

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

# OUTLOOK

OUTLOOKMAG.ORG

UNION  
COLLEGE  
ANNUAL  
SPOTLIGHT

A healthy dose of  
*Wellness*

At Union College, teaching healthy living is a critical part of living a calling.



**RUNNING FOR  
A REASON** P. 4

**HOW TO BE  
A WELLNESS  
WARRIOR** P. 6

**NOV/DEC 2019**



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OUTLOOK (ISSN 0887-977X) Nov/Dec 2019, Volume 40, Number 11/12. OUTLOOK is published monthly (10 months per year) by the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516. Printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE and additional offices. USPS number 006-245. **Postmaster: Send all undeliverables to CFF.** Free for Mid-America church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. **CONTACT us by email: info@maucsa.org or phone: 402.484.3000.**



“Are we willing to let anyone be a part of our community, regardless of their flaws or if their sins look different than ours?” —p. 20





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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



### Best Church Socials for Cool Weather

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### RMC Hosts Hispanic Men's Retreat

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### Reformation Truths and Modern Lies

[imsda.org/historyandgovernance/part3](http://imsda.org/historyandgovernance/part3)

## LIVING OUR CALLING, HONORING OUR CREATOR

Living healthfully is a big part of our calling as Christians. We are clearly instructed in Scripture to honor God through the choices we make that impact our bodies and our minds (1 Cor. 10:31).

In this issue we highlight Union College faculty, staff and students who are leading by example in valuing wellness, and intentionally helping others to do the same.

As we look forward to 2020 with its varied opportunities, let's accept the challenge to incorporate a healthier dose of all types of wellness into our lives—for the purpose of enabling us to serve others better while bringing praise and honor to our Creator.



BRENDA DICKERSON  
editor



## ON THE COVER

Shelby Jongema, a freshman business administration major from Florida, and Veronica Carrasco, a junior health sciences major from Missouri, both enjoy running as a way to stay physically fit.

More on p. 4  
Photo by Scott Cushman

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# Running for a reason

**A**himaaz could hardly contain his excitement. “Let me run to the king with the good news,” he begged his commander.

But the experienced warrior knew the king. David would take no delight in this victory. So the commander sent another, less enthusiastic runner to the king with the news that, while he had won the war, his son, the leader of

the rebellion, was dead.

Even after the other messenger disappeared over the hilltop, Ahimaaz continued to pester the commander for a chance to bring news to the king.

“Why do you want to run?” the older man asked. “There will be no reward today.”

“I don’t care, I just want to run,” came the reply.

Relenting, the commander finally said “Run!” Ahimaaz

took off for the city, following a flatter route along the foothills. His adrenaline spurred him on so that he passed the other runner and arrived at the city first.

As he approached the king at the city gate, he burst out with the news of victory.

“But is my son safe?” asked the king anxiously.

Ahimaaz panicked when he realized what the king really cared about. “I saw a lot of confusion, but I’m not sure what happened,” he lied.

## Why do we run?

I’ve often read this story in the life of King David recounted in 2 Sam. 18 and wondered why the young Ahimaaz wanted to run. Did he want a reward? Was he happy for the king and got caught in the desire to be the first to share the news? Maybe he had ADHD and just couldn’t sit still.

The Bible doesn’t say. But one thing seems certain: Ahimaaz begged for his big moment but wasn’t ready for it. He had the physical training but not the moral courage to complete his calling.

I believe it is our duty at Union College to give students the most complete preparation possible to follow their callings and become the leaders God created them to be. I see students arrive at college with the enthusiasm of Ahimaaz—ready to change the world. But they rarely know where to start or how to get there.

That’s why we intentionally choose people and build programs and communities across our campus to help students develop not just

skill, wisdom and knowledge, but habits that will ensure lifelong spiritual, emotional and physical health as well.

Unlike 3,000 years ago, the races we find ourselves in are more likely to take the form of marathon meetings, hours spent staring at computer screens, or caring for others while they’re contagious. The metaphorical races we run too often chip away at our physical ability to live fulfilled, mission-minded lives. How does a modern administrator, nurse, programmer or mother “... run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1)?

It’s easy to put physical wellbeing on the back burner when the stress of life and the unhealthy demands of our responsibilities weigh us down. In the next few pages, I hope you enjoy stories about some of the ways we are building an environment where our students learn both to live healthfully and to understand that wellness is a critical component of both a good race and preparation for the King who awaits at the end of our earthly running.

Please keep Union College in your prayers as we seek to help our students learn to run the race of life—and discover their reason to run.

.....  
Dr. Vinita Sauder is president of Union College.



# The Union College Value

At Union College, we believe every student should have access to a high-quality Adventist education. That's why we will do everything possible to make Union College a great value for every family.



## New Scholarships

We've redesigned our scholarship program to make sure students receive the aid they need to succeed. We offer a wide variety of freshman scholarships to reward you for your work and now offer additional funds for families who need it most. Discover what scholarships you qualify for at [ucollege.edu/net-price](http://ucollege.edu/net-price).

### Board of Trustees Scholarship Free tuition!

This scholarship is available to any incoming freshman who has at least a 3.9 GPA and 33 ACT (1500 SAT) score.

### Academic Achievement Scholarship Up to \$11,000/year

Receive great scholarship awards based on your GPA and SAT or ACT scores.

### Financial Need Scholarship Up to \$2,000/year

Receive additional awards based on your family's EFC from the FAFSA (fill it out yearly at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)).

### Work Scholarship Up to \$2,000/year

Receive awards for work as a literature evangelist, student missionary or at summer camp.

### Personalized Scholarship Up to \$1,500/year

Receive awards for high school involvement, attending public school or home school, as the descendant of a Union alum, or joining a Union performance group or varsity sports team.

### Total Affordability

Add up each of these four-year renewable scholarships and you'll find that a top-quality education at Union College is within your reach. **Get the full picture at [ucollege.edu/financial](http://ucollege.edu/financial).**

## The Union College Guarantee

We know that Union College will provide the mentorship to help you find the right career and the educational community to make sure you become the person God created you to be. In fact, we guarantee it!

If you decide to switch careers after you graduate, return to Union College within two to six years of graduation and earn a second degree—tuition free! **Learn more about it at [ucollege.edu/guarantee](http://ucollege.edu/guarantee).**



### Don't just take our word for it

Union College was named a "Best Value School" by *U.S. News* in their annual college rankings for the second year in a row. That means we ranked near the top of our category for schools that offer the best ratio between the quality of education and cost to students. **Learn more at [ucollege.edu/usnews2019](http://ucollege.edu/usnews2019).**

"When I look at how much I've spent to attend Union College, I feel guilty. I know the friendships I've made, the lessons I've learned—my experiences here are worth a lot more than the tuition I've paid. I think I got a great deal."—Joe Hofmann, 2016 graduate



# Wellness Warrior

## How to be a

When Stacy Stocks arrived at Union College in 2018 to take over as dean of students, she knew years of stress and overwork had taken a toll on her body—and she had seen the results in weight gain and other nagging health problems.

Early in the school year, she noticed advertisements for Union's new Warrior Wellness program challenging students and employees to focus on improving their physical and mental health.

"I didn't participate because I didn't know how," Stocks recalled. "I had transitioned from a job that was all-consuming and didn't allow for good self care. I didn't think I had the time."

But the challenges—drinking enough water, getting adequate rest and even understanding how to manage stress—made Stocks realize her new employer and fellow employees did care about her physical wellbeing and that it was okay to take time to be healthy.

While she didn't immediately begin participating in the wellness program, the ideas from the campus-wide communication encouraged her to make a change. On New Year's Day, Stocks embarked on a journey to lose 40 pounds by the time she turned 40 at the end of July. She embraced the principles promoted by Warrior Wellness and with the support of WeightWatchers began eating in moderation.

She began a regular exercise program walking on Union's arboretum campus.

To keep up her motivation and accountability, Stocks joined the Wellness Walking class for employees. "Next the wellness program challenged us to get more sleep," she said. "Schedules and responsibilities make that difficult, but for the first time in more than two decades, I focused on getting seven to eight hours of sleep each night."

Stocks was not the only employee to stay involved in the Warrior Wellness challenges. And that didn't go unnoticed by students like Joslyn Lewis.

"I was motivated seeing which staff and faculty members were getting involved," she said of the wellness challenges. "It was something for us to do together as a campus."

A senior education major from California, Lewis took the Healthy Eating and Fitness class last school year because she needed more health credits. She saw the wellness challenges as a way to bring structure to the new practices she learned in class.

Even though Lewis didn't earn a top prize in the water challenge, she began focusing on consistently drinking a healthy amount each day. "I discovered that herbal tea counts too!" she chuckled, switching to a British accent. "So I got different tea flavors, and now I'm one of those tea people."

As she battled with the stress of school, the stress challenge helped Lewis understand the importance of regular relaxation. "I've really been intentional about taking time to rest," she said. "It's not necessarily sleeping, but taking time to paint or draw or other breaks from my usual schedule."

She immediately discovered the difference when she took time off from studying to create art or read. "It definitely changed my energy level," Lewis explained. "My interactions with people seem to be better when I'm taking those moments to relax."

### Setting goals and gaining rewards

For Larinda Fandrich, director of the Warrior Wellness program, that's what it is all about. "We want to impact our students and faculty and help them learn how to incorporate positive health choices into their daily lives," she said.

Fandrich, an assistant professor of nursing at Union who is currently working on a doctorate of nursing practice in lifestyle medicine, was tasked with leading the program because of her passion for helping people live healthy lives.

She formed a committee and partnered with Tammy Adams, the campus nurse, to develop a two-year rotation of six-week challenges to

help students and employees better understand how the eight principles of wellness outlined by AdventHealth's CREATION Life impact their lives. For the 2018-19 academic year, the campus embraced challenges focused on physical activity, rest, water and stress, while 2019-20 will focus on nutrition, trust, relationships and outlook.

Each challenge sets specific goals and awards prizes for consistent participation. Warrior Wellness has also planned events throughout the school year to bring more attention to healthy life choices.

And while Unionites like Stocks and Lewis may not participate in every challenge, the cumulative effect has led to healthier living.

"I'm not a scheduler," said Lewis. "But now I think about taking the time to drink water or take a break from studying. I put more time into taking care of myself."

Stocks did lose 40 pounds by her birthday in July and set a goal to lose another 35 by the end of the year. Her husband joined her on the journey and has lost nearly 50 pounds. She credits Union for their success. "Becoming an employee at Union College allowed me to care for my health in a way I didn't have the time, strength or encouragement to do before."

.....  
Ryan Teller is executive director for integrated marketing communication at Union College.

Union's campus-wide Warrior Wellness program has inspired healthy habits in employees and students alike—including dean of students Stacy Stocks (right) and senior education major Joslyn Lewis.



# Athletics Ministry

## New directors bring new directions

Ever since Union launched its first varsity athletic team in 1986, becoming a Warrior has meant a lot more than playing games. Coaches teach their students valuable life skills including teamwork, leadership, communication, confidence and learning to win and lose gracefully—the “soft skills” that companies look for in their employees and leaders.

Union’s new athletic director, Nestor Osorio, hopes to continue expanding this already successful program and refocus on sports as a ministry, creating graduates who serve joyfully in God’s calling.

“We hope students develop thanks to an intentional coaching and mentoring process where caring and daring are the pillars to further improve engagement as a result of finding God’s calling and purpose for students and coaches,” Osorio said.

Osorio’s philosophy isn’t the only recent development in Union College athletics. A nearly complete changeover in personnel has ushered in a new era for the program.

### Revamping athletic personnel at Union College

Toward the end of last school year, Union needed to

fill three positions connected with athletics and Larson Lifestyle Center, Union’s pool and fitness facility. Previously, one person had served as athletic director and Lifestyle Center director while a second served as pool manager and a third provided managerial support.

“In essence we were looking at a clean slate,” said Kim Canine, vice president for Student Life, who led a collaboration to reevaluate the makeup of the department.

“It made sense to bring in someone who specializes in athletics while allowing the Larson director to oversee the fitness facility and pool,” she said.

Maria dos Santos became Lifestyle Center and aquatics director. “My dream job has always been to be part of a fitness facility and pool,” said the 2017 elementary education graduate. While attending Union, dos Santos worked as the student intramural sports director and taught swimming lessons.

Having worked in aquatics for a decade, dos Santos has a passion for water safety. Her vision is to grow the swimming lessons program and implement exercise classes for students and community members. “I want to improve the fitness and wellness on our campus,” she said.

In Osorio, the team felt they found their man to head up athletics. “We were looking for someone to continue the integrity Ric had built into the athletics programs,” said Canine, referring to the previous long-time director, Ric Spaulding, who believed becoming a Union Warrior meant being a warrior on the courts and in Christ. “And we felt Nestor could bring his experience and passion to expand the program,” she added.

Previously, Osorio worked as the athletic director for Forest Lake Academy in Florida. A native of Argentina, he’s also been a coach and personal trainer and has worked with wellness centers and universities to advance programs and sports tournaments in both the U.S. and his home country. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in leadership from Andrews University.

### Athletics in education

Ultimately, Osorio believes athletics is a ministry. With the right Christian environment and coaching, he believes athletics is one of the most effective tools in preparing leaders.

“Organizations excelling in talent acquisition, retention and development strategies tend to hire based on proven competence, not necessarily

IQ or GPA,” he said. “We want to make sure our students and coaches are competent in many important areas—especially leadership.”

Osorio’s vision is to develop leaders by training student athletes in problem solving, conflict management, creativity, grit and critical thinking through sports and coaching. He hopes to blend athletics with community outreach, spiritual retreats and time management tools to improve students’ academic performance and college satisfaction.

According to Osorio, collaboration with other areas of campus—including Student Life and Campus Ministries—means athletics can be an outreach tool and “... more than just participation in competitive sports.”

His motto: “Victory is in Christ—that’s why in Jesus’ name we play and pray.”

Emily Roque Cisneros is a Union College graduate and freelance writer in Cedaredge, Colorado.



Union College brought a new focus to athletics this year with the hiring of athletic director Nestor Osorio and Larson Lifestyle Center director Maria dos Santos.

# College

can't be all about classwork

**M**ichael Cabrera sat at the lab table staring vacantly into the faintly greenening liquid beginning to bubble as the Bunsen burner slowly warmed the flask before him.

Beep!

The timer on his watch jarred him back to reality and he recorded another measurement on the paper before him.

*This wasn't what I signed up for, he thought to himself as he stared at the rows of numbers running together on the page. I can't wait to get to gymnastics tonight.*

## Even scientists need to have fun

Cabrera arrived at Union College in 2014 planning to earn an associate degree in engineering before transferring to another school to finish his bachelor's.

"I've always enjoyed math," he said. "I figured I might as well leverage that into something financially viable."

But then Cabrera got into

the science classes—especially chemistry. He enjoyed learning but really struggled with the long labs and the tedium of the experiments and research.

Gymnastics became his solace. He fell in love with acro sport his senior year of high school and tried out for the Gymnares team when he arrived at Union. He enjoyed the physical demands and the teamwork required to create human pyramids, tumble and perform other types of gymnastics, acrobatic and cheerleading-type stunts.

As he completed his associate degree, Cabrera's bond with the team grew—not just because of the long hours of practice, tours and memorable events like hosting a national acro-fest—but through challenging experiences such as when a team member suffered a severe injury during practice and another died in a car accident.

"Plus," Cabrera said, "I'm an introvert. Being able to spend all these hours with people and making friends

that way was much easier than talking to strangers."

## Finding the right science

As he neared the end of his two years at Union, Cabrera knew gymnastics needed to be a part of his future educational experience. In fact, he considered switching engineering schools just so he could attend a university with a gymnastics team.

"I had a conversation with my advisor, Seth McNeill," said Cabrera, who remembered sharing his love of gymnastics with his professor. "He told me that if it hadn't been for band in college, he would have gone crazy. I realized that you need to have something fun to do in your free time or you will resent school."

His professor's encouragement to stay engaged with gymnastics, his bond with Union's Gymnares and his increasing dissatisfaction with science classes prompted Cabrera to make a change.

"I've always been drawn to computers," he said. "Ever since I was young, I was always messing with someone's computer." So he decided to stay at Union to earn a bachelor's in computer science after completing his associate degree in engineering.

## Building a pyramid into a family

Throughout his time in college, gymnastics provided

Cabrera with the life balance he needed to succeed. He appreciated the motivation to stay in good physical shape in order to perform. "I also had a dedicated 'break' built into my day," he said, referring to the regular practice schedule. "For those two hours, I could be there in the moment and not have to worry about the paper that's due."

Cabrera spent more time with his teammates than with anyone else in college. He remembers the spring break tours to California, the halftime performance at an NBA game, and the support of an injured teammate as experiences forging a family bond that lasted even after they moved on from college. "The friends I still keep in contact with are all from the team," he said.

After graduating with a degree in computing last May, Cabrera started his career at Aviture, a software engineering firm in Omaha, where he works on projects ranging from Air Force software to cattle accounting.

"I really enjoy it," he said, thankful he allowed gymnastics to play a role in his college experience and in redirecting his career choice. "I think I found the right path."

Ryan Teller is executive director for integrated marketing communication at Union College.





Michael Cabrera, a 2019 graduate, used his passion for gymnastics as a way to blow off steam, stay physically fit and help him stay focused on his studies. But in the end, he discovered that the team became his family—even after he graduated.

# What's Online at Union College

Want to keep up with what's happening at Union all year long? Check out our website or follow our social media channels



## Facebook

[Facebook.com/ucollegene](https://www.facebook.com/ucollegene)

We post lots of event photos in Facebook albums so you can tag your friends and experience life at Union in pictures.

Every year Union College takes a day off to serve the Lincoln community in big and little ways. See photos of hundreds of students and staff who spread out to serve in 40 locations around the city. This was the 39th year for Project Impact, the longest running collegiate service day in the country.

[www.ucollege.edu/impact2019](http://www.ucollege.edu/impact2019)



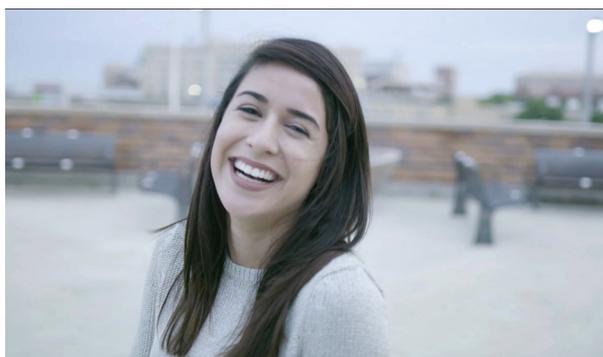
## YouTube

[Youtube.com/unioncollegeNE](https://www.youtube.com/unioncollegeNE)

Want to find out why students choose Union? Check out our extensive library of stories, promotions and other videos.

This is Union—find out what Union College is all about.

Watch the video at [ucollege.edu/thisisunion](http://ucollege.edu/thisisunion)



## Instagram

[@ucollegene](https://www.instagram.com/ucollegene)

Experience highlights of campus life designed for prospective students.

Each week we highlight a student missionary or student studying abroad on #UnionWorldWide—such as Nicholas Lawrence who is serving at Mt. Ellis Academy.



## Livestream

[ucollege.edu/utv](http://ucollege.edu/utv)

Watch worship events, varsity athletic games and college concerts live or later.

Check out all the volleyball and basketball games at home in the Thunderdome. Watch them live or later.



We're also on Twitter, Snapchat, Vimeo and LinkedIn

## College View Church Celebrates 125 Years; Offers Apology

During their anniversary celebration on Sept. 7, the largest Adventist church in Mid-America Union took an authentic look at their history. Located in Lincoln, Nebraska, College View Church launched their celebration with worship pastor **Deneil Clarke** stating that more activities would follow later in the year, but that this opening

event was especially important. He shared a few details about the original wooden church structure from 1894, and said that many early Adventist pioneers passed through Lincoln and preached from the original pulpit on display in the lobby, including Ellen G. White.

Multiple stained glass windows that had been installed in 1937 were saved when the wooden church was demolished, and were kept in storage until being reinstalled when the church was expanded in 2007. **Terry Bock**, who served as CVC's administrative pastor for 33 years before retiring last year, offered to give tours of the building and the stained glass windows in the afternoon.

Following a slide presentation with photos of the various church buildings and construction through the years, several former pastors sent greetings by video, and encouraged the congregation to continue serving the Lincoln community.

Then **Dr. Linda Becker**, head elder, told a true story she recently heard about the power of forgiveness, adding that the story had touched her deeply. She went on to say, "In the past, College View Church has not treated people of color the way we should. They were asked to sit in the balcony or even turned away at the door. They were not accepted as other white people were. Today, we ask forgiveness from our friends of color for

what previous generations did to you. We are sorry we did not see you as God's children just like us. We ask you and God to forgive us and may God's love flow to all people—regardless of color, status or background—who enter this church in the future."

Attendees were then invited to participate in a responsive reading prayer created for the day, confessing shortcomings, asking forgiveness, and committing themselves to worship and celebrate God's goodness with all brothers and sisters, for all time.

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



Courtesy College View Church

## MAUC Hosts Academy Leadership Conference

Every year the Mid-America Union Office of Education coordinates an Academy Leadership Conference. This year the conference was held at Flag Mountain Camp near Hill City, South Dakota, Sept. 5-8. Over 60 students from six of our seven senior academies participated in the event, which is designed to give opportunities for students across the union to share ideas and learn how to become more effective leaders in their schools.

During his presentations, **Pastor Christopher Morris**

from Mile High Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, talked about the armor of God as found in Eph. 6:11-18. God used Pastor Morris to touch the hearts of many students to bring about a renewing and excitement to put God's will

first in their lives.

It was inspiring to see how students accepted the challenge of leadership, to experience the friendships formed, and to witness the connections made with God.

Plans are underway for next

year's conference, in collaboration with the MAUC Youth Department.

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



Gerard Bann

# Tabernacle of Praise Hosts Summit for Stopping Gun Violence

## Stop Talking About It and Be About It

**S**kylar Robinson, a 17-year-old member of Tabernacle of Praise Church in Spanish Lake, Missouri, wanted to make a difference after seeing her peers losing their lives to gun violence. “We’re losing too many youth. I became fed up when Jurnee Thompson, an innocent eight-year-old girl, was shot along with four other victims in a parking lot near Soldan High School on Aug. 23, 2019,” says Robinson. Unfortunately, Jurnee died

due to her injuries.

“I ran into my mother’s room and told her about the shooting. With tears in my eyes, I told my mom, ‘This has to stop!’ Her response was, ‘What can you do about it? It’s the world we live in.’ At that moment I felt motivated to make a difference,” Robinson explains.

This incident inspired Robinson to organize a public event, and on Sabbath, Sept. 28, Tabernacle of Praise hosted an event called Stop

Talking About It And Be About It—Putting a STOP to Gun Violence Summit.

About 120 people attended the summit, which included real-life dramatizations, singing, rapping, poetry, praise dancing, a Q&A panel, and a reflection from a mother who lost her son due to senseless gun violence. “Our goal was to have attendees leave with a sense of hope,” says Robinson.

The Q&A discussion about gun violence amongst youth involved three panelists: **Cedric Redmon**, youth ambassador of St. Louis; **Eva Millar**, police officer of St. Louis City and member of

Tabernacle of Praise Church; and **Karyle Barnes**, pastor of Grand Avenue and Lighthouse Adventist churches.

Participants concluded the summit by praying over three families who recently lost their teen sons to gun violence, and gave the families a love offering. Attendees 13-39 years old received a copy of the book *Stop the Violence* by **Dr. Christopher C. Thompson**.

### Turning tragedy into ministry

To date, 25 children in the St. Louis area have been killed by gunfire this year.

Photos Courtesy Central States Conference



Skylar Robinson (holding megaphone) is committed to making a difference for young people and their families in Missouri.



Robinson has been personally affected by the gun violence, having lost two relatives to shootings—a cousin and an uncle.

“Their deaths made me very angry, but instead of being negative, I decided to do something positive,” explains Robinson. She was convicted to get other youth at her church involved, so she decided to create a movement.

Robinson told her pastor, **Claval Hunter**, about the movement, and laid out plans to organize a summit that would allow face-to-face interaction with people from the community, including troubled youth and families who lost children due to gun violence.

Robinson says this is only the first of multiple summits,

and that the next summit will be filled with even more youth. “I know God has and will continue to bless. This is evident because I have had youth outside the faith reach out to me on social media telling me they would like to join the movement,” she says.

The team plans to gather every first Sunday to plan community outreach projects for that month. This will include feeding homeless youth at shelters, mentoring other youth in the community, praying over troubled teens, and going to high school events to encourage youth to stop the violence.

“I would like for my church to have a mediation center to spread positivity and challenge other youth to lead by example,” adds Robinson. She

explains that churches and schools need to have mediation centers where youth can go to talk out any grievances they have against each other.

“I am a fifth generation Adventist, and it seems as if we don’t like to step out of our comfort zones to address the issues of gun violence and drugs in our communities,” adds Robinson. “We must break that cycle! We live in the last days, and it’s our job to reach out and lead souls to Christ. I believe God can use anybody from any situation. And we must be that connection.”

.....  
 Stories on these pages were written by Brittany Winkfield, communication director for the Central States Conference.

**Correction:**

In the October issue featuring our Pathfinders at the Chosen International Camporee, Ms. Cloretta Lewis was incorrectly identified on p. 6 as a co-director of the Umoja club. She is in fact a counselor. The directors of the club are Mr. and Mrs. Verette and Vartinez Richardson. We apologize for the error.

—The Editors

## CSC Women’s Conference Confronts Childishness

The Central States Conference Women’s Ministry department for the Rocky Mountain region recently hosted a women’s conference titled *Me Too, But...* in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Keynote speaker **Pastor Hyveth Williams** presented about putting aside childish behaviors.

Williams asked, “Why are we so fearful of everything—women preaching, drums, you name it? Perfect love drives out all fear. If fear exists in our lives, it is a childish thing that Satan causes, and God’s love can drive away. When we are

humbled in the presence of God, we know our size.”

She went on to explain that we are experts at fussiness. “We are not infants. Take a good look at yourself right here and admit we are clinging to childish things,” said Williams. “That could be jealousy, envy, anger, or gossiping. Let’s give those up.

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Pastor Hyveth Williams charged the women at the *Me Too, But...* women’s conference to say *it is finished* and put away childish behaviors.

Our children grow up and run from the church because of our foolishness.”

Pastor Williams ended with a word—*Tetelestai*—meaning *paid in full* or *it is finished*. This Greek word, which according to the apostle John is the last

word of Jesus on the cross, was Williams’ charge to women to say *it is finished*.

Special thanks to the guest speakers and **Pastor Jaden Miller** at the Palace of Peace Church for opening their doors to hold this conference.



# Dr. Anderson Shares His Passion for Education

**D**r. Dale Anderson and his wife Janet have been involved with the Rapid City School in South Dakota for 35 years. “Our boys went to the small two-room school years ago,” he explains.

Anderson said the original property was donated for a school because the land couldn’t be used for anything else. But he felt it wasn’t adequate for a school as there was no room for a gymnasium where the children could play during South Dakota’s cold winters, and the school was hidden from view.

“Three years ago, I found out the school was at capacity and had a waiting list,” says Anderson. “I thought, *We can’t leave that situation unanswered.*” He decided another location had to be found. He began searching with **Kief Hansen**, a realtor from the local church.

## Zoning challenges

A recent congressional ruling forced the Black Hills Workshop to sell several of their properties because they had trained and employed many mentally challenged individuals in one location, and that plan was no longer legal. Dr. Anderson decided that one of these properties would work, so he purchased it.

In addition to Anderson’s medical practice, he has been ranching for a while. After 48 years of medical work he wanted to downsize and decided to sell one of his ranches. He used that

Photos: Jacquie Biloff



(top left and bottom) Rapid City Church’s new school building now includes a gymnasium, four classrooms and a lunchroom.

Pastor Darren Purdy (left) and Dr. Dale Anderson participated in the school’s dedication.



was divine intervention in obtaining our goals,” says Anderson. It took longer than they planned with unexpected delays, and cost more than anticipated as a professional had to be hired to negotiate with the city council, but it has worked out.

The teachers and kids are excited about their new school. There are classrooms with interactive smart boards, a new lunchroom and a gymnasium area. “I would love to see four classrooms with 20 students in each classroom,” says Anderson. “I am proud of the school and the way it looks. It will impress people in the community, and the new location is more visible than the previous one.”

At the time of this interview a fence was being erected and sod and cedar chips were being laid for playground equipment. “Kids are the best investments,” says Anderson. “The gray hairs and bald heads fade away, but the kids have so much potential for the future. Students

money to buy the property and refurbish the building into a school, which he then donated to the Dakota Conference. There is room for a gym, another area for classrooms, and a lunchroom. There is space for a church as well.

Anderson was certain the city would allow the new use of the building, as there is a preschool across the street. According to the Zoning and Planning Committee, however, the answer was,

“No, as it is zoned industrial and schools are not allowed in industrial areas.”

Zoning Committee members were given a tour of the building, but the vote was six to two—against Anderson and his request for a school. An observer came to him and advised he should appeal to the city council.

The city council approved the plan and overrode the Zoning and Planning Committee. “It has been fortuitous, and I believe there

stand outside and look at the facility and are proud of their school. They love to run and play in the gym they never had before.”

**The pride of potential**

Rapid City has a growing population and there is a new housing project with more than 500 homes near the school. There is potential for growth with the good visibility as well.

Even the contractor who installed the school’s bell tower asked to use photos of the school as part of his company’s advertising. The school’s bell tower has a functioning bell to announce the start of school each day.

“Everyone feels energized and excited to make the facility better than it was,” says Anderson. “Members paint, power wash the sidewalk, mow the lawn and clean the cupboards to improve the appearance of the new school. I tell my wife, ‘When I wash the car, it tends to run better.’ When the school looks neat and well kept, everyone is proud and more willing to help.”

The church portion of the facility is yet to be finished. “There is a lot of potential for growth for the church,” says Anderson. “We have many families with young children and those children belong in the school. We now have an inviting school with the capacity to accept more. That is what excites me.”

Stories on these pages were written by Jacquie Biloff, communication director for the Dakota Conference.

**Dr. Hansen Serves Dental Needs in Mozambique**

**D**r. Delvin Hansen, a retired dentist from Harvey, North Dakota, recently accompanied dental students from Loma Linda University on a mission trip to Mozambique. Each dental student at Loma Linda is encouraged to participate in at least one mission trip during their four-year program, and alumni are sometimes recruited to travel with the students.

Logistics for the mission trips are coordinated by the university and Global Health Institute. This does not, however, preclude challenges. Arrangements were made to clear customs in Maputo, Mozambique, but Hansen and his wife **JoAnn** ran into complications. After six hours, though, the union office provided the necessary papers and they were allowed to enter the country.

Next, the group had to set up their health clinic. Arrangements had been made for the clinic to operate in a stadium, but the stadium was closed due to an accidental death.

Eventually a local hospital was found where tents were set up to accommodate preventive healthcare. The

hospital allowed the students to work in their dental clinic, and ophthalmometric and pediatric surgeons worked with local surgeons in their surgical hospital.

**Overcoming more obstacles**

Still, the challenges continued. No chairs were available for the dental hygiene students, so portable chairs were borrowed from a blood bank. Compressors had to be found to operate the portable units, the 110-volt sterilizer brought along wouldn’t work in a 220-amp environment, and the amalgam mixer broke the first time it was used, so no silver fillings were available.

After the second day, a press report warned the people not to come to the American clinic by giving an untruthful review. However, people of Mozambique typically assume any healthcare from the United States is of higher quality than their free healthcare, so they continued to come en masse.

**Dedication and appreciation**

Hansen was the only dentist brought along to supervise the students, but much to his relief an Adventist dentist traveled 300 miles to participate with the group. Hansen was grateful for the dentist’s assistance, and let him have first pick of the disposable items to be left behind when the mission was completed. “He about broke down he was so appreciative,” said Hansen.

The university’s goal of providing a service-learning opportunity for its students and improved healthcare around the world was accomplished. Christ’s name was uplifted through the participation of dedicated Adventist students, graduates and volunteers. And Hansen was able to share years of experience with students eager to learn in a supervised, hands-on environment.

Dr. Hansen (second from right) accompanied Loma Linda’s dental students on a mission trip.

JoAnn Hansen



## Gladstone Church Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry in Kansas City

Tibebe Mengistu



Charter members Joy Doerffel, Mary Lou Basham and Retha McCarty reunite during Gladstone's anniversary celebration.

The Gladstone Church in Kansas City, Missouri, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Special guest speakers were **Ron Clark**, a former missionary to Rwanda who grew up attending the Gladstone Church; and **Mike Ryan**, a

former general vice president of the General Conference with ties to the Kansas City area and the Gladstone Church. Clark shared mission stories during Friday evening vespers and Sabbath school, and Ryan spoke for the worship service. Charter member **Mary Lou Basham**,

Clark's mother and present member of the Salem Church, provided special music.

The Gladstone Church's story began when members from several congregations in the Kansas City area recognized a need for a church in the northland area and came together to make it happen.

Two charter members still attend the Gladstone Church today: **Joy Doerffel** and **Retha McCarty**. Doerffel has served as church pianist since the beginning and McCarty, who hosted the first meetings in her home before a location

was identified, served as treasurer for 37 years and continues to serve as assistant treasurer and author and editor for the *Gladstone Greeter* monthly newsletter.

What began with 39 members has grown to over 100 and counting. The Gladstone Church is grateful to the Lord for His many blessings and is thankful to those who joined them for this memorable celebration.

.....  
Maria Griffith is Sabbath school superintendent and assistant clerk for the Gladstone Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

## Lebanon Church Adopts a Highway

The Lebanon Church recently adopted a one-mile stretch of Highway 32 in front of the church, committing to pick up trash along both sides of the road and ditches for at least the next three years.

The Missouri Department of Transportation has placed signage on both east- and westbound lanes, indicating the Lebanon Adventist

Church is responsible for litter cleanup, and now members—donning bright orange vests, plastic gloves and beautiful smiles—can be seen by community residents and other passersby as they work to maintain God's beautiful countryside along that stretch of the highway.

Since 1987, Missouri's Adopt-A-Highway program has involved volunteers across

the state working together to clean up Missouri. Currently, more than 5,300 groups and 50,000 volunteers in the program are focused on making Missouri's roadsides cleaner and more attractive for residents and visitors. More than 6,400 miles of roadway have been adopted.

MoDOT spends about \$6 million annually to remove litter from more than 385,000

acres of right-of-way along 34,000 state highway miles. Adopters perform about \$1 million a year in litter cleanup and beautification efforts. Every area kept free of litter by adopters allows MoDOT to devote resources to other much-needed tasks.

.....  
Marcia Clark is communications secretary for the Lebanon Church.

Karen Gilman



Members of the Lebanon Church clean up litter along Highway 32 and pile it at the foot of the church's Adopt-A-Highway sign, where it will be picked up by the Missouri DOT.



Learn about options for adopting a highway in your area by checking with your state's department of transportation.

## Boone Church Dedicates Volunteer Lay Pastor

**B**rian Schwering was recently dedicated as volunteer lay pastor of the Boone Church in Boone, Iowa. He is one of two lay pastors currently participating in the Iowa-Missouri Conference's Volunteer Lay Pastor program, which provides resources, mentoring, coaching and training to those interested in either planting a church or bringing new life to a declining church.

About a year ago, the Boone Church recognized their membership was aging and approached Brian and his wife, **Amanda**—then the head elder and membership clerk, respectively, at the Nevada Church in Nevada, Iowa—about the possibility of helping the church grow younger. After discussion and prayer with each other, and with the approval of the conference, Brian and Amanda accepted the call.

"For some time, my family had been looking for ways to better serve the Lord," Brian said. "This was just the next step in my family's ministry."

Brian spends much of his time these days preparing sermons, praying for the community, visiting members and planning outreach initiatives. In the past year the church has held a depression and anxiety recovery program, a small group Bible study, and showed Voice of Prophecy's "The Appearing" series. Current plans include another depression recovery program and potentially some

Randy Harmdierks



Pastor Eddie Cabrera (right) with his wife, Susie, offers a prayer of dedication over Brian and Amanda.

collaborative outreach with the Ames Church, which is only 10 miles from Boone.

"I don't know what God has in store for us," said Brian. "But no matter what He has planned I want us to be ready and excited for it."

**Eddie Cabrera**, pastor of the Davenport and Muscatine churches and coordinator of the VLP program, was the guest speaker at the dedication service. "There's a reason why this church is still open," he told the congregation. "It's a light in this community. When Jesus is uplifted, people will come."

He challenged the members to be as active in the community as they're asking Brian and Amanda to be. "Continue praying for Brian and Amanda," he said. "And don't just pray that they'll have an effective ministry, but that you will all join them as ministry partners. Every Sabbath

before you get out of the car, pray for a miracle—expecting that God will deliver."

Following a prayer of dedication at the close of the service, Pastor Cabrera presented Brian with a special certificate of dedication.

The Boone Church is located at 628 Linn Street in Boone, Iowa. They meet each Saturday morning, with study for children and adults at 10 am.

Randy Harmdierks is communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Learn more about the Boone Church at [bit.ly/boonesda](http://bit.ly/boonesda).

Learn more about the VLP program at [bit.ly/vlpprogram](http://bit.ly/vlpprogram).

## In Other News

There's a lot more happening in Iowa-Missouri than will fit on these two pages each month. Visit [imsda.org](http://imsda.org) to read stories such as:

- **Members from Six Congregations Come Together** to Celebrate Baptisms
- **Nixa Church Sponsoring** Monthly Family Bowling Nights
- **Louis Southside Church Hosts** Benefit Concert for Blind Children in India
- **Des Moines Karen Company Hosts** Evangelistic Series, Celebrates Seven New Members
- **Conference Staff Participate** in Meals from the Heartland's 12th Annual Hunger Fight
- **Kansas City Central Church Delivers** Fruit Baskets to Shut-ins

## Loving More in Kansas City

Photos: Melanie Sanchez



Pastor Kyle Smith baptizes Lane following the Seven youth group at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Every Friday, people who are homeless are given food and invited to worship God with the youth group.

It was a normal Friday night at Seven, our weekly youth program at New Haven Church. Everyone packed into the youth room worshipping God, singing and preparing their hearts for the Word. I stood in the corner watching the audience worship and lean into God, getting ready to walk onto the stage and preach the gospel.

We preach about Jesus' gospel every Friday night. It is a part of our vernacular at Seven. I didn't think this sermon was going to be any different. Yet, in the back of the room stood a guy named Lane.

Lane came to Seven that

night with one of our team leaders, Ashley. Every Friday Ashley spends about two hours downtown. She parks under a bridge and invites as many of the homeless over to her van as possible. She gives them food and brings them to Seven to worship God with our community. Lane was a part of the squad of homeless people at the back of the room that night.

In his own words, he was dirty, he smelled and you could tell he was wrestling with addiction and hopelessness. As soon as I finished the sermon, Lane came up to me and exclaimed, "Why has no one ever told me this!" I

replied, "Told you what?"

He explained how he had never heard that the gospel of Jesus was for him. He went on to tell me about his mistakes, his failures and his addictions and sins. As I listened to him I realized that for the first time in his life he got what the message of Jesus was about.

Suddenly Lane looked at me and exclaimed, "I want you to baptize me right now!" As he said that my heart jumped, but I felt apprehension. *Can I really baptize this guy?* I thought. He hadn't been through baptismal studies, and I could tell he was wrestling with some sin.

Yet as I looked in his eyes, I was reminded of the story of Jesus baptizing the eunuch. I was reminded that baptism is not the end, but the beginning. I was reminded that if Jesus is really for everyone, why can't Lane be baptized into a relationship with Jesus?

### Where do we find water?

The search was on. *Where do we find water?* I wondered. It was 9 pm on a Friday, and the baptismal pool was dry. As I surveyed the crowd, I locked eyes with two of our members, the Renks, and I remembered they had a hot tub in their backyard.

After briefing Lane on what baptism is, what it means, and making sure he understood the message of the Bible, I approached them. I explained that Lane

needed to be baptized, and asked if we could use their hot tub. Their response was a resounding “Yes!” Forty people loaded into cars and we drove to the Renks to baptize Lane.

As we stood in front of the hot tub, Lane told us his story. His childhood was devastating, his infant daughter had recently died and he was struggling to get off the streets. But he explained that he knew God was doing something in his life and he was ready to accept Jesus as his Savior.

As Lane and I stepped into the hot tub you could see the dirt dissolve off his feet and into the water. I put my arm around him, I said a blessing over him and I baptized him into a life with Jesus. As we

climbed out, our community instantly surrounded him and we began to sing praises over him.

We prayed for Lane and told him he was one of our own now. He smiled and said he would be back. Then he hopped into his car and drove back to his home—under the bridge—to be with his friends.

### The only commandment

A few weeks later Lane showed up again. He looked clean, and he was excited to see us. He explained he was living with his sister and was getting ready to head to Springfield, Missouri, to live with his mom. Also, it was his birthday. Lane wanted to

spend his birthday at church.

We had a cake for him, prayed for him and sent him on his way. We haven’t seen Lane since, but he is a topic of prayer and discussion in our community. We don’t know when he might drop in again and grace us with his presence, but we know we will see him again.

As I reflect on my brother Lane, I am grateful for the challenge he presented to our community. We live by a vision to love more. It was the greatest commandment Jesus ever taught. In fact, many theologians would argue that it was the only commandment He ever gave.

That night I think God was asking us to put our money where our mouth is. Are we really willing to love all? Are

we willing to let anyone be a part of our community, regardless of their flaws or if their sin looks different than ours? Are we willing to live life with the least of these?

May we all continue to be shaped into His image. May all our churches be a place for all.

Kyle Smith serves as youth pastor at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas.



Learn more about Seven at [www.newhavensda.org/seven](http://www.newhavensda.org/seven).

### Correction:

The article about It’s My Very Own in the September issue incorrectly stated that there is only one active chapter in Kansas and Nebraska. There are in fact two chapters in Nebraska, including a very active one in Lincoln.



# Church Member Shares Spiritual Insights from Everyday Life

## He wraps us in His loving hands

The final stage of moving my mom from one apartment to another involved transferring her freezer from her porch to her minivan. I walked around to her back porch and unlocked and opened the door.

Because my husband was out of town for work and the sun was starting to set, I was working alone and hurrying.

I left the door open as I ran to the front of the building to grab the dolly. It was still open as I rolled the freezer out of the back porch, over the sidewalk, and across the lawn to my mom's waiting minivan.

As I went back to the porch to close and lock the side door, I spotted some movement inside in the dusky light. Standing on the ledge above the baseboard, furiously flapping and attempting to fly out through the plexiglass window, was a small bird.

*What do I do now?* I thought. I didn't want it to fly farther into the apartment, and I didn't want to pick it up with my bare hands. I thought maybe my mom had a small towel available, so I ran back to her minivan. I found one that was soft, clean and just large enough to place over the bird and gently wrap around it until I could carry it outside and set it free.

I walked up to the bird with my towel, whispering, "Don't worry, it'll be ok. I'll get you out of here in no

time." It was so tired from flying up and down the plexiglass trying to find a way out that it didn't put up a struggle.

Ever so gently I wrapped and cradled its little body and wings in the towel and walked it out of the porch and around the corner where I set it on the ground and stepped away.

As I stood back watching the rescued bird to make sure it indeed could fly away, I was struck by a thought. *How similar is this whole scenario to our lives?*

### Our only way out

How often do we view sin through the cloudy plexiglass of Satan's porch and think it's an acceptable place to investigate? It looks enticing and the door is open, so we reason we can come and go as we please.

But once we enter, we're disoriented and trapped. We can see out—we know there's freedom beyond the murky walls of sin—but we can't fly through the plexiglass. Our small bodies and minds are no match for Satan and his sinful porch.

Our only way out is Christ and His robe of righteousness. Jesus comes in, waits for us to submit to His help and then wraps our tired and battered bodies in His robe of righteousness—a robe He made available to all of us

well before we were trapped by sin.

After we're wrapped in Jesus' robe of righteousness, our Savior gently cradles us in His loving hands and walks us out of the sin we so desperately and unsuccessfully tried to fight on our own.

As if securing our freedom wasn't already more than we could have hoped for, He gently sets us on stable ground and gives us the time we need to reorient to the freedom He always intended us to live in. Once secure in our footing, we're able to take flight and sing the song of salvation that is not only music to our great God's ears, but also an enticing tune to all who hear our joyful and grateful praises.

Amanda Bauer is a member of the Duluth Church.

### Take heart in these three verses Jesus supplied for our encouragement:

What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it.  
—Matt. 10:29 NLT

Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.  
—Mark 3:27 NLT

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.  
—Isa. 61:10 ESV



# Minnesota Literature Evangelism Program Reaches the Unreached

The day was cloudy and rainy in Mankato, Minnesota, as **Joseph Olivier** walked through the businesses talking to people. Olivier is a theology student at Andrews University and has committed the last two summers to walking door to door sharing Christian literature, making friends and learning life skills.

As he walked, he met a man who had just begun to pump gas. When Olivier asked him how his day was going, the man was surprised. He proceeded to tell Olivier how he had just been stopped by the police, he was homeless and was living in his small truck, and how his wife had left him. He told how his dad had just had a heart attack, and his 18-year-old daughter was pregnant.

The man began to sob. He spoke of how he wanted to run away and shared how he sometimes thought about taking his own life. Olivier encouraged him, sharing how the Lord

is close to us in a special way when we are in these moments.

Olivier told of his darkest moments, and how Jesus reached out to him in a special way and reminded him of His love. As Olivier told the man more of his story, the man smiled.

Near the end, the man spoke of how the Lord has sent people his way when he wanted to give up, and was encouraged as he saw the Lord had sent Olivier to him that day. Olivier encouraged him and left him with *Promise of Peace (Desire of Ages)*.

“I praise the Lord for experiences like these because we see how the Holy Spirit is able to use us in a special way to minister to others at just the right time,” related Olivier.

More than 30,000 students like Olivier spend their summer vacations in the U.S. and abroad engaging in door-to-door ministry. Olivier’s testimony is just one of the many from the 19 students

who joined the Minnesota program this last summer. Here’s how others described their experience.

Canvassing has reinforced in my mind that the aim in life is to share Jesus. All other pursuits are simply tools toward this goal. Analyze your priorities and goals, place your focus where you want it to be and carry that focus into every aspect of your life.

—**Mercy Pickle**

The canvassing journey has blessed me in ways beyond description. It has given me an opportunity to see God work in a way He could not work otherwise. It gives you the chance to see what it’s like to take the yoke of Christ and go forward in service with Him.

—**Maboshe Makesa**

Canvassing has helped me strengthen my spiritual muscles. It has helped me trust in the promises of God, despite my feelings.

—**Andy Simons**

It is amazing to think that many of these people couldn’t have been reached in any other way. The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. The benefits students gain in joining programs like these are abundant.

Darrell Conway is literature evangelism coordinator for the Minnesota Conference.

Joseph Olivier



**55,000**  
doors knocked on

**12,000**  
pieces of literature  
distributed

**213**  
people interested  
in taking Bible  
studies

*statistics for 2019*



Learn more about Minnesota Conference’s literature evangelism program and how you can become involved at [www.mnsda.com/ministries/literature-evangelism](http://www.mnsda.com/ministries/literature-evangelism)

The 2019 Minnesota literature evangelism team gears up for action.



Darrell Conway

## House Groups Inspire Unity at Mile High Academy

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



Students remain in their house groups until their graduation from Mile High Academy. House groups are identified by T-shirts in their respective color, a Bible verse, a tagline and a CHERISH value.

Energy, excitement and a passion for Christ-centered education abounds this year at Mile High Academy. The year's theme Faith Can Move Mountains was unveiled to more than 220 students as they encircled the MHA campus during the school's annual Prayer Walk.

"God continues to bless our students and school," said **Jamie Frain**, VP of school culture. "We are so thankful to start the year with Him taking center stage on campus."

MHA continues to expand ways to ensure students feel welcome and a part of the school's community. One such contributor to the feeling of community and school ownership is the implementation of house groups. The core guidelines for house groups are based on the Ron Clark Academy House System. Ron Clark Academy is a highly acclaimed, nonprofit middle school in southeast Atlanta

that has received both national and international recognition.

"Our MHA faculty and staff have visited the RCA campus to best implement the house system," said Frain. "It was clear that their student sense of belonging is strong. We knew implementing a similar system on our campus would further strengthen relationships at MHA."

MHA students have been placed in house groups, and the four house groups have a distinguishing Bible verse, tagline and CHERISH value specific to Mile High Academy. They are as follows:

### ASMUND: Protector

- Color: Black
- Bible text: "Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility

for doing the creative best you can with your own life" (Gal. 6:4-5 MSG).

- Tagline: Only those who dare to fail greatly ever achieve greatly.
- CHERISH value: House of exploration

### AVODAH: Work/Worship/Serve

- Color: Red
- Bible text: "Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord" (Rom. 12:10-11 CSV).
- Tagline: Honor, serve, love
- CHERISH value: House of honor/service

### LEOCOR: Lion Heart

- Color: Purple
- Bible text: "The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions" (Prov. 28:1 NLT).

- Tagline: Rise and rise again until lambs become lions
- CHERISH value: House of heroism

### VERITAS: Truth

- Color: Green
- Bible text: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and deep is the love of Christ" (Eph. 3:17-18 NIV).
- Tagline: Rooted in Christ; growing in truth
- CHERISH value: House of integrity/responsibility

A point system, based on both team and individual points, is tracked and tallied together to determine the winning house at the end of the year. Points are earned through good character, academic achievement, school spirit, outstanding performance, effort, teamwork, humility, compassion and responsibility.

"We want Mile High Academy to be a school known for promoting positive, inspiring relationships for our students," said **Chris Morris**, middle school teacher and house group coordinator. "Our house groups allow every student to be teamed with caring adults and fellow MHA students to instill a feeling of pride and belonging in our school, and promote doing the right thing."

Karrie Meyers is an administrative assistant for Mile High Academy.

## RMC Pastors' Marriage Retreat Brings Pastoral Couples Together

Twenty-five pastoral couples enjoyed a weekend of fun, insightful seminars in Breckenridge, Colorado, for the Rocky Mountain Conference Pastors' Marriage Retreat Aug. 23-25. The gathering was a testimony that the conference prioritizes family when involved in the ministry.

The retreat featured guest speakers **Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra**, directors of the NAD Family Ministries Department. They presented seminars from their Love for a Lifetime series Friday and Sabbath. After lunch, the couples explored the beautiful city of Breckenridge via the free gondola ride.

The seminars were well received by the participants. The Consuegras' vast knowledge and experience

in the ministry, their many years of research as well as their fun presentations gave the couples an opportunity to connect with each other on a deep, personal level.

**Leif Hansen** (from Estes Park, Colorado), who attended the gathering with his wife, **Donna**, commented that the presentations had a good dose of humor. "Being a visual learner, I appreciated their occasional use of cartoons to make an important point," said Hansen.

The weekend program included a variety of topics discussed during the gathering, including The Love Bank—His and Hers Most Important Needs; How Changes Happen; How to Apologize and Forgive, as well as communication and

conflict resolution.

**Emily Roque Cisneros**, wife of **Eliezer** (pastor of the Delta, Cedaredge and Peonia churches), said her favorite part was spending some mandatory time with her husband. "I mean that in a good way," she said. "I enjoyed getting my husband's full attention for the weekend, knowing he wasn't distracted by projects at home or

expecting his phone to ring at any moment."

**Shayne Mason Vincent**, pastor of the Casper Church in Wyoming, commented, "To love others is not a command for an emotional response, but rather a choice to care for others regardless of our feelings."

Gabriela Vincent is a member of the Casper Church in Wyoming.

Emily Roque Cisneros and Gabriela Vincent



## Campion Students Experience God in the Mountains

Students from Campion Academy boarded buses to Rocky Mountain National Park on Sabbath, Sept. 7, to spend time in God's second book—nature. They chose between three options: a rigorous hike to Loch Lake,

a relaxing but beautiful hike to Bear Lake, or a hike to the top of Trail Ridge Road. A few students shared their experiences of how they saw God while in the mountains.

"**Pastor Goetz** shared with us Ps. 121:1-2. It helped me

understand that God made the mountains, and created us to enjoy and marvel at His creation. It made me feel small compared to everything around me." —**Jordyn D.**, sophomore

"Seeing all the huge peaks and deep valleys God has created made me feel small and insignificant in comparison. However, being up there was an awesome reminder that God cares about and loves me deeply, no matter how powerless or small I feel." —**Erick M.**, senior

"Hiking up the mountains with friends made me see the real beauty and power of God. It reminded me of the verse Is. 43:2—that even in the deepest waters, God gave me rocks for stability."

—**Beverly O.**, senior

"I loved looking into the waterfall. When I saw my reflection, it reminded me I was made in His image, and I am a reflection of Him."

—**Blessing S.**, sophomore

Adrianna Campbell is a senior and the student editor at Campion Academy.

Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference



## Coridan Recognized with AdventHealth Community Service Award

**A**nna Coridan, a registered nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, received the AdventHealth Community Service Award on Aug. 5. She earned the award for her work to improve the quality of life for refugees in Kansas City.

During college, Coridan knew she wanted to be involved in mission work. She spent a year teaching English and science to kids in kindergarten through fifth grade in Nepal.

“It changed my life,” she says. “After that year, I knew it was where I wanted to be.”

In 2014, after graduating from Union College, she got a job as a registered nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. But she kept thinking about how she could go back to Nepal.

Then one day, one of her friends mentioned he knew some Nepali kids in Kansas City who would love to talk with someone who knew their language.

Coridan was introduced to a mom of one of the kids. She learned of a relative who had been hit by a car and had a leg wound. She helped translate the hospital instructions and bandage her leg.

“I went home that night and felt like I had spent the day in Nepal,” she says. “It opened my eyes to the things happening here. I had been praying to go back to Nepal, and I realized I was not seeing the people in front of me.”

Coridan soon moved into an apartment complex in Kansas City where many refugee families lived. She visited regularly with the families and one of the boys suggested they start a youth group.

“In the inner city, there’s so much crime and drugs, and he knew some of the kids were getting into things they shouldn’t,” she says.

After the boy invited his friends to join, one of them suggested they call the group NC4Y, meaning New Change for Youth. The group started meeting regularly at Coridan’s apartment, and even entered a local soccer tournament that they ultimately won.

Through it all, Coridan, along with the NC4Y leadership team, coordinated support from the community. They were able to find transportation and funding so they could attend the West Lenexa Adventist Vacation Bible School soccer camp. As the group grew, Coridan knew she didn’t want to leave any of the kids behind. One of her relatives suggested she start a Pathfinder club.

“I wasn’t sure how to do it, so I was a little resistant to the idea at first, but God had other plans,” she says.

She met with a retired youth leader who was able to give her direction on how to set up the group. A local church gave them the space to hold the meetings every other week.

By 2019, the group had



Courtesy/AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

Anna Coridan, RN, receives the AdventHealth Community Service Award on Aug. 5. Amy Williams, RN, MSN, (left) is administrative director of Surgical Services and Kyle Nelson, RN, manages Surgical Services.

grown to 55 kids from eight different countries. By this point, two additional families joined the leadership team who were able to help translate languages, including Burmese and Swahili.

“God provided the right people at the right time,” Coridan says.

As a Pathfinder club, the kids were able to work on service projects, learn life skills and participate in activities such as camping trips. This year, Coridan and other volunteers—with the generosity of a local donor—helped secure funding and transportation so the kids could attend the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

“It was such a powerful

experience for them to see people running with flags from different countries,” says Coridan. “Refugees or not, we live in a world that can be so isolating. It was an amazing experience for them to see that they’re not alone.”

Coridan says her main goal for the kids is to help them be leaders in their community. “There are still so many kids on the street,” she says. “Our goal is to help these families adjust to life in this country and know God loves them.”

Ann Muder is a writer for AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.

## Family Credits Faith, Exceptional Caregivers for Daughter's Survival

They hesitated to give her a name at first. **Kevin and Blakely Dibble** knew their daughter might not survive after she was born in September 2018 weighing just 1 pound, 2 ounces.

But in the neonatal intensive care unit at Littleton Adventist Hospital, just south of Denver, there was always hope. “The nurses patiently rooted us on, eagerly waiting to put a name on her incubator and personalize their tender care,” Blakely said.

The couple eventually decided to name her **Reilly Faith**. “Reilly means courageous, and the journey would take courageous faith,” Blakely recalls, adding, “They told us it would be a roller coaster. We didn’t know it would be a roller coaster every day.”

Blakely remembers when she saw her daughter for the first time, her eyes still fused shut, with machines keeping her alive. Reilly was so tiny her arm was smaller than the width of a wedding ring.

As weeks passed, Reilly slowly improved, though there were many days when her survival was uncertain. Still, the NICU staff helped the family celebrate holidays, especially Thanksgiving.

“While a visit from Santa Claus was special, Thanksgiving last year took on a whole new light,” Blakely said. “As a way to celebrate the season of giving thanks, we hung Turner, our Thanksgiving Day turkey, on the wall and filled in the many feathers with the names of nurses, doctors and chaplains

who painstakingly cared for our family. It was a small gesture on our part to give back some of the love we felt.”

After 143 days in the NICU, the longest stay in its history, Reilly’s parents took her home in February. This summer, just over a week before her first birthday, she came back for a visit as Kevin and Blakely shared their incredible story with leaders at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

The couple met with some of their caregivers they’d come to know well over those 143 days, including **Dr. Karen Zarlengo**, the founder of the NICU 30 years ago and its director, who was on call when Reilly was admitted.

“No parent wants to find themselves in these shoes. No parent wants to find

themselves in any NICU for that matter,” Blakely recalled. “And yet now it was a time of healing, growth and new friendships.”

She said the doctors and nurses at Littleton took great care of their daughter during her five-month stay, while at the same time offering emotional support, encouragement and answers to Kevin and Blakely’s many questions. She also said knowing the hospital’s mission was powered by faith was comforting.

“It is not possible to put into words our gratefulness for the many nurses and doctors who cared for Reilly,” Blakely said. “Reilly received exceptional care, and so did we.”

Wendy Forbes is director of media relations and public relations for Centura Health.

(left) When Reilly Faith was born at Littleton Adventist Hospital weighing just 1 pound, 2 ounces, she set the record for the longest stay in the NICU by being there 143 days. Her arms were so tiny they were smaller than the width of a wedding ring.

(right) Because of the care and support given at Littleton Adventist Hospital, Reilly is now over one year old.

Photos Courtesy Centura Health



**Bachmann, M. Evelyn**, b. March 6, 1916 in Lincoln, KS. d. May 24, 2019 in Middletown, OH. Member of Dakota Conference (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Willie; 1 sister. Survivors include children Clayton, Myrna Vert, and Sharon Frey; 6 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

**Balcom, Charissa Nilene**, b. Dec. 7, 1942. d. Aug. 20, 2019. Member of Wichita South (KS) Church. Preceded in death by husband John; 3 brothers; 1 sister. Survivors include son Ryan Wallace; daughter Jo Ellen Cummings; stepson Keith; 1 brother; 4 sisters; 4 grandchildren.

**Day, Frances Leora Kinder**, b. Sept. 29, 1928 in Clovis, NM. d. Sept. 5, 2019 in Sedan, KS. Member of Sedan Church. Preceded in death by husband Charles II. Survivors include daughter Barbara Taylor; sons Charles III and Carl David; 2 sisters; 2 grandchildren.

**Dodge, Patricia E.**, b. March 17, 1945 in Basin, WY. d. Aug. 28, 2019 in Basin, WY. Member of Worland (WY) Church. Survivors include 1 sister; 1 brother.

**Doss, Ruby**, b. Aug. 11, 1925 in Edgeley, ND. d. July 26, 2019 in Sioux Falls, SD. Member of Sioux Falls Church. Preceded in death by husband Erwin; 5 sisters. Survivors include sons Erwin, Jr. and Clay; 1 sister; 1 brother; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

**Hoehn, Kenneth**, b. Jan. 6, 1939 in Sanger, TX. d. May 19, 2019 in Greeley, CO. Survivors include wife Patricia; daughters René, Janell Ford, and Amy Cunningham; son Kenneth, Jr.; 7 grandchildren.

**Johnson, Rose**, b. Feb. 20, 1932 in Tulia, TX. d. July 7, 2019 in Brainerd, MN. Member of Hackensack

(MN) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 sister. Survivors include husband Eugene; children Mitchell, Richard, René, and Milton; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

**Lindeman, Ruben**, b. Nov. 21, 1919 in Golden Valley, ND. d. Aug. 9, 2019 in Harvey, ND. Member of Manfred (ND) Church. Preceded in death by 4 sisters; 1 brother. Survivors include wife DeLores; 1 sister.

**Mattson, Don L.**, b. July 6, 1952 in Bozeman, MT. d. Sept. 20, 2019 in Palco, KS. Member of La Crosse (KS) Church. Survivors include wife Julie; son Chris; daughters Rachael White and Amber Orellana; 1 brother; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren.

**Olson, Evis (Graham)**, b. June 11, 1926 in New Brunswick, NE. d. June 20, 2019 in Walla Walla, WA. Member of Dakota Conference (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband David; 1 brother; 1 granddaughter. Survivors include daughters Jean Base, KoKo Olson Campbell, Lynae Martin, and Debra Fahey; sons JW, David, and Rick; 1 sister; 15 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Remboldt, Norman W.**, b. March 26, 1928 in Bowdon, ND. d. Sept. 2, 2019 in Mandan, ND. Member of Bowdon Country Church. Preceded in death by 8 siblings. Survivors include wife Florence; daughters Candace Kreiter, Carmen McManus, and Camie MacIntosh; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 1 step-grandchild.

**Sauer, Clara**, b. Aug. 7, 1917 in Paradise, ND. d. Aug. 27, 2019 in Elgin, ND. Member of Dakota Conference (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband Arthur; son Donald; 2 granddaughters; 1 grandson; 1 brother;

1 sister. Survivors include sons Wayne, Robert, and Willard; daughter Audrey Pruitt; 22 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; 21 great-great-grandchildren.

**Spiry, Steven D.**, b. Oct. 22 1960 in Rapid City, SD. d. July 24, 2019 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Survivors include 2 siblings.

**Tebelius, Ruby (Fischer)**, b. Dec. 28, 1931 in Golden Valley, ND. d. Sept. 7, 2019 in Bowdon, ND. Member of Bowdon Country Church. Preceded in death by husband Hugo; 4 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include sons Brian and Jon; daughter Brenda Eichele; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 1 step-great-grandchild.

**Thiry, Arlo**, b. 1927 in Jefferson County, KS. d. June 18,

2019 in Jefferson County, KS. Member of Lawrence (KS) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Ruth Couch; daughter DeLauna; 1 sister. Survivors include second wife JoAnn Hubbard; son Duane; daughter Denise Rivera; 1 granddaughter. Veteran of the U.S. Army.

**Thiry, JoAnn (Hubbard)**, b. May 20, 1928 in Lawrence, KS. d. June 19, 2019 in Richmond, KY. Member of Lawrence Church. Preceded in death by first husband Charles (Chuck) Hubbard, second husband Arlo. Survivors include daughters Charlotte Hubbard Holder, Connie H. Amundson, and Cynthia Muir; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-grandson.



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## NOVEMBER 2019

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
	Denver	5:58	4:51	4:44	4:40	4:37
	Grand Junction	6:14	5:06	5:00	4:56	4:53
	Pueblo	5:59	4:52	4:46	4:42	4:39
	IOWA					
	Davenport	5:57	4:49	4:43	4:37	4:34
	Des Moines	6:09	5:01	4:55	4:49	4:46
	Sioux City	6:19	5:10	5:03	4:58	4:54
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	6:42	5:35	5:29	5:25	5:22
Goodland	5:46	4:38	4:32	4:27	4:25	
Topeka	6:22	5:15	5:09	5:04	5:01	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	5:53	4:43	4:35	4:28	4:23	
International Falls	5:54	4:43	4:34	4:27	4:22	
Minneapolis	6:02	4:52	4:44	4:38	4:34	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	6:08	5:01	4:55	4:50	4:48	
Kansas City	6:18	5:10	5:04	5:00	4:57	
St. Louis	6:01	4:54	4:48	4:43	4:41	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	6:23	5:15	5:09	5:04	5:00	
North Platte	6:39	5:31	5:24	5:19	5:16	
Scottsbluff	5:49	4:41	4:34	4:29	4:25	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	6:28	5:18	5:09	5:02	4:58	
Fargo	6:12	5:02	4:53	4:46	4:42	
Williston	6:36	5:25	5:16	5:09	5:04	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	6:31	5:22	5:14	5:08	5:04	
Rapid City	5:43	4:34	4:27	4:21	4:17	
Sioux Falls	6:18	5:09	5:02	4:56	4:52	
WYOMING						
Casper	5:58	4:49	4:42	4:37	4:33	
Cheyenne	5:55	4:47	4:40	4:35	4:32	
Sheridan	5:57	4:47	4:40	4:34	4:29	

## DECEMBER 2019

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Dec 6	Dec 13	Dec 20	Dec 27
	Denver	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:42
	Grand Junction	4:51	4:52	4:54	4:58
	Pueblo	4:38	4:39	4:41	4:45
	IOWA				
	Davenport	4:32	4:33	4:35	4:39
	Des Moines	4:44	4:45	4:47	4:51
	Sioux City	4:53	4:53	4:55	4:59
	KANSAS				
	Dodge City	5:21	5:22	5:24	5:28
Goodland	4:23	4:24	4:26	4:30	
Topeka	5:00	5:01	5:03	5:07	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	4:21	4:20	4:22	4:26	
International Falls	4:19	4:18	4:20	4:24	
Minneapolis	4:32	4:32	4:34	4:38	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	4:46	4:47	4:49	4:53	
Kansas City	4:56	4:56	4:59	5:02	
St. Louis	4:40	4:40	4:43	4:47	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	4:59	4:59	5:02	5:06	
North Platte	5:14	5:15	5:17	5:21	
Scottsbluff	4:24	4:24	4:26	4:30	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	4:55	4:55	4:57	5:01	
Fargo	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:45	
Williston	5:01	5:01	5:03	5:07	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	5:02	5:02	5:04	5:08	
Rapid City	4:15	4:15	4:17	4:21	
Sioux Falls	4:50	4:51	4:53	4:57	
WYOMING					
Casper	4:31	4:31	4:34	4:38	
Cheyenne	4:30	4:31	4:33	4:37	
Sheridan	4:27	4:27	4:29	4:33	

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