cherish' our students; we 'cherish' our teachers; and with these Core Values as our guiding principles, we will 'cherish' each other."

"I'm truly excited about the way these values will impact the day-to-day interactions at our schools," said **Gary Thurber**, RMC president. "I'm also hopeful that this program will reach schools beyond our Rocky Mountain boarders. I would be thrilled to see them bless the Mid-America Union, and even the North American Division!"

To find out more about the CHERISH Core Values program or to locate the Adventist school closest to your home, visit [www.RMCSDA.org/education](http://RMCSDA.org/education).

Mark Bond is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



Colorful posters share the CHERISH Core Values with all who enter Rocky Mountain Conference schools.



Wyoming Waldensians Witness in Honduras

by RMC Communication Staff

A new outreach group called the Wyoming Waldensians received the opportunity to cut their teeth on outreach during a June 12-23 trip to the Valley of Angels in Honduras. After the group of 18 had landed on the Tegucigalpa, Honduras runway they learned it is considered one of the 10 most dangerous runways in the world, with only a handful of pilots certified to land there.

Working in conjunction with a Quiet Hour short-term mission group, the young people assisted with medical clinics, helped renovate patient rooms in the nearby Adventist hospital, worked on carpentry jobs under the supervision of a local Honduran named **Charlie**, or worked in teams to prepare sermons for the evening meetings. Working with Quiet Hour and under the direction of Sheridan, Wyoming church member **Aimee Pooley**, the group also provided Vacation Bible School felts and supplies for each church site. In addition, they handed out to the children 85 pounds of toothpaste, acquired from Delta Dental by **Abby Gideon** and **Afton Logan**.

"We quickly fell into a routine of service," said **Marirose Force**, who served as one of the group chaperones on the trip and shared reports about the trip with the Rocky Mountain Conference.

At first, many of the



Courtesy Marirose Force

Eighteen Wyoming Waldensians shared their faith in the Valley of the Angels during a June mission trip to Honduras.

youth who preached experienced feelings of discouragement. **Alisha Mechalke**, a young speaker from Casper, originally felt she wasn't reaching the hearts of her listeners. With encouragement from her teammates and team leader, and through the power of prayer, she began to connect with her congregation.

There were other challenges as well. One group on its way to a medical clinic was stopped by a mob of striking taxi drivers who weren't letting anyone through. The group prayed, and after their interpreter reasoned with the taxi drivers they suddenly parted like the Red Sea, allowing the young missionaries to proceed.

Local drivers provided transportation for the various groups. One group

was especially blessed by the testimony of their driver, **Antonio**, who liked to listen to sports broadcasts while he drove them from place to place. Through an interpreter, they discovered that he'd been invited to play soccer for both the Honduras National and Junior National soccer teams but had turned down both offers because of his commitment to his Savior and the Sabbath.

"We were all blessed beyond measure during this trip," Marirose reported. "God sustained us through illness, roosters crowing at 3 am, and adjusting to a different country. He gave us strength to help others and, through those experiences, our faith grew."

The Wyoming Waldensians originally

formed when Wyoming pastors met to brainstorm ideas for keeping youth involved in church growth. Pastors **Gary Force** and **Gabe Gutierrez** planned weekend training meetings as a platform for the young people to learn about habits that made the Waldensians successful in spreading God's Word.

The Wyoming Waldensians shared their stories and testimonies from the Honduras mission trip at the Wyoming camp meeting held at Mills Spring Ranch in July. Many listeners expressed a desire to be involved in next year's mission trip.

"We pray that we have begun a yearly tradition that will continue until the Lord's return," added Marirose.



Union College Professor Helps Shape Emergency Management Field

by Joellyn Sheehy

Emergencies can happen in many different forms—from injuries and destruction from extreme weather, to an increasing number of violent attacks by fanatical groups or desperate individuals.

The Union College International Rescue and Relief (IRR) program has been at the forefront of training college students for careers in the growing emergency management field, and this past summer, **Rick Young**, director of Union's IRR program was invited to attend a weeklong conference on homeland security at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterrey, California. The by-invitation-only conference was designed specifically for universities

offering programs focused on careers in homeland security and emergency management.

Young joined the select group of 30 educators from schools around the country, including the U.S. Naval War College. "We trained several members of the Nebraska National Guard in our confined space rescue class last year," said Young. "Then when they saw this conference opportunity they recommended that I get an invitation to attend."

At the conference, Young met and learned from a variety of experts including **Janet Napolitano**, director of Homeland Security, and **Francis Mahon**, director of Strategy, Policy and Plans for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. "He

is essentially responsible for safeguarding the U.S. and Canada on all aerospace and maritime warnings," Young explained. "The level of knowledge and information shared was amazing."

Connecting with representatives from other institutions was an important part of the experience for Young. "The first day we introduced ourselves and presented what we do, how and why," he said. "That took a while, but it was nice to talk with others who teach the same type of courses we have here. Ours is slightly different in that we don't have an actual Homeland Security program, but because of our classes on disaster and terrorism management we definitely fit into the group."

Along with providing supplemental material for classes, the conference gave participants access to more research resources. "We now have access to all the research and reports Homeland Security has cleared to release," said Young. "We can also upload any research that we do for classes and pump it into the library to be reviewed. This opens doors to us for sharing and learning."

Through involvement in emergency management in recent years, Young now plays a role in shaping the field of emergency management. "The reason Homeland Security created

these college programs is because we're trying to professionalize emergency management," he said. "It's a relatively new field with no certifying body."

Establishing a system of accreditation is challenging because the field is large and diverse. "FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is just one small part of Homeland Security," said Young. "The whole field is in flux right now, and since I've gone to these conferences I now have the opportunity to make suggestions regarding the direction we in the field should take. That's kind of exciting."

Union's International Rescue and Relief baccalaureate degree program prepares students for careers in public safety, emergency management or the medical field. Each student is certified in a variety of emergency management and disaster response areas and spends both a summer in Colorado learning wilderness rescue and survival and a semester in Central America learning jungle survival and medical techniques. For more information, visit ucollege.edu/irr.

Joellyn Sheehy is a senior International Rescue and Relief major.



Union College junior Emilian Grigore and graduate instructor Brittany Nunez treat a "victim" during a joint training exercise with the Montezuma County Search and Rescue Team in Southern Colorado during the International Rescue and Relief annual training in the summer of 2013.

Steve Nazario/Union College



Make Your Gift Go Three Times as Far

by Union College public relations staff

With less than \$700,000 left to reach the \$14.5 million goal in the *Our Promising Future* campaign to help fund construction of the new science and mathematics complex, 1963 graduate **Steve Gifford** has stepped up with a challenge to encourage alumni and friends to push this campaign over the top. If Union passes the \$14 million mark by December 31, 2013, Gifford will give the remaining \$500,000 to complete the campaign.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and make their gifts triple in impact," said **John Wagner**, president of Union College. "We can now complete the campaign right as we move into the new building."

When the gift was first announced in July, Union still needed \$290,000 to reach \$14 million. But as of the end of August, donors have given nearly an additional \$100,000 to bring the total amount needed to just under \$200,000.

Gifford has made the challenge to Union College donors as a memorial to his wife, **Beverly** ('63), who passed away in 2012. The large periodic table of elements (www.ucollege.edu/elements) that will hang near the amphitheater of the new building will be named in her memory.

Beverly (Troyer) married Steve and left Union with him just one semester short of earning a degree in



Courtesy Steve Gifford

Steve Gifford, a 1963 Union College graduate, recently gave a \$500,000 challenge gift in memory of his late wife, **Beverly**, to complete the *Our Promising Future* fund raising campaign for Union College's new science and mathematics building.

elementary education, and then later pursued a career in nursing. "I know how much Beverly appreciated Union College," said Gifford. "She always wished her bachelor's degree could have come from Union."

Union seemed a fitting place to memorialize his wife because of their positive experiences, both as students and later when Gifford served on the Union College Board of Trustees while president of the Kansas-Nebraska

Conference. "Whenever I bump into someone from Union, the camaraderie is always there," he explained. "It's the human touch. I think Union has done a better job of that than any place I've ever been."

After retiring as president of the Texas Conference, Gifford was invited by two former colleagues to become president of a new company they started—JetMall LLC, a Fort Worth based company that refurbishes jet aircraft.

The company's success has enabled Gifford to make the gift.

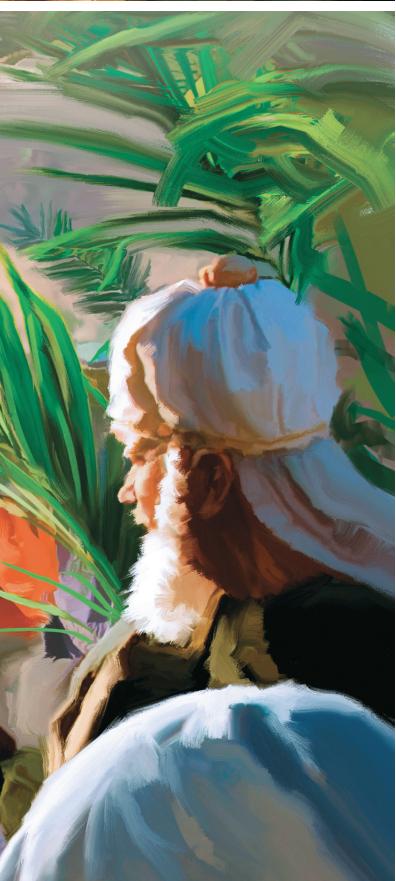
"I live in a doublewide trailer and drive a 13-year-old Mercury," explained Gifford. "Instead of spending money on myself, I'd rather spend it on God's work."

If you'd like to learn more about how to meet Gifford's challenge, visit www.ucollege.edu/ourpromisingfuture.





GraceLink Sabbath School Curriculum Revised



Once a month, boys and girls from the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Junior Sabbath school put what they have learned in their class lessons into action by visiting a nursing home where they have adopted resident grandmas. They seek out persons who need companionship and give them items of encouragement they have made during the Share the Lesson Activity portion of the Power Points lessons.

"I just love the new revised Power Points teacher's helps from GraceLink," said their teacher, **June Rickard**. "They provide several different options you can choose from to make the point. Every week there is at least one of the options I can use to meet the learning needs of our group. And it's really user friendly."

Introduced in the late 1990s, this comprehensive curriculum was designed to provide a more contemporary approach to children's Sabbath school. The curriculum focuses on leading our children into a grace-filled grasp of spiritual life, preparing

them to be lifelong members of the church. A number of tools were developed, including a new website to provide support materials for teachers and to enable parents and children to access the materials online.

Now, nearly 15 years later, the program has been refreshed. A commitment to the following goals shaped the update:

1. Make the product visibly stronger, while losing none of the familiar texture and character.
2. Make the program more flexible and current, taking into account our changing world and new forms of social interaction.
3. Strengthen the networking aspects, with a renewed emphasis on parents and teachers.
4. Create new ways for the entire community to interact and benefit one another.

5. Maintain a sharp focus on the largest mission goals of the Church. GraceLink isn't just about children's Sabbath school; ultimately it is about leading our children to the foot of the cross and helping them become lifelong Adventists.

Out of this careful process came a number of important changes to meet the needs of our children:

• **A New Graphic Approach for PowerPoints:** Return to a more traditional graphics style in the illustrations for the Junior-level part of the curriculum.

• **A Distinctive Parents' Page:** Reminder to teachers and parents that their gifts of time and effort are recognized as they work with children.

• **A More Obvious Biblical Chronology:** Graphic symbols identify where the story fits into the biblical chronology.

• **A More Intentional Focus on Biblical Prophecy:** The distinctive Adventist emphasis on prophecy and the end times has been amplified and enhanced.

• **Identification of Fundamental Adventist Beliefs:** A new feature identifies which of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the church each particular lesson supports.

General Conference Sabbath School Ministries Department.



SMMC's Dedication Shows in Patient Satisfaction Scores

by Kara Cowie

When it comes to offering patient-centered care, Shawnee Mission Medical Center (SMMC) in Merriam, Kansas has the advantage. Recently the hospital has been recognized for its above-and-beyond dedication to patients through its high ranking HCAHPS scores.

HCAHPS, which stands for Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, is a federally mandated survey given to patients up to six weeks after their hospital stay. Patients' answers to the 27-item questionnaire are then reported to the public annually at medicare.gov/hospitalcompare. The survey includes 10 sections about a patient's experience, ranging from doctor and nurse communication to overall hospital environment. High scores mean high satisfaction.

In the third quarter of 2013, SMMC received an overall satisfaction rating from patients in the 97th percentile, compared to other hospitals across the country.

"We felt gratified to know that SMMC is ranked among the top hospitals," said **Jenny Chambers**, administrative director of Inpatient Services. "Our mission is *Improving Health Through Christian Service*, and we all strive to accomplish this. It is our aspiration to provide patients with

the very best experience possible."

SMMC associates have been hard at work this year, assuring patient care reflects the hospital's faith-based mission. One of the most significant changes can be seen in the hospital's nursing hourly rounding procedures. Research shows that when a nurse checks in with a patient each hour, it improves a patient's experience, enhances safety, decreases call lights and improves the efficiency of patient care work flow. Although hourly rounding has been a nursing practice at SMMC since 2006, it was redesigned this year to include additional focus on the patient's plan of care.

"We impress upon associates to treat every patient as they would the person they love most," Chambers said. "All associates are trained to proactively address needs, questions and concerns as they would for a loved one. This type of service is extended to all patients, family, visitors and other associates."

Associate/patient communication was also enhanced by utilizing communication boards in each room. The boards allow associates to share crucial care information with their patients, such as daily treatment plans or pain management goals. The board also encourages

patients to make suggestions about their care plans, giving them a much-needed sense of control.

SMMC also enhanced bedside shift reports. These regular debriefings allow nurses who are changing shifts to inform one another about each patient's individual assessment, treatment and other pertinent information for the continuum of care. Associates invite patients and families to participate in these daily one-to-one reports, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and stay informed about the overall care process.

"Our patients and family members frequently tell us how much they love being at the center of the team's care communication," Chambers said. "They've commented that the bedside shift report and communication boards assure that their needs will be met and that they are well informed about their care."

Chambers also credits SMMC's high patient satisfaction to the hospital's dedication to offering the best in spiritual care. SMMC associates and patients are now greeted each morning by an inspiring devotional, broadcast over the hospital's internal announcement system. Those just beginning their stay may also receive

spiritual guidance from one of SMMC's chaplains, who make it a point to visit each patient within 48 hours of admission. Also, because family and friends play an important role in healing, SMMC offers prayer request cards to visitors in each unit.

"SMMC is a faith-based organization, and we take our charge seriously," Chambers said. "We strive to care for our patients in a Christ-like manner and to include the spiritual aspect of the person in their recovery and care."

While SMMC continues to pride itself on its 50-year legacy of offering its patients the latest, leading-edge treatments, associates know it is the hospital's uniquely compassionate, faith-based care that plays a crucial role in healing patients and helping them stay well.

"Competency and technology are vital; however, the human factor is equally crucial," Chambers said. "That means we treat our patients as we would the people we love the most. We listen to them and care for them as we would want to be cared for."

Kara Cowie is a writer for Shawnee Mission Medical Center.



The Making of a CEO

How Dennis Barts and Avista Adventist Hospital came together

Courtesy Adventist Health Systems



It seemed straightforward at the time. **Dennis Barts** was going to teach P.E. and science the rest of his life. He'd gone to college, gotten his master's degree and started his career.

But plans change. What began as an experiment—a cardiac rehab internship—became his true calling. Now, as he enters his fourth major leadership position, this one as Avista Adventist Hospital's chief executive officer, he recalls how three men he worked for, each named Jim, shaped who he is today.

The first Jim taught him compassion. The second

Jim taught him focus and organization. Jim number three looked him in the eye and asked, "What do you want to do?" When Barts replied "hospital administration," Jim offered to help him get there.

So Barts began learning the ins and outs of the business. Within three years he had been handed the reins of nearly every department. Barts has melded the three Jims' leadership styles with his own health expertise and belief in the healing power of Christ to form an identity that values total patient care (both spiritual

and physical) provided in a data-driven, results-based environment.

While preparing to interview at Avista, Barts unearthed some passages Ellen White had written about the Boulder Sanitarium, Avista's predecessor. "Not everyone knows that Ellen White gave specific instructions to physicians in Boulder," says Barts. "Early in the hospital's history there was talk of building a rival Adventist hospital, which might have crushed both. Thankfully, her advice not to proceed with this was heeded."

Barts' move to Avista signals an increased inner cohesiveness for him. "What I missed while working in hospitals that weren't sponsored by Adventists was the united front. From the workers on the ground floor to the leaders, we've got one mission in Adventist healthcare." And this united front is, in part, Ellen White's health vision realized. "White's message puts Seventh-day Adventist hospitals at an advantage. Preventive care, long an Adventist tradition, is gaining traction everywhere," Barts says.

Barts plans to devote some of his energy to the partnership between the local Adventist churches, pastors and the hospital. "Four million people will seek care in an SDA hospital each year—far more than will be reached in traditional outreach methods," he adds.

Seeing modern medicine catch up to the church's long-standing practices is validating to Barts. "One of the great things I see about Avista is that its culture is focused on the healing ministry of Christ," he says. "The right arm of the message is alive and well at Avista."

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



Andrew, John, b. Aug. 9, 1945 in St. Joseph, MO. d. July 19, 2013 in St. Joseph, MO. Member of Three Angels Church. Preceded in death by wife Anna Louise. Survivors include daughter Michelle Cafferty; son Chad; 6 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Buege, Therese "Teri", b. May 27, 1945. d. July 17, 2013. Member of Waterloo (IA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Raymond; 2 granddaughters. Survivors include daughters Pamela Meyer, Carey Price and Allison Stucky; 3 brothers; 13 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Courtney, Marjorie T., b. Nov. 6, 1919 in Minneapolis, MN. d. Aug. 7, 2013 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include husband Bill.

Dickerson, Genevieve, b. July 31, 1918 in Ft. Scott, KS. d. June 23, 2013 in Collegedale, TN. Served as Bible worker, elementary teacher, and girls' dean at two academies and assistant dean of women at Union College. Preceded in death by 8 siblings. Survivors include 2 siblings.

Durbin, Vearnette, b. May 20, 1919 in Kennett, MO. d. June 10, 2013 in Poplar Bluff, MO. Member of Poplar Bluff Church. Preceded in death by husband Robert; 4 siblings. Survivors include daughters Lori Nelson, Helen Schneider, and Deanne Snyder; sons James Cleveland, Jerry and Reggie Durbin; 10 grandchildren; numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Hagele, Timothy J., b. Feb. 29, 1952 in Bowdle, SD. d. Aug. 17, 2012 in Tolstoy, SD. Member of Tolstoy Church. Preceded in death by father; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Deb; sons Cole and Chayse; mother; 2 siblings; 2 grandchildren.

Herr, John, b. March 27, 1921 in McClusky, ND. d. July 17, 2013 in Keene, TX. Pastor in the Missouri Conference for seven years. Preceded in death by wife Arleen. Survivors include daughter Deanna; son Gary; 8 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Hold Edryss, b. June 19, 1919 in Lyndon, IL. d. Nov. 28, 2011 in

Monett, MO. Member of Nixa (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Aaron; daughter Shirley Brantly; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Joyce Bonds, Melody Wassell and Esther Foster; 1 sister; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Jorgensen, Roger, b. Jan. 16, 1922 in Audubon County, IA. d. Nov. 26, 2012 in Adel, IA. Member of Des Moines Church. Served in WWII. Survivors include wife Verda; daughter DeEtta Hinger; sons Stuart and Scott Jorgensen; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Kania, Figuhr S., b. Sept. 12, 1964 in Cheptais, Mt. Elgon, Kenya; d. Aug. 3, 2013 in Minneapolis, MN. Member of The Edge Church. Preceded in death by mother. Survivors include wife Jeanette; daughters Neema and Sharon Kania; son Baraka; father; 5 siblings.

Kirkeide, Mildred, b. Apr. 21, 1921 in York, ND. d. Sept. 30, 2012 in Rugby, ND. Member of Dakota Conference. Preceded in death by husbands George Brotton and Kenneth Kirkeide; 2 siblings. Survivors include son Steven Brotton; daughter Avis O'Connell; 2 sisters; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild.

Langenberg, Margaret, b. July 5, 1925. d. Aug. 14, 2013. Member of Norfolk (NE) Church. Survivors include daughter Ucinda Sims; son Keith Langenberg; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Leavitt, Adelbert H., b. July 13, 1935 in North Platte, NE. d. Mar. 28, 2013 in Waterloo, IA. Member of New Life Church. Survivors include wife Reesa; sons Rory and Scott; 1 brother; 3 grandchildren.

Morris, Carrie, b. Mar. 7, 1938 in Columbia, MO. d. Aug. 5, 2013 in Columbia, MO. Member of Columbia Church. Survivors include daughters Carrie Williams and Catherine Edison; 2 siblings; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Niedens, Shirley, b. Nov. 1, 1928 in St. Joseph, MO. d. Aug. 6, 2013 in Shawnee, KS. Member of Chapel Oaks Church. Preceded in

death by husband Wayne; daughter Diana Norris; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Shirlayne Kinser, Cindy Snyder and Tammy Smith; 5 siblings; 7 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.

Queckboerner, Dorothy, b. June 24, 1921 in Polk, MO. d. Feb. 8, 2013 in Bolivar, MO. Member of Bolivar Church. Preceded in death by husbands Lee Schuenemeyer and Jesse Queckboerner; 8 siblings. Survivors include son Larry Schuenemeyer; 4 siblings.

Shaw, Sr., Myrle, b. Dec. 28, 1923. d. Aug. 3, 2013 in Nevada, MO. Member of Nevada Church. Survivors include wife Pat; sons Myrle Shaw, Jr., Mark, Mike and Randall Fenton; 1 sister; 11 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Stoltz, Kelly A., b. Jan 24, 1952 in Jamestown, ND. d. Aug 1, 2013 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by father; 1 sister. Survivors include mother; 1 brother.

Weikum, Raymond, b. Aug. 30, 1926 in Hazelton, ND. d. Aug. 6, 2013 in Harvey, ND. Member

of Manfred Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include wife Phyllis; daughters Roberta Evans and Dessa Kreiter; son Marlin; 4 grandchildren.

Winn, Richard, b. Feb. 23, 1934 in Boone, County, MO. d. July 11, 2013 in Columbia, MO. Member of Columbia Church. Survivors include wife Mary; daughter Jennifer Sonnenberg; son Rick; stepson Darrell Reid; 2 siblings; 3 grandchildren.

Zirschky, Mentha, b. July 13, 1916. d. Jan. 13, 2013 in Warrensburg, MO. Member of the Oak Grove (MO) Church. Preceded in death by husband, daughter and son. Survivors include 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

To submit an obituary to OUTLOOK, visit outlookmag.org/submit-obituary. Please contact Randy Harmdierks with questions: 402.484.3012 randy@outlookmag.org

SUNSET CALENDAR	Colorado	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
	Denver	6:37	6:26	6:16	6:06	5:58
Iowa	Grand Junction	6:52	6:41	6:31	6:21	6:13
	Pueblo	6:36	6:26	6:16	6:07	5:59
Kansas	Davenport	6:39	6:27	6:16	6:06	5:57
	Des Moines	6:51	6:39	6:28	6:18	6:09
	Sioux City	7:01	6:50	6:38	6:28	6:18
Minnesota	Dodge City	7:18	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:41
	Goodland	6:24	6:13	6:03	5:54	5:45
	Topeka	7:00	6:50	6:39	6:30	6:22
Missouri	Duluth	6:42	6:28	6:15	6:03	5:52
	International Falls	6:46	6:32	6:18	6:05	5:53
	Minneapolis	6:47	6:35	6:32	6:11	6:01
Nebraska	Columbia	6:46	6:36	6:26	6:16	6:08
	Kansas City	6:56	6:45	6:35	6:26	6:17
	St. Louis	6:39	6:28	6:18	6:09	6:01
North Dakota	Lincoln	7:03	6:52	6:41	6:31	6:22
	North Platte	7:20	7:08	5:57	5:57	6:38
	Scottsbluff	6:31	6:19	6:08	5:58	5:48
South Dakota	Bismarck	7:16	7:03	6:50	6:38	6:27
	Fargo	7:00	6:47	6:34	6:22	6:11
	Williston	7:27	7:13	6:59	6:47	6:35
Wyoming	Casper	6:41	6:29	6:17	6:07	5:57
	Cheyenne	6:36	6:24	6:13	6:03	5:54
	Sheridan	6:42	6:30	6:18	6:06	5:56

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Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4-5 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Honor Classes: '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, '04, '09. For more information contact 701.258.9000 ext 236, or visit our website at: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnievents.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend—Oct. 3-6. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet. Career Day on Friday. Sabbath speaker is Elder Ron Scott, class of 1959. Sunday is the Alumni Golf Tournament and 5k walk/run. For more info call 573.862.2164 or visit www.sunnydale.org.



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This statement of ownership, management and circulation was filed on October 1, 2013, with the U.S. Postal Service for the Mid-America OUTLOOK, publication number 0887-977X, a magazine owned and published by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE, 68516. It is published 10 times per year at a subscription price of \$10. For further information, contact the Mid-America Union Conference, publisher, or Brenda Dickerson, managing editor, at the above address. The following figures for the extent and nature of the circulation apply to the year ending with the September 2013 issue of OUTLOOK and are printed in the October issue of this publication.

Description	Yr. Avg.	Sept.
Total number of copies	28,000	28,000
Total paid/requested outside-county mail subs	26,885	26,966
Total paid/requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	46	47
Total paid/requested circulation	26,931	27,013
Total complimentary distribution	85	85
Total distribution	27,016	27,098
Copies not distributed	984	902
Total	28,000	28,000
Percent paid and/or requested	99.6	99.6

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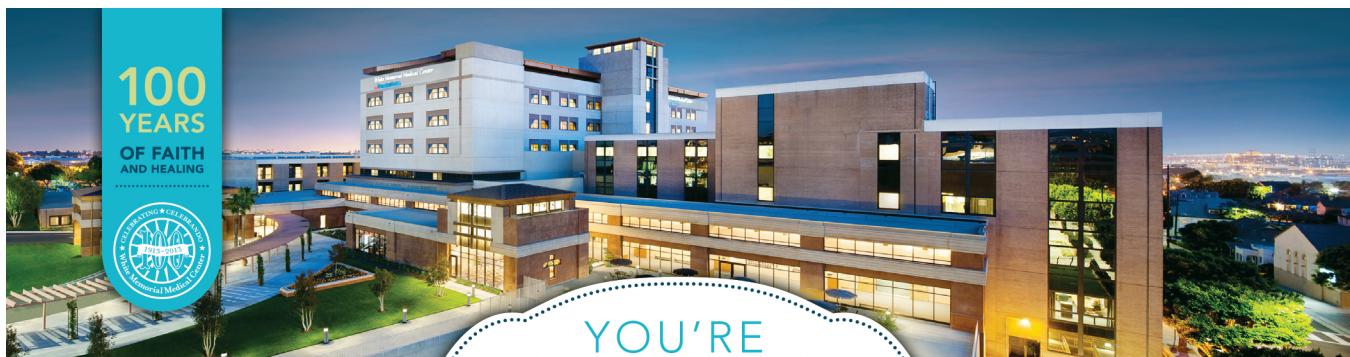
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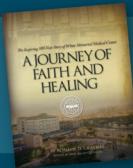
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 |
Continuing Medical Education Event

Well-known physician, writer and
speaker Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | Hospital Sabbath Program

Elders Charles White, great grandson of Ellen White, and
Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University
Concert by Sandi Patty, acclaimed Christian vocalist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | Centennial Gala

A fund-raising celebration for WMMC

White Memorial Medical Center
Adventist Health

A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a red scrub top. She is smiling warmly at the camera while holding a newborn baby wrapped in a white blanket with a colorful floral pattern. A green lanyard with a circular badge hangs around her neck. In the bottom left corner of the image, there is a semi-transparent circular overlay containing a smaller, blurry image of a person's face.

experience the birth of a calling

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