

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

OUTLOOK

PLUS:
An interview with
Mid-America's
women pastors

THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS: REACHING THE HURTING

**Ministering to those who have
suffered abuse from spiritual leaders**



**Steve and Samantha
Nelson offer hope
p. 10**

JUNE 2016
outlookmag.org



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BRENDA DICKERSON
editor

HOPE AND HEALING FOR SURVIVORS OF CLERGY ABUSE

When Steve and Samantha Nelson launched The Hope of Survivors website in 2003 they believed that if they could help just one person it would be worth the time and effort invested. Yet each year more and more victims and their families are receiving hope and healing through this nonprofit organization that ministers to survivors of clergy sexual misconduct. Because of the intense need, THOS now assists thousands of individuals from many faith traditions around the globe.

In addition, Steve and Samantha have developed preventative training materials and educational seminars for groups of pastors and local churches. Please read their story on p. 10 and contact them if you or your church could benefit from their ministry.

ONLINE



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Pablo Colindres-Moreno focuses on current issues in society and our church

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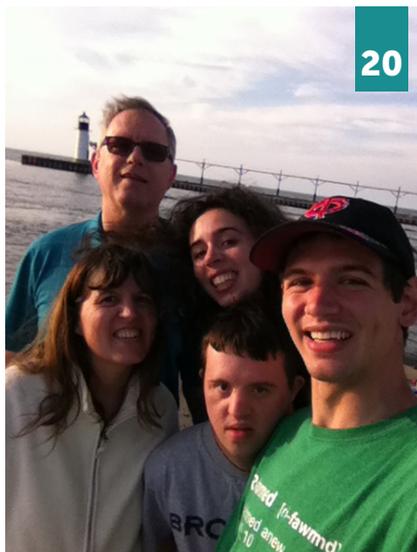
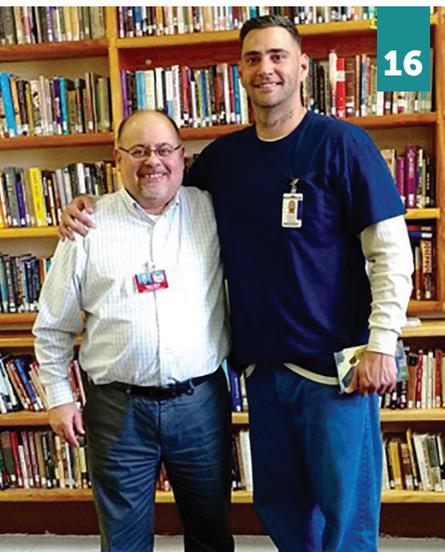
ON THE COVER

Steve and Samantha Nelson, president and CEO of The Hope of Survivors, have been ministering to victims of clergy sexual abuse for 14 years.

Photo by: Steve Nelson



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Abuse of power, a breach of trust; a crime so cruel and so unjust; How many heads are in the sand? So few will try to understand.

—Rachel Clarion (a pseudonym) p. 10

BETTER? OR JUST UNIQUE?

Something that has rather recently become an issue is whether Adventists should have a distinctive identity, or whether we should just focus on our identity in Christ, along with all other Christians. Some seem to believe that claiming to be “unique” amounts to saying we are better than other Christians.

Of course, there will always be human beings in any group who think themselves better than others. But the real question is whether there is anything intrinsically prideful about claiming uniqueness. And the answer to that, I would submit, is a resounding “No.”

There are two reasons for this. First, there is more than one reference in the Bible to God’s “peculiar people.” Not in the sense of odd or strange, but *uniquely His*. The second reason is the boundless creativity of God. The God who makes no two snowflakes alike will spend at least as much effort in making every human being unique. To declare that the Seventh-day Adventist movement has a unique identity has nothing to do with saying we are superior to or better than others. It is simply a testimony to the creative power of God.

Lessons from history

In all fairness, it is a valid claim that Adventists have been appointed by God to do a particular work. If one looks back in history at groups raised up by God, we can see how they have struggled and sometimes failed. Abraham, Isaac and

Jacob were far from perfect. Yet they gave birth, literally, to the people who would become God’s messengers to the whole world. These examples should dispel the notion that uniqueness equals being better.

There are also some who think that by claiming we have a unique calling and purpose as a movement, we are claiming that we have everything right. As we review the history of the Christian church, we see that Martin Luther did not get everything right. But he did get the most important thing right: righteousness by faith. The Anabaptists realized that becoming a Christian had to be a matter of informed consent. The Wesley brothers realized that although we are saved by faith, our conduct still matters. None of these movements got everything right, but each of them advanced our understanding of God’s plan for His people.

This also applies to Seventh-day Adventists. We know our pioneers did not have everything right. The beliefs we hold today were not discovered or revealed in a lump, all at one time, at the birth of our denomination. Quite the contrary. The doctrines of this church have undergone slow change. And if history has any lessons for us, it cautions us that we might not yet possess all the truth.

A “present” purpose

I have heard many young pastors ask, “But where does our denomination fit in with the other denominations?” They are uncomfortable with

the notion that we are simply right and all others simply wrong. They have met many Christians—devout, sincere and grace filled—who belong to other denominations.

The understanding that we Adventists do not have all truth, but that God has given us “present truth” that is crucial for this time in world history, helps bring that relationship into perspective.

Instead of thinking ourselves superior to other denominations, perhaps we should simply be grateful and thank them for having been pioneers of the truth themselves at earlier times. We should recognize that there are many beautiful Christian people in other denominations, and perhaps God is keeping them there to safeguard them from some of the extremes too often found among us.

No analogy corresponds perfectly with reality. But I suggest that the relationship of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination with other Christian denominations is similar to that of Special Forces to the rest of the Army. We have been given special intelligence and special training so that we can focus on crucial areas and special tasks.

Therefore, we may solemnly claim to have a unique identity and purpose without fearing that we are making a prideful claim. To the degree that we have either more or a better understanding of truth, a greater burden of responsibility is imposed upon us to share the love and grace of God. **□**

ED DICKERSON

is a lay pastor, church planter, writer and speaker. He enjoys photography, golf, music, watching football and exegetical Bible study. His passion is to do everything in his power to see that, if the Lord tarries, there will be an Adventist church that his children and grandchildren want to belong to.

Ed has been blogging for OUTLOOK since 2009.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men” (Matt. 5:13, NASB).

In Christ’s time, salt was used as money in many places. So when Christ says, “You are the salt of the earth,” He is placing high value on all His followers.

His word picture also teaches us we are:

1. Preservatives in our communities. Salt is used as a food preservative. How do Christ’s followers “preserve?” Honesty, integrity and kindness help a community to build trust and grow together. In other words, behaving in a manner mirroring the fruits of the Spirit is good for your community’s health and longevity.

2. Adding flavor to our communities. Hopefully, by our presence, we make our communities a richer, more appealing place to live.

3. Making people thirsty for the Water of Life. When a veterinarian wants a horse to drink water, s/he will feed it salt tablets. Our presence should make people thirsty for abundant life.

Christ also says if we, the salt, become tasteless, we will be “thrown out and trampled under foot by men.” Numerous researchers such as George Barna are finding that society does not view churches much differently than any other entity. How sad that the modern church has become “tasteless!”

Mingling and ministering

As you can see, this presents a challenge. How can we make people thirsty for anything if we “taste” like everything else? This is the heart of Ellen White’s famous passage from *Ministry of Healing* p. 143:

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

Now this is a description of savory salt! This paints a picture of an organization that is all together different from what most experience day-in and day-out in this broken world. Salt like this will make people thirsty to know more about the One we follow.

The next paragraph in *Ministry of Healing* says:

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

Would you be missed?

A member of a church I pastored in Florida was an auto mechanic who had been instructed by his boss to make the repairs as expensive and extensive as possible. He and his wife decided to go into business themselves and be completely honest with customers, often saving them hundreds of dollars. He rented a dilapidated garage just down the road from the modern auto shop where he previously worked, and it wasn’t long before he had more work than he could handle. Cars were parked everywhere waiting to be serviced. People in our community learned to love and appreciate him and his wife, and accepted their invitations to attend our church.

He was high quality salt! He made his community a more appealing place to live. He also made people thirsty to learn just why his auto shop was different from the one down the road.

You have often heard the question, “If your church disappeared tomorrow, who in your community would miss you?”

The answer will always be related to the kind of salt you are sprinkling around. Are you helping to create a stabilizing influence in your community? Are you connecting and serving in such a way that people are attracted to Christ? By your presence, are people becoming thirsty to learn about what Christ has done and still wants to do for humanity? **1**

If your church disappeared tomorrow, who in your community would miss you?

GARY THURBER
is president of the
Mid-America Union.



BUILDING BRIDGES IN SIKESTON

A SMALL CONGREGATION IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI CONNECTS WITH THEIR COMMUNITY



Photos: Rachel Ashworth

James and Tina Moore, elders at Peace Point Chapel, lead out in the weekly Celebrate Recovery program. They also help with cooking classes and Relay for Life community events.

Peace Point Chapel, a church located in the middle of residential Sikeston, Missouri since the 1930s, has never been known in the community for any particular reason. But this year the church family is working to be more involved with community needs—starting with scheduling activities that benefit the community.

Celebrating on Thursdays

After opening a successful Celebrate Recovery program in a neighboring city, church members decided to begin one in Sikeston last winter. Celebrate Recovery is a program designed to nurture

individuals through their hurts, hang-ups and habits, and provide a safe place for pointing them to Jesus. Church elders Tina and James Moore lead out in the program at Peace Point Chapel, where participants start with Bible study and prayer before breaking into gender-specific support groups to focus on a weekly curriculum. The group in Sikeston started strong with 12 participants and has gained momentum. Tina, who was instrumental in opening the CR in neighboring Gideon, works with local law enforcement officials to encourage individuals to fulfill their court-appointed rehabilitation at Peace Point Chapel on Thursday nights, where they

can learn 12 steps God's way.

Since recovery is no longer just about drug and alcohol addiction, all church members are encouraged to participate on Thursday nights to gain support in recovery from food addiction, depression, anxiety, co-dependency and more. In many ways, the church family has learned more about each other at CR than they have while attending church together for decades! It has become a time to get in touch with Jesus, themselves and others in a way that's previously been neglected.

Springing into health

While spring was in the air Peace Point Chapel started to schedule cooking schools again, something the church hadn't done in years. Velma Williams hosted the Spring into Health community cooking class in March. A small group gathered for a short informational talk about health and nutrition, followed by a kitchen demonstration. Participants spent the evening chopping, mixing and cooking healthy meals and sampling dishes that church members prepared and brought. The evening ended with door prizes and samplings of homemade and all-natural scrubs and deodorants. It was a fantastic evening of fun, food, family—church family—and community interaction.

Seventh-day Adventists have used cooking schools as community outreach for years, but Peace Point Chapel doesn't want to stop with cooking. Upcoming programs will

include gardening and food preservation, and homemade hygiene/cleaning products—two topics that are currently hot in the Bootheel.

Relaying for Life

Fundraising has been on the hearts of Peace Point Chapel members in recent years since the church is undergoing an extensive remodel. Also, programs like Pathfinders and Adventurers require fundraising to operate. It seems we don't hesitate to ask our community for money but often fall short when the same is asked of us. This year Peace Point Chapel decided to turn the tables and join about nine other churches to organize the Scott County survivor dinner, which is a special meal for cancer survivors held a week before the Relay for Life event. Two of our members are cancer survivors, so this was a special opportunity to give back to the community, and our own members.

We enjoyed the planning meetings, the Christ-driven mission, and the spirituality of the entire group of participants so much that we decided to form our own Relay for Life team. The PPC Warriors joined late in the year (two short weeks before the Scott County Relay for Life event in Sikeston), but managed to assemble a team of seven and raise a small amount of money for the American Cancer Society. Since the relay is on Sabbath the team didn't sell food or other goods. Instead, the PPC Warriors offered a free

photo booth, complete with an antique frame and props. Since Relay for Life is a year-round fundraiser, the PPC Warriors are already planning fundraising events for the coming year—events that will allow church members to join with other community churches in a common goal, to form bonds with other churches and community members, and to work together as a church family to support cancer survivors in Sikeston.

Establishing caring connections

Peace Point Chapel is located in the heart of a city that seems to be touched with violence weekly. The needs of the community are diverse, but just as all of us do in this world individuals are focusing on safety. Citizens want to feel safe in their cities; families want to feel safe in their homes; people want to feel safe in their freedom, choices and salvation.

It's our hope at Peace Point Chapel that through community involvement, we can open doors to the people around us. It's true, our church doors have been open—since 1937!—but Sikeston has not yet seen us as a safe place to come. It's with this in mind that we continue building bridges...over time, with hard work and many hands. 

Rachel Ashworth and her family are building community bridges in the Bootheel area of Missouri.



It's our hope at Peace Point Chapel that through community involvement, we can open doors to the people around us.



JOURNEYS IN MINISTRY

AN INTERVIEW WITH MID-AMERICA'S WOMEN PASTORS

Some members might get the idea that having women serve as pastors and chaplains is something new. As we look back at our church's journey, women have served as pastors, teachers, evangelists and leaders since the 1800s. Still, for some members, having a female pastor is a foreign thought. You may have never been around one and can't imagine a woman filling that role.

Please take the time to read about the women in ministry we are featuring this month. I believe you will find their stories inspirational.

—Gary Thurber,
president



Last January the Mid-America Union Ministerial Department sponsored a two-day gathering in Omaha, Nebraska for the ten women pastors serving in our nine-state territory. Here are partial responses from OUTLOOK's exclusive interview with the seven pastors who were able to attend.

Read the full interview:
bit.ly/journeysinministry

What do you love about being a pastor?

Angel: I love working with the women of the church and helping in their walk in life, in their parenting and their marriages. And when I get to have Bible studies and a baptism, that thrills my heart beyond what you could ever imagine.

Karen: My heart is about encouraging little churches that they can grow and seeing people's lives transformed when they see Jesus and fall in love with Him. Having that front row seat to seeing the Holy Spirit work is fabulous.

Vanessa: I love seeing how teenagers build relationships and how over time their lives change and they make brave decisions and do courageous things in areas of spiritual growth, leadership and impacting the world.

Ruth: I'm most passionate about discipleship growth—seeing people grow in the Lord and coaching them in their spiritual walk. I want to create bridges between generations and cultures, to create safe environments.

Lee Lee: I love being a catalyst

for people to see their relationship with Jesus grow, whether in one-on-one settings or small groups or during a sermon—there is no greater joy.

What was your experience of being called to ministry?

Lisa: My first calling came in 1999 while I was part of a church plant where I experienced the Acts 2 church. God put in my heart a vision that I am called to do this full time. Later my life turned upside down and I was immersed in three years of darkness. During the darkest time a phone call came with the opportunity. Out of fear I said No. Eight months later the same call came again, and I said Yes. It was a very low time in my life, but it was the perfect time because I was totally reliant on God.

Brooke: People kept telling me I should be a pastor, but the biggest reason I didn't want to be a pastor is because I thought all they did was sit in their offices and write sermons. And I thought that would be awful. So I tried to do everything *except* be a pastor. I didn't want to do it, but Jesus made it so I didn't have an option. Now I couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

Lee Lee: Women have always been doing ministry. But nobody told me that I could be a pastor. God has opened the doors and always surprised me and I'm happy with that. I'm just following Jesus wherever He leads me.

Ruth: I was at Antillean Adventist University in Puerto Rico finishing my degree in

biology. I had been accepted at two universities to do a doctoral program in physical therapy. During a chapel service I felt the overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a shocking moment when I heard the voice of God saying *That's you!* as people described what they were going to do for God as pastors. I doubted God's call, but He didn't give up on me and kept sending people to ask me to give Bible studies and preach.

Angel: God has called me to the women of the church. A woman understands another woman's heart. I still don't think of myself as being a pastor. I just want to serve Jesus and help people.

What are some challenges you've faced?

Vanessa: On a local level, I've been shown respect and treated equally. What I've seen from other male pastors in general, if they are not already respectful and open, is just confusion. *This is new and I feel awkward. How should I treat her?* I just feel compassion for their confusion and hope they will realize that this is a professional career and we are all colleagues.

Lee Lee: I have had a difficult time, but it's still ideal because the male counterpart I work with is my opposite personality. God, in His supernatural power makes it work when we are both willing, and that is amazing and beautiful. I have a lot to learn from men and men have a lot to learn from women, and I love the fact that there is a commitment to learning to work together.



Ruth Rivera New Haven, KS | **Angel Bock** Lincoln, NE | **Karen Lewis** Stillwater/Hinckley, MN
Vanessa Pujic Minnetonka, MN | **Lee Lee Dart** Greeley, CO | **Brooke Lietzke** Secular Campus Ministries Jamestown, ND
Lisa Engelkemier Parker, CO | *Not Pictured:* **Darriel Hoy** Youth Ministries, Central States Conference; **Jessyka Albert**, CO
Shelina Bonjour, Maple Grove/Rogers, MN

Karen: I wasn't sure how they were going to take me at my new churches. They held me at arms length and I'm a *Let's all hug!* person, so I really had to show restraint and build trust. Now they love me. No one in either of my churches has said *I don't want to listen to you because you are a woman.*

How can others help to strengthen your ministry?

Vanessa: Many pastors in our generation, both men and women, are looking for mentors in our local congregations who will come along side and share history and who understand a particular type of leadership. We may not always ask for that, but we could benefit from it. And please pray for us!

Angel: There are some people who will never accept

women pastors, but I am so grateful for the affirmation that does come. When I'm wondering if I'm really doing what God wants me to, some sweet person sends a note or calls or talks to me at church. Sometimes we don't realize the difference we make when we say an encouraging word.

How can we help others answer God's call to ministry?

Karen: If you sense God is calling you, walk in that direction and as God opens the doors keep walking through them. Our union and division are supportive of women in ministry so I encourage women to keep studying.

Lisa: I have four points. The first is to become familiar with God's voice. Develop and maintain practices that position you to hear from God. And then just become familiar

with knowing this was God's voice. Second, say *Yes* to every opportunity and become familiar with your gifts and passions. The third thing is to observe and ask for feedback from people you respect. How are people responding to what you are doing? And number four is to find a mentor in your field and ask for opportunities to shadow.

Brooke: God calls us to different places at different seasons in our lives for different purposes and it's OK to be unsure but to simply keep walking through the doors and trusting that He will lead us as long as we keep abiding in Him. That is the key.

Ruth: A call to ministry is a call to give up control. God reveals to you each day His mission, little by little.

Angel: We are all ministers for Jesus. 



GC President Says Ordination Vote Did Not Change Current Church Policy

In a statement issued last July, General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson stated that the vote regarding women's ordination was not related to commissioned ministers, who under the Adventist Church's current policy can be male or female.

Read the full article: bit.ly/votedidnotchange policy

THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS

SAVING MANY LIVES



Steve Nelson is an ordained Adventist pastor of a four-church district in Wyoming. He is also president of The Hope of Survivors and an international speaker on clergy sexual abuse.

His wife, Samantha, is vice president and CEO of The Hope of Survivors. She holds North American Division certification as an Adventist Community Services case-worker, received the 2004 Woman of Distinction Award from the Northern California Conference, and has authored *Reaching the Hurting: A Biblical Guide for Helping Abuse Victims*.

Both Steve and Samantha are Board Certified Biblical Counselors, Certified Belief Therapists, and members of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals.

The Hope of Survivors is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct of all denominations and faith communities. THOS assists survivors in their search for truth and healing through engaging in personal correspondence and providing retreats and conferences, as well as offering educational and informational materials and seminars to clergy members, church leaders and congregations worldwide.

Through these avenues of communication they have helped thousands of individuals begin to heal from the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and renew their relationship with the Lord.

Helping “just one”

The Hope of Survivors was born one evening in December 2002 as Steve and Samantha were discussing ministry options. God impressed Steve to “do something” to reach others who had experienced clergy sexual abuse. Steve and Samantha are uniquely qualified for ministering through The Hope of Survivors, due to both their past personal experience with clergy sexual abuse

and their training.

Since there was such a lack of resources, the couple decided to develop a website providing information and encouragement to anyone searching for answers. They felt that if just one person could be helped by the website, it would be worth the effort and pain they had gone through in sharing their story. “While our vision was initially limited to thinking ‘just one,’ the Lord knew how many hurting people were out there, suffering all alone and living without hope,” says Samantha.

Consequently, The Hope of Survivors has developed a faith-based, scriptural approach to helping victims understand the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and how they can receive healing and wholeness by God’s grace. “It is our prayer that through our organization victims will find answers and the truth about what’s happening to them,” adds Samantha. “We also work closely with churches dealing with the after-effects of abuse.”

In short, the mission of The Hope of Survivors is summed up in their motto:

Reaching the Hurting...
Ministering to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy.

Calling the Faithful...

Providing resources and support to church leadership to help them remain true to their high calling.

Bridging the Gap...Leading the hurting to hope through a healing relationship with Christ.

Hope and healing

Within a few months after launching the website in early 2003, The Hope of Survivors began receiving calls and emails from victims of clergy sexual abuse. For the first seven or eight years Samantha provided all the emotional and spiritual support to victims via phone and email. After that, God began to bring volunteers to help with victim support, since the organization was growing so rapidly.

Today, 14 years later, there are dozens of trained volunteers around the world who provide support to victims and help raise awareness about clergy sexual abuse. The website is now available in 11 languages, with more to come, while THOS divisions are operating in five countries in addition to the U.S.

According to the Nelsons, statistics for 2015 show an average of 10-15,000 visits per



IF YOU...

- 1. If you need help right now...** Please contact The Hope of Survivors!*
- 2. Suspect abuse is happening in your church...** Talk to a trusted elder or church leader and share your concerns. You can also reach out to your conference ministerial director or contact The Hope of Survivors.
- 3. Are a pastor or educator...** Ask your conference leaders to have The Hope of Survivors conduct a Faith & Fidelity seminar during worker's meetings. To help educate your congregation, invite The Hope of Survivors to conduct an abuse prevention Sabbath at your church.

4. Want to support THOS... Your support is greatly needed for meeting the needs of the growing number of victims and facilitating prevention. Make your donations online at thehopeofsurvivors.com/donate.php or by mailing a check to:

The Hope of Survivors
843 Broadway
Sonoma, CA 95476

LATINO DIVISION (LA ESPERANZA DE LOS SOBREVIVIENTES)

"Me siento triste por mi pastor. El dice que su esposa no lo entienden, él nunca deseo casarse con ella, ella no cuida de sus necesidades. El dice que lo único que lo hace sentir bien y aliviado es cuando está conmigo."

Si te identificas con esta frase, puede ser que estes en peligro.*

month to their website, with two new victims each week contacting THOS directly for support (95 last year, not including spouses who are secondary victims, and not including Facebook contacts). These individuals represent 26 known states, 11 countries and 23 faith communities.

"The reality is that the reach of The Hope of Survivors is far greater than these numbers show because many victims only interact with THOS volunteers at conventions, exhibits and conferences," adds Samantha.

Currently, The Hope of Survivors has nine board members and nearly 30 volunteers serving victims around the world. THOS maintains international offices with volunteer staff in Australia, Romania, South Africa and the UK. The Canadian Division is presently

in need of a replacement vice president to continue operations there. Last spring, due to the overwhelming workload, THOS hired a full-time victim support coordinator and executive assistant to help Samantha.

No longer silent

"We should not be silent and allow abusers to continue to destroy the lives of those under their care who trusted them implicitly and who have been violated at the deepest spiritual and emotional levels possible—not to mention the physical and sexual levels," says Samantha. "The media often uses the term 'an affair' when an adult victim is involved. However, it should always be correctly identified as clergy sexual abuse or misconduct, due to the power imbalance that exists between a pastor and a parishioner."

The Nelsons strongly

recommend avoiding private female-to-male (or vice versa) counseling in a church setting. Pastors should always ask a spouse, church secretary or trusted friend to sit in during sessions.

For those who have been abused by a pastor, Bible worker, youth pastor, dean or anyone else in a role of spiritual authority, the Bible promises in Ps. 37:40, "And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him" (KJV).

Steve and Samantha apply the verse found in Gen. 50:20 to their work with THOS: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Brenda Dickerson is editor of OUTLOOK.

Courtesy/THOS



*Visit thehopeofsurvivors.com | Call toll free 866.260.8958
Email help@thehopeofsurvivors.com

*llama hoy al 866.260.8958 o envíenos un email a shyleene@thehopeofsurvivors.com | bit.ly/THOSlatinodivision

Introducing Pastor Robert L. Davis

New minister for historic Park Hill Church



Courtesy: Davis family

Pastor Robert Davis, pictured with his wife, Denise, and children, Robert Jr. and Elise, brings many years of experience to his new ministry in Denver, Colorado.

Robert Davis was born in Washington, D.C. where the majority of his early education was Christian. As Robert grew older he chose to deny his calling to preach. However, as a teenager he accepted motivational speaking engagements at youth rallies in the D.C. metro area, which began his introduction to preaching the gospel.

Davis attended Oakwood

University (formerly Oakwood College) in Huntsville, Alabama, where he finally accepted his calling to the gospel ministry and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology with a minor in biblical languages.

In 1997 Davis began full time employment with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He planted new churches in Camden, Arkansas and Rayville, Louisiana, leading many souls to Christ as a result of evangelistic endeavors and revivals. He is founder and former speaker for both the radio program Moments of Victorious Living and the Sunday morning TV program The Smyrna Worship in Alexandria, Louisiana.

While serving as senior pastor for the Forest Hill Church, Davis also served as director of chaplains for Bridgeway Hospice in Fort Worth, Texas. Pastor Davis pastored for two years in Charlotte, North Carolina with over 130 baptisms, and began a thriving weekly TV ministry there. He holds a Master of Divinity with emphasis in pastoral counseling, as well as a Doctor of Divinity with concentration in marriage and family, both from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Pastor Davis' most recent assignment before coming to Park Hill Church was with the Berean Church in Baton

Rouge, Louisiana, where he also served as president of the Berean Wellness and Community Support Center, a nonprofit organization that provides health, education and family services to low-income individuals of Baton Rouge.

He is happily married to the former **Denise Grant** of New York via Manchester, Jamaica. Denise is a graduate of Andrews University with a degree in speech language pathology and audiology, and a masters in communication science disorders from Southern University and A&M College. Denise is currently a candidate for Doctor of Clinical Science in speech language pathology. She is also the owner of Hopewell Pediatric Therapy in Baton Rouge.

The couple have been blessed with four wonderful children: **Samantha** (married to **Nathaniel Blasse** of New York), and **Leah** (currently at Oakwood University), **Robert Jr.** (11) and **Elise** (9). They are also the proud grandparents of two beautiful granddaughters: **Giana** and **Genessa Blasse**. Pastor Davis loves to tell people about his best friend Jesus, but more importantly he wants to see Jesus for himself someday.

.....
Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Orator Joseph Smittick Takes Two First-Place Awards



Joseph Smittick, son of Wendy and Joe Smittick, has been speaking in public since the age of 8 and preached his first sermon at 10 years old. Through the combination of both grandfathers being pastors, coming from a Christian home, and attending Adventist schools, he was taught to use his talents for God.

After many years of competing in orations, Joseph has perfected his craft of public speaking and recently won first place in the Honorable Barry C. Black Oratorical Contest, as well as first place in the Temperance Contest. Both events were held at the United Youth Congress in Virginia Beach, Virginia on April 16. Joseph presented Barack Obama's 2004 Illinois state senate speech and a speech on the topic of recreational marijuana titled He Ain't Died for This.

As enthusiasts of Christian education, The Pine Forge

Academy Foundation, Black Adventist Youth Directors Association, representatives from Oakwood Academy, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, and **Chaplain Barry Black** came together to support and sponsor this scholarship-based inaugural event.

The event is named after the internationally acclaimed orator and author, The Honorable Chaplain Rear Admiral Barry C. Black, USN (Ret.). This man, who once preached to pots in the café in preparation for an oratorical contest while a student at Pine Forge Academy, is recognized in the upper echelon of orators in all of Adventism and throughout the world.

The first place prize was \$1,000. The Chaplain Black Foundation committed an additional \$2,500 scholarship prize. In addition, the first place prize for the Temperance Contest was \$1,200. Joseph will formally present the oratorical contest traveling trophy to the next winner of this prestigious award.

"Barry Black is a very inspirational figure for the Adventist community, and I hope to follow in his footsteps as an orator and as a man of God," says Joseph. "I am truly blessed to receive this honor. I am still in awe of the ways God has been working in my life. When people hear me preach they tend to think I have some deep, profound understanding of God and the Bible, but in reality I'm just like everyone else. There are many days when I struggle with my faith, or waiver from



Joseph and his fellow contestants recently competed in the Honorable Barry C. Black Oratorical Contest in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



Joseph Smittick celebrates his awards with his parents, grandparents and the Honorable Chaplain Barry C. Black (third from left).

God's plan for my life. Even though I've been preaching for almost 10 years now, I still get nervous when I get up front to talk. I often feel like I don't have the right words or that people won't relate to what I have to say. In Rev 12:11 it says 'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.' So essentially we are all called to testify. It doesn't matter who phrases things the best or has the most interesting stories or tells the best jokes, it's about telling

your story and letting God use it to help others."

Not only will Joseph graduate from Mile High Academy this year ranked number one in his class, but he holds the distinction of being the first African American male class president of this 100-year-old school. He is excited about pursuing a degree in biomedical science at Oakwood University this fall.

Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Photos: Courtesy Central States Conference

Motivator and Mentor—Hample is Both

Featured in Wahpeton, North Dakota's *Daily News*



Wayne Hample has been a member of the Wahpeton Church for over 20 years.

The *Daily News* Citizen of the Year for 2015 has committed his life's work to youth, both as an educator and a coach.

He works hard to instill three words into his students' vocabulary: dedication, commitment and success.

Wayne Hample truly embodies what makes him the Citizen of the Year—setting high standards, being a good mentor and reaching out to area youth.

Hample is the physical education and health teacher at Wahpeton Middle School. He is also the driver education

instructor at Wahpeton High School, and junior high football and wrestling coach and the assistant coach for the varsity wrestling team. He also coaches youth wrestling, giving the beginning wrestler a solid foundation to grow and mature.

He is married to **Kerry Hample**, a music teacher at Central Elementary and is the father of three grown daughters, **Shalyn, McKayla** and **Sierra**.

Hample belongs to the Wahpeton Wrestling Club and is an active member of his church as an elder and a member of the church praise band.

Kelly McNary has worked with Hample for many years as a former educator and as a coach for the wrestling program for Wahpeton. He said, "I am nominating Wayne Hample as citizen of the Year for our community. He has lived in Wahpeton since 1994 and has been a tremendous asset to the community since he moved here.

"He was a part of our wrestling coaching staff for the 21 years I was head coach for Wahpeton High School and I can tell you that many of the athletes on the team commented that he was the

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most influential teacher or coach they ever had in their lives. They appreciated his support and willingness to give them his time, doing extra work with them to help them improve and giving them solid advice to use as they dealt with being athletes and becoming young men.

“Another thing they appreciated about this man was his sincerity, and one can’t forget to mention his sense of humor. He made the tough sport of wrestling more fun for the athletes he coached. Athletes want to be in the wrestling room when Coach

Photos: Courtesy Dakota Conference



Hample is there. He continues today to be a solid role model for young men to follow.

“Mr. Hample is also a quality physical education teacher in the Wahpeton school system. He teaches middle school students in grades 6–8. Again, he does a professional job in his classes and makes

the curriculum fun for his students. He also teaches driver education throughout the school year and then he accepts the challenge of working with the students behind the wheel throughout the summer months. He does a fantastic job working with two types of students—those who want to drive and those who are fearful of driving. Hample teaches them how to drive and helps them learn that driving is a graduation into one of those times in their life that is so important. He makes certain they understand this concept fully.

“Wayne Hample is one of the best husbands and fathers I have ever known. He is a man who puts his family first, *period!* He is a godly man who has done a fantastic job of showing tremendous affection toward his wife, Kerry, and he would not miss supporting his three daughters in any way. They all respect and love their dad for all he has done for them. This is a father who not only taught them the importance of reading the Bible, but he also taught them how to hunt deer and other game. This is a dad who simply understands that family is second only behind God. He,

Wayne Hample accepts the Citizen of the Year award from Ken Harty, publisher of the *Daily News*.

along with his wife, are why the girls will be successful in whatever they choose to do.

“Wayne Hample is also a man who will give you assistance when needed. He is a ‘handy-man’ who has fixed the plumbing in my home, cracks in my garage floor and shingles on my roof, too. When he does things like this, he refuses to take any money. He will only let me buy the supplies needed. He will mow a neighbor’s law or shovel the same neighbor’s walk without expecting to be thanked. He was around in 1997, helping fight the flood. He and Kerry have done much in their local church to help educate young and old members.

“The list can go on, but I will stop here. Wayne Hample is simply one of the most well rounded men I know, and he is truly an asset to our community in so many ways. He has taught many a person so much by simply being in their presence. He is truly a role model and man who would be missed if he left our community.”

Kathleen Leinen is managing editor of Wahpeton North Dakota’s *Daily News*.

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God Calls Prisoner to New Life in Christ



Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference

Domingo "Ace" Vasquez was raised as an Adventist in Oregon. After his parents split up he moved to Iowa with his dad, got himself into trouble and ended up at the Anamosa State Maximum Security Prison. Things began to get worse for Ace when he fell in with a gang in prison and eventually became one of its leaders—not an ideal life by any stretch.

Then Ace met Eddie Cabrera, pastor of the Davenport Adventist Church. Cabrera visits the Anamosa Prison twice a month to meet with a Bible study group. Ace joined the group in November 2015 and felt God calling him to a life of peace. Ace made the choice to follow God, and on March 7 Pastor Cabrera baptized him at the prison.

Lynn Brus is communication leader for the Davenport Church in Iowa.

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Session Name	Date	Ages	Cost
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Teen Camp	July 10-17	13-17	\$195
Teen Canoe Camp	July 17-24	13-17	\$195
Family Camp	July 5-10	All Ages	Varies by Age

Registration Opens April 1 at

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Vazquez Ordained to Gospel Ministry



Stephanie Gottfried

Affirming Pastor Vazquez's call are (back row) David Meza, John Sweigart, Virgil Covell, Darin Gottfried, Ruber Alvarez (front row) Roberto Correa, Sue Carlson, Minerva Vazquez, Willy Vazquez and Ron Carlson.

Willy Vazquez was born and raised in Chiapas, Mexico. When he was nine years old his parents accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message and he was baptized at the age of 12.

He dreamed of becoming a medical physician, but three months before graduating from high school the idea of becoming a pastor filled his mind. He struggled with the Lord, but the more he told God that he did not want to be a pastor the more the word *pastor* resounded in his mind.

Willy obeyed the voice of God and went to Montemorelos University in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. After completing his theological studies at Montemorelos, he moved to Texas where he served as an assistant pastor while earning his master's degree in education.

Vazquez is currently working on his Master of Arts in pastoral ministry through Andrews University. It is his

desire to serve the church and community in a larger capacity through this degree. Before assuming his current role at the Great Bend Hispanic and Hutchinson Hispanic congregations, Vazquez worked in Massachusetts, Missouri and Kansas. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on April 9 at the Great Bend Church.

Vazquez said, "It is the greatest desire of my heart to be in a close relationship with God through prayer and study of His word in order for me to be attentive to His instruction of how to minister to, guard, care for and feed His flock."

His lovely wife, **Minerva**, a dietitian by profession and a dedicated wife and mother, was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico. Willy and Minerva have two beautiful children who love the Lord: **Wilfred**, 23 and **Estibaliz**, 16.

Stephanie Gottfried is publications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

New Haven Church Focuses on Community



Timothy Floyd

Clients visit the New Haven ReNewed Hope Pantry, which is open every Tuesday from 2-4 pm and serves 55 households weekly.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another.
—Charles Dickens

Because God calls His people to show purposeful and compassionate generosity towards others, the members at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas wanted to develop ways of serving the needs in the community around them.

In 2012, member **Faye Martin** and former associate pastor **Chanda Nunes** began a small food pantry for low-income families called ReNewed Hope Pantry. The pantry has grown since its inception and last year provided 140,000 pounds of food, serving over 3,000 homes.

While clients wait their turn, associate pastor **Ruth Rivera** and member **Doug Ludwig** spend time visiting with the patrons, hoping to learn how to serve them in other ways. Pastor Rivera shares, “The

pantry is not only a blessing to our community but also to our church. The volunteers get to see and experience the gift of reaching out to others in love as they bring others hope when they need it most, as Jesus did when He was on the earth.”

Seeing a greater dietary need emerge, a second pantry was opened in 2015 named ReNewed Health Pantry. This pantry focuses on foods for people with Celiac disease and other food allergies. This pantry is only the second in the nation to offer food for individuals with these allergies.

Eighteen months ago, several New Haven members got together to discuss the best way to provide fresh produce to ReNewed Hope Pantry. They also wanted to find a way to get to know their neighbors better. **Greg Murphy** and **Doug Carruthers** lead the ReNewed Hope Community Garden. Murphy says, “We believed

that God challenged us to consider a community garden and felt this was the time to move ahead.” The church board agreed, and a 50’ x 100’ area was tilled and converted into 24 individual garden plots. Half the plots are rented to neighbors and the other half are used to raise produce for the pantry. Approximately 1,600 pounds of produce was donated to the food pantry last year and Murphy is hoping to increase that amount to 2,000 pounds this season.

Apparently, service to the community is contagious. A community member who lives next to the church has a passion for gardening and spends time training new gardeners, and also helps get the plots ready for winter and spring.

A beautician who heard about the food pantry comes several times a month to offer free haircuts to clients. She gave 10 haircuts her first day.

Over 60 members volunteer each week with the various ministries. Church members who can’t volunteer time, support these ministries through donations of money or items for the garage sales that support Community Services. Spiritual service is also offered as prayer warriors take on each request placed in the pantry’s prayer box and rejoice with clients who report back the answers to their prayers.

Stephanie Gottfried is publications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



Courtesy New Haven Church

The Kansas City Garden Association helped New Haven members plan their first planting session for the ReNewed Hope Community Garden.

Conference VP for Finance Goes West

Treasurer accepts call to Arizona



Thane Leach

The Leach family: (back row) Reggie, daughter Regina (front row) Kelle, sons Theron and Thane

In April, vice president for finance **Reggie Leach** announced that he had accepted a call to the Arizona Conference. Elder Leach will serve as conference treasurer, while his wife, **Kelle**, will teach grades 3 and 4 at Glenview Adventist Academy.

Reggie and Kelle have been part of the Minnesota Conference for almost 12 years. “This has been a very tough decision, but we feel God’s clear calling,” said Reggie. “This is the first time among many ‘feelers of interest’ over the years that our ‘fleece’ has been answered.

We have always wanted to be where we can serve as a team, so for us, a ministry calling needs to be for both of us.”

For many, Elder Leach has been the face of this conference. He has seen the membership grow from 6,592 members in 2004, to 9,656 members today. He has been a powerful supporter of the local churches, Adventist education and North Star Camp. He believes in the missionary spirit supported by our church founding fathers, has worked in the mission field (Guam) and has encouraged his kids to go on mission trips. Leach

has also served as an elder in Southview and St. Paul First Churches and been involved in evangelism, preaching and stewardship training across the conference.

Since 2004, Leach served as the vice president for finance as well as stewardship director. During his term as treasurer, tithes increased from \$5 million to more than \$7.7 million. He has been a faithful steward and reliable financial manager.

Altogether, the Leach family has been part of the Mid-America Union Conference for 24 years. Reggie says, “Our family will always have many good memories of Minnesota. All three of our kids grew up here through most of their elementary and high school years—particularly Regina going through grades 1-12 all in Minnesota. We especially

want to express our appreciation to Maplewood Academy and the various staff members who have had a major, positive and life-changing impact on Thane and Regina.”

On a personal note, I met Reggie in the late 90s during his Champion Academy days in Loveland, Colorado. I have worked with him in this conference as a lay member, a district pastor and an administrator. I have worked on conference plans with him, and have seen God bless this conference in ways that brought great results. The Minnesota Conference has been blessed by his many years of service. I think God will be honored wherever Reggie serves.

.....
Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Maplewood Academy’s National Honor Society Students Serve at Soup Kitchen

Students are connecting with their community through volunteering at the Salvation Army Harbor Light Soup Kitchen, where over 1,000 meals are served each day to homeless individuals in the Twin Cities.

Stone Ridge SDA Christian School Hosts Student Round-up

Principal Rudy Carlson actively recruits community students in Duluth.

North Star Camp Celebrates Opening of Donna Ward Lodge

Photos: Dwayne Mauk



The North Star Camp Board hosted a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Donna Ward Lodge on April 10. The event not only honored donors and volunteers who have given tremendously of both time and money, but also focused on God's blessings that have made the upgrades to our camp a reality.

North Star Camp is the Minnesota Conference youth camp located on Rice Lake in Brainerd, Minnesota. The past 10 years have resulted in an incredible transformation at North Star. When the NSC Visioning Committee was created and met for the first time in 2006, the dream of tearing down and rebuilding the lodge was not even a glimmer in the committee members' eyes. Yet, 10 years later, not only have we rebuilt the lodge, which serves as the camp's dining hall, but all the camper cabins have been replaced and winterized, two new staff cabins constructed, the canoe shed replaced, and the caretaker's house remodeled.

In addition, Polaris Hall (the primary meeting house) and two bath houses were renovated. All these upgrades provide space and suitability for year-round ministry at North Star Camp.

The Grand Opening was a wonderful celebration full of laughter, tears of thankfulness, and continued hope for the future. **Justin Lyons, Reggie Leach, Jack Dougan and Ken Rannow** seized the opportunity to thank the North Star Camp Board, donors, volunteers and the contractors and subcontractors. These invitees were the first to enjoy a meal in the building, where the promise of many happy meals to come made the event even sweeter.

The evening ended with a consecration prayer, praising God and requesting continued blessings as we focus on helping people realize they are accepted in Jesus Christ and come to know, love, serve and share Him.

.....
Savannah Carlson is an administrative assistant for the Minnesota Conference.

Brooklyn Park Girl Wins State Essay Contest

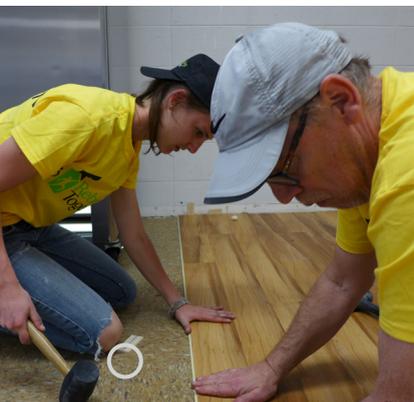


Courtesy: Vicki Duran

The League of Minnesota Cities recently announced that Charity Duran, a member of The Edge Christian Worship Center located in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is one of three winners of a state-wide essay contest. Charity, a 9-year-old home schooled student, wrote on the assigned topic of what she would do if she were the mayor for a day. Her essay was one of more than 600 submitted to the contest.

Charity was recently interviewed for an upcoming city newsletter and for a TV news spot. In addition, she will be honored in an upcoming City Council meeting, and meet one-on-one with the mayor. Charity will also receive \$100 and a plaque from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Lowe's and "Rebuilding Together" Renovate Denver Community Center



Photos: Rajmund Dabrowski

Volunteers installed new showers and flooring, and remodeled classrooms in the Adventist Community Services LIFT facility last April.

Making people safe and secure in their neighborhoods is what we aim to do," said **Alyssa**, one of the captains with Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit organization that teamed up with Lowe's Home Improvement to refurbish the Adventist Community Services LIFT facility in Denver last April.

Together with **Pete**, also a captain, they used a less busy time (while lunch was served for more than 40 volunteers) to put down new flooring in one of the center's rooms.

Alyssa has been engaged with Rebuilding Together for four years and, like many of her colleagues, has been refurbishing homes and facilities and serving communities throughout the country.

The two-day project involved 120 volunteers and included four homes of low-income homeowners, as well as the ACS center. Lowe's donated \$84,000 to the Denver rebuild project and much of the

funding went to refurbish the ACS facility, giving them new showers, new flooring and remodeled classrooms. The project was launched in recognition of the critical services provided by ACS to the surrounding community, such as the food bank, medical care and developmental assistance.

"It's all about the community. We've learned that you can't just do one house here, one house there, but it's all a concentrated effort. And it's about partnerships, which is the fabric of community. This project is a demonstration of this," said **Graham McDonald**, manager of corporate engagement at the national office of Rebuilding Together in Washington, D.C.

McDonald added that the Denver project included more than 1,000 hours of service. "We were able to overcome some of the difficulties with the flooring and carpeting with the strength of our volunteers," he said.

Among the volunteers was **Paul D. Lopez**, councilman for

the Barnum Neighborhood. The personal involvement of **Deborah Jackson**, ACS LIFT director, is an example of being with the community.

Opened in 1951, ACS has been in continuous operation, serving up to 350 people per week, according to **Navanta Antoine-Griffith**, administrative assistant and bookkeeper at the center. The center's staff believes that the renovations will bring more clients.

"This place didn't always look very nice," said Jackson. "But now our clients will see this facility as beautiful, and they will see that they are valued. We will start our workforce development here, install computers and hold classes on healthy living, exercise and nutrition. And we hope to become a part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program), through which we can actually qualify people for food stamps."

Jackson also wants the center to be seen as environmentally friendly. "Our garden is organic and our food is natural. We are trying to meet people at their needs." Lowe's involvement with the project included creating edible landscaping in the front area of the center.

People who are homeless are also frequent visitors to the ACS center. "Now, we will be able to increase the help we give in finding jobs, writing resumes, helping to find housing—things we were not able to do before," Jackson commented. "But we will need donations and will need to increase our promotion of the healthy lifestyle in the Denver metro community."

Jackson desires that the church will see how valuable this service is. "We are hoping the church will not only help in volunteering, but also in the financial aspect of our work," she appealed.

For ACS LIFT to continue providing much needed services, "we need support from church organizations, and individual church members, through gifts, donations, volunteering and prayer," Jackson added.

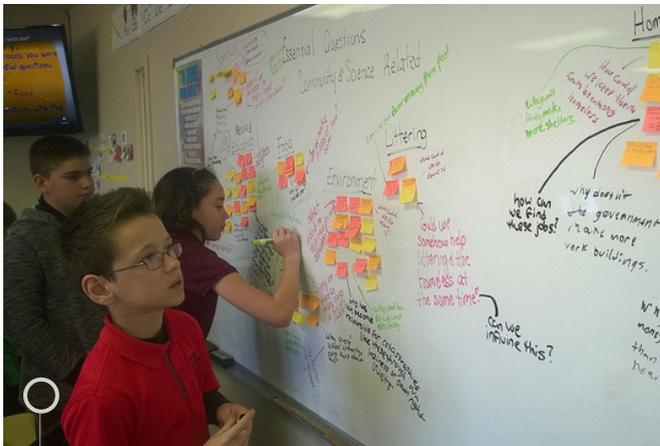
Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Visit www.ACSlift.org or mail donations to:
ACS LIFT, 5045 West
1st Avenue, Denver, CO
80219.



Project-Based Learning at Daystar Christian School

A dynamic classroom approach



Michelle Velbis

Students brainstorm ways to help the homeless population in Pueblo, Colorado.

Daystar Christian School is implementing something unique in the classroom called project-based learning. As defined by Edutopia, "Project-based learning is a dynamic classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper knowledge."

At the beginning of the school quarter, students were asked, "How can we help our community?" After two days of brainstorming and narrowing down ideas, the students came up with two more questions: "How can we help the homeless in Pueblo and how can we help raise health awareness?"

Their next task was to answer these questions by partnering with people in the community and incorporating science and writing elements

into the project.

The students came up with Healthy Helping Hands: A Daystar Christian School fundraiser for the Pueblo Rescue Mission and an event to raise health awareness to be held May 22 at the Pueblo Firefighters Historical Museum.

They have worked to make their event successful by making phone calls to the health department, to realtors and to local businesses. They also wrote and responded to emails, devised science projects and visited the Pueblo Rescue Mission. In addition, they Skyped with the RMC health director, **Rick Mautz**, to discuss general health topics, and local healthcare providers came to help them with their science projects.

Collaboration,

communication, problem solving, time-management skills and research—these are all real-world skills that cannot be learned from a worksheet.

Students decided to host live cooking demonstrations, health education booths, nutritional science booths, a kid's corner and healthy items for sale at their event. They also collected donations for food, clothing and hygiene items for the Pueblo Rescue Mission.

"PBL has been fun and exciting and it makes me

feel important to be able to help the community," states **Pedro Crisosto**, a 6th grader at Daystar.

"I am thrilled to see my students understand that they have the skills and resources to make a difference in their world," states **Michelle Velbis**, teacher and principal at Daystar.

Michelle Velbis is principal and teacher at Daystar Christian School in Pueblo, Colorado.

Brighton Academy Celebrates One Hundred Years of Touching Students



Nearly 350 people converged on Brighton Academy for its 100-year celebration held the weekend of April 29-30. The congregation was welcomed at the beginning of the worship hour in German in honor of the original church members of the then Brighton German Seventh-day Adventist Church who recognized the need for a school to educate their 25 children and opened the one-room school in 1916 with Sara Belz as its first teacher.

Dick McLean, Brighton city mayor, gave a congratulatory presentation. The day was filled with sharing historical anecdotes and memories. A retirement celebration for Letha Hoos, BAA teacher for 37 years, was held during the Saturday night vespers featuring Letha's favorite hymns, along with tributes to her dedication and love for students.

PR Class Provides Services for Local Non-profits



Photos: Steve Nazario

Students in the Union College public relations principals class taught by Pat Maxwell (front, center) provided PR services to three Lincoln nonprofit organizations: (back to front) Stefani Leeper, Anthony Gann, Kristi Tucker, Rachel Lozano, Heidi Maijub, Aria Bodden, Misha Darcy, Roxy Peterson, Michael Brautigam, Pat Maxwell and David Deemer.

Imagine walking into your first class of the fall semester and a new professor explains that you and your classmates will jump right into the work of creating a PR plan for a real nonprofit organization. That's exactly what happened to **David Deemer** and **Stefani Leeper** when they walked into **Pat Maxwell's** public relations principals class this year.

A new professor at Union, Maxwell teaches several communication and social media classes in which she endeavors to give her students not just theoretical but practical knowledge. She has spent many years as a public relations professional, most recently as director of marketing and communication technologies for Catalina Island Conservancy in California.

As she prepared for her classes, Maxwell began making connections with nonprofit

organizations around Lincoln over the summer, and many were open to allow students to help them develop a public relations plan.

Maxwell has both worked and volunteered for a number of nonprofit organizations over the years, from Los Angeles to San Martin, Guatemala. "One thing always remains true—nonprofits generally do not have the resources to accomplish all they want and need to do," Maxwell said. "Working with these organizations can be very rewarding."

The professor set high goals for her students and had faith that her students could achieve them, including adding real value to a nonprofit's communication program by producing final work that was of professional quality and met a real need for the nonprofit. "The students absolutely reached the goals I had envisioned,"

Maxwell explained. "The PR principles class this fall gave three Lincoln-based organizations the added boost of talent and time to accomplish some key tasks leading to brand awareness and engagement with their audiences."

Taking on the real world

Deemer, a senior biomedical science major, teamed up with **Roxi Peterson**, **Michael Brautigam** and **Kristi Tucker** to work with Constru Casa, a nonprofit that builds homes for impoverished families in Guatemala. They set out to increase awareness among older audiences who may be interested in supporting their efforts. To build awareness, Deemer and his group published an article in *Nebraska Magazine*, featuring CEO **Jim Pittenger** and UNL graduate student **Kye Kurkowski**.

Even though this project was sprung on them the first day of class, Deemer admitted that the team determined the path of the project and it taught him that life is thrown our way every day and we can't always prepare for it. "There's a lot to be said about learning to make adjustments as you go," he said. "I think this class taught us to do that and be comfortable in that environment."

Leeper teamed up with **Anthony Gann** and **Rachel Lozano** to work with DomestiPUPS, a nonprofit that organizes community services with service and therapy dogs. This team grew the organization's Twitter audience and edited a promotional brochure. "I

feel my team contributed by helping the owner of DomestiPUPS realize that the business needs a larger social media outreach, which can be easily accomplished by simply hiring a business or communications student as an intern," Leeper explained.

The team met with the organization on a regular basis to discuss expectations and give updates, along with conducting regular email communication to keep the project on track. They also got to meet some of the puppies training to be service dogs. "This was probably the most fun meeting we had, as we were able to 'forget' about our job and focus on the purpose of it, the service dogs," Leeper said. "We were able to hold the puppies and pet them. Although the experience lasted for less than 10 minutes, it was a nice, relaxing experience that we enjoyed as a team."

Leeper added that her favorite part of the class included the final presentation, not because it signaled the end of the semester, but because they were to dress professionally and present themselves as business people.

Making an impact

According to Maxwell, each team made a lasting impact on the organization they served. "Every organization reported that the quality of work by Union College students in this class was excellent," she said.

One of the other class teams worked with the Lincoln Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition. "Our committee would not have been able to

Finding a Calling in Genetic Counseling

reach any of the organizations and younger generations without their Facebook and website designers,” said **Martha Gadbury**, the director of the coalition. “The analytics were invaluable. Their need for information forced us to focus on our message and project. They taught us valuable lessons on the use of a variety of technologies in promoting our project.”

Chris Blake, chair of the coalition, agreed. “Partnering with Union College communication students helped the Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition by envisioning, enlightening, and empowering,” he said. “We feel 30 years younger! The media technology accessibility and products they provided were a godsend.” Blake said he would highly recommend working with Union College emerging media students.

“The most immediate and obvious effect of the work by the Union College students was to get an article published in the University of Nebraska alumni magazine that reached a wide audience. We are certainly hopeful that it will generate significant interest in Constru Casa,” said **John Lothrop** of Constru Casa.

Both Deemer and Leeper were thankful for the chance to go after a real public relations challenge. “Patience and communication are the keys to life and success in this class,” said Leeper.

“This project may be difficult but if you persevere the outcomes are rewarding,” said Deemer. “You get out of this class what you put into it.”



Sierra Clark took two years to find a career path, but now she has combined her love of science and people in Union’s new pre-genetic counseling major.

At Union College, more specialized degrees and emphases means more ways students are better prepared for graduate school and a career. For **Sierra Clark**, who arrived at Union in 2013, finding a major proved to be a struggle until she discovered a fit in the new pre-genetic counseling program that is designed to prepare students for a career helping patients make tough healthcare decisions.

As she took general education courses during her first two years of college, Clark couldn’t decide on a career path. But when she heard about the pre-genetic counseling program, she was intrigued. “Dr. Rose gave me an overview of the major,

and he sent me some additional literature to read as well,” Clark said. “I arranged a meeting with him when school started in the fall to talk about my fit for the major.” After all was said and done, Clark declared her major.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, genetic counselors help patients understand and assess individual and family risks for a variety of inherited conditions, including genetic disorders and birth defects. Their research indicates that jobs for genetic counselors will grow by 29 percent over the next eight years—well above the average. **Dr. Frankie Rose**, who has advised Union’s medical pre-professional students for the past six years, has been watching the broader fields of genetics and believes this was a good time for Union to begin offering the major.

Rose earned his doctoral degree studying genetics and called on some of his former colleagues from graduate school to help him create the major at Union—which prepares students to earn a master’s degree in genetic counseling. “The pre-genetic counseling track offers the best of both worlds for students who are interested in a career in the medical field and who enjoy educating patients,” Dr. Rose explained. “By choosing this track students will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and experience to pursue a career as a genetic counselor.”

The pre-genetic counseling major shares many requirements with the biomedical science major, such as general chemistry, general biology, biochemistry and organic chemistry. “Pre-genetic counseling majors focus on the microscopic biology of humans, specifically their genetics,” Dr. Rose explained. “Along with gaining a thorough understanding about genetics, pre-genetic counseling majors will be prepared to counsel patients concerning inherited disorders, assess risk factors, and serve as patient advocates.”

As with the biomedical science major, students can take classes in a supporting area—possibly an unrelated area of interest, or one that could be helpful in the genetic counseling career. “I’m pursuing a psychology minor, which is highly recommended with this major because counseling sessions with patients involve dealing with some pretty heavy topics,” Clark explained.

She feels her search for a calling has paid off. “Genetic counseling is a good fit for those who love science and have good people skills,” Clark said. “But, as I learned from Dr. Rose, the best thing a person can do for themselves is do as much shadowing as possible before deciding on any major.”

Articles by Megan Wehling, a 2015 Union College graduate.

Lead Gift Paves Way for New B.E. Smith Children's Center

For decades, thousands of children with special needs and their families have found a place of comfort, healing and hope at the Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center on the campus of Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Thanks to the generosity of **Nan** and **Doug Smith**, the Britain IDC's impact on the local community will continue to grow in the years to come.

The Smith's lead gift has sparked a \$15 million fundraising campaign by The Foundation for SMMC to complete funding for the B.E. Smith Children's Center. This new state-of-the-art facility will provide a new home for the Britain IDC and the Shawnee Mission Health Early Learning Center, which offers Christian-based early education to the children of Shawnee Mission Health physicians and associates. By bringing the two programs together in a new facility, SMH will be able to share resources and encourage collaboration between therapists and teachers—providing just the right care for each individual child.

"I am inspired by the joy children with special needs bring to this world, and have personally seen the positive impact the Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center has on the children who graduate from its program," said Doug Smith. "Nan and I hope the B.E. Smith Children's Center will allow children to benefit from the enhanced programming and alleviate some of the financial burdens their families

may be experiencing, in addition to providing affordable Christian-based child care for the associates of Shawnee Mission Health."

Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center

The Britain IDC was started by Lee Ann Britain in 1972 with the vision of providing therapy, education and emotional support to families whose children were experiencing developmental challenges. While her work was received enthusiastically by the families who saw its remarkable results, the program struggled to maintain funding and was forced to relocate numerous times in its early years. In 1977, the Britain IDC came to SMMC, where it would find a permanent home.

Today, over 200 children with special needs from birth to age six come to the Britain IDC each year to receive holistic, collaborative care from a team of physical, occupational and music therapists, speech language pathologists, early childhood special education teachers, applied behavioral analysts, social workers and paraprofessionals. A unique aspect of the center's approach to care is the involvement of parents and siblings in the process of therapeutic treatment and education, helping families come together to embrace the future challenges of a life with special needs. Thanks to the generous support from donors to the Foundation for SMMC, many children receive full or partial scholarship assistance

to support the cost of therapies not covered by insurance, and no family is ever turned away based on their ability to pay.

"We serve families who are in a very vulnerable place," said **Amy Milroy**, director of the Britain IDC. "They're embarking on a journey filled with the unknown and they often experience feelings of fear and hopelessness. We extend to them the healing hand of Christ by providing love, hope, patience and kindness. Through our therapies, education and support, we are helping to create a perspective of hopefulness versus hopelessness."

Shawnee Mission Health Early Learning Center

In 1979, SMH made the bold decision to open an on-site early learning center, one of the first employer-based centers in the country. At the time, a nation-wide nursing shortage threatened the hospital's ability to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community. The addition of the ELC had an immediate positive impact on SMH's ability to hire and retain top quality associates and provide superior patient care.

The ELC currently serves over 600 children each year, ages six weeks to 12 years, with a curriculum committed to developing the whole child—socially, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, academically and physically. The center's family-friendly policies, including flexible scheduling that accommodates the needs of clinical

professionals, embody the culture of caring at SMH and enable associates to perform at their best, knowing their children are cared for in a loving and secure environment.

Growing for the Future

Since their beginnings, both the Britain IDC and ELC have grown and thrived. Now, the B.E. Smith Children's Center will help fulfill a great community need by providing a new home for both centers. These programs are currently housed in the oldest buildings on the SMMC campus, which present significant obstacles to their future growth. The Foundation's \$15 million philanthropic campaign will enable SMH to construct a state-of-the-art facility, increase the number of children served, and deliver an even higher standard of care and education.

"Generations of community children will have a bright future because of the B.E. Smith Children's Center," said **Lou Gehring**, senior executive director of The Foundation.

Stefanie Tapke is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

To learn how you can help, visit ShawneeMission.org/make-a-gift. For more information about the Britain IDC, visit BritainIDC.org. For more information about the ELC, visit ShawneeMission.org/EarlyLearningCenter.

Healing Arts, Healing Communities

Music, massage and visual arts foster healthy environments

Photos: Courtesy, Centura Health



(left photo) The work of these talented, enthusiastic students at American Academy Charter School in Parker, Colorado was recently exhibited in the main lobby art gallery at Parker Adventist Hospital. **(right photo)** Marianne Lounsbury, therapeutic musician, plays soothing harp music for a patient as part of the Healing Arts program at Porter Adventist Hospital.

It all started in 2004 when a grand piano was placed in the lobby of Parker Adventist Hospital and volunteers would play from time to time. It wasn't an intentional program, but the music was a beautiful addition to the hospital's healing environment. That was the humble beginning of the Healing Arts program that now blesses more than 50,000 patients, family members and hospital staff in Centura's Avista, Castle Rock, Littleton, Parker and Porter Adventist Hospitals each year.

The Healing Arts program now encompasses music, massage and visual arts as an extension of the hospitals' mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. The program has become a valuable means of establishing caring connections between the various hospitals and their surrounding communities.

In establishing the Healing Arts program, Centura joins a growing number of hospitals around the world that incorporate the arts into the delivery of healthcare. In fact, there is empirical evidence that the arts

have the potential to provide medical benefits to patients by eliciting positive psychological responses. Today, more than 20 certified music practitioners and countless volunteers bring their unique artistic talents to all areas of care in Centura hospitals.

"If there's a need, you'll find someone there," says **Jude Keller**, director of the Healing Arts program. "On any given day, we might have a harpist playing music for premature infants in the neonatal ICU; keyboardists playing music for children and families; a guitarist playing classical guitar in the pre-op area for patients awaiting surgery; and a cello player providing therapeutic music for patients facing end-of-life challenges. Basically we blanket every stage of life with healing music."

One patient who enjoyed a visit from a therapeutic music practitioner said, "Her beautiful music for once let me relax and forget all the things that are wrong with my body. It was so relaxing and soothing. It made me find a smile through my pain."

One of the most popular aspects of the Healing Arts program is the provision of therapeutic massage to patients who feel anxious and alone. The healing power of touch has many proven health benefits. It can lower blood pressure, improve sleep patterns, and even boost the immune system. Best of all, it relieves patients' anxiety and takes their minds off their pain, for which they are deeply grateful.

"Through massage, we are able to remind the body that it can feel good again while providing a human presence and caring touch during challenging moments," says **Cheryl Johnson**, LMT, a massage therapist at Porter Adventist Hospital.

One of the more recent additions to Centura's Healing Arts program is the creation of art galleries at each of the five campuses where walls are graced with stunning artwork that reflects the beauty of Colorado. The nature-based art is providing a venue for local schools, organizations and artists to display their

artwork, while fostering close relationships with community members.

The cost of providing the services of certified music and massage practitioners is paid by the Rocky Mountain Adventist Healthcare Foundation, which is funded by the generous donations of community members. In giving, they receive, and the beautiful circle of caring and giving continues to transform lives through beauty and touch.

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

If you would like to support the Healing Arts program in our Denver-area Adventist Hospitals, please visit bit.do/HealingArts. Under the "Donation Credit" section, choose "Healing Arts" as the recipient of your gift.

FAREWELL

Adams, Gene R., b. Feb. 1, 1938 in Canova, SD d. Oct. 20, 2015. Preceded in death by first wife Lois Adams. Survivors include wife Karen; daughter Michele Farah; 6 siblings; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Army.

Basse, Evan, b. July 17, 1934. d. Mar. 24, 2016. Member of Crawford (NE).

Bragaw, Naomi, b. Feb. 10, 1930. d. Apr. 9, 2016. Member of Bolivar (MO) Church. Survivors include son Jay.

Bright, James H., b. Feb. 16, 1922 in Rheatown, TN. d. Jan. 26, 2016 in Greeley, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Survivors include wife Ginnie; daughter Linda McNeil; son Randy; 3 sisters; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Burghart, Lucille, b. Dec. 15, 1920. d. Jan. 14, 2016 in Hutchinson, MN. Member of Hutchinson Church.

Calhoun, William A., b. June 9, 1936. d. Sept. 17, 2015 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Nucla Church. Preceded in death by wife Joyce; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Lori Worix, Shelley Archer and Tonya Gabardi; sons Calvin and Rusty; 13 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Carlson, Lois J., b. Jan. 31, 1937 in Palisade, MN. d. Jan. 27, 2016 in Palisade, MN. Member of Aitkin Church. Survivors include husband Roger; daughters Cary Pearson, Susan Gibbs and Nancy Krumholz; sons Curt and Burt; 4 siblings; 4 granddaughters; 2 great-grandsons.

Cedeno, Grace, b. June, 1935. d. Dec. 21, 2015. Member of Cedar Rapids (IA) Church. Survivors include daughter Yvette.

Conklin, Steve, age 62. d. Feb. 25, 2016. Member of St. Paul Eastside Church. Preceded in death by mother. Survivors include daughter Cassandra; sons Ben and Jon; father; 3 siblings.

Coyle, Jerry R., b. Nov. 30, 1930. d. Mar. 20, 2016. Survivors include wife Virginia; daughter Sharon; son Larry. Pastor for the Minneapolis First Church in 1975.

Davidson, Alma, b. June 10, 1920. d. Feb. 5, 2016. Member of Des Moines (IA) Church. Preceded in death by daughters Mary Ann VanZandt and Madonna Wood; son Michael; 1 brother; 2 grandsons. Survivors include daughter Sandy; son John; 10 grandchildren.

Dennis, Arlene, b. Sept. 27, 1946. d. Mar. 14, 2016. Member of Cheyenne Church. Survivors include daughter Brenda Cherry; son Brian; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren.

Dunn, Arnold "Gene," b. Oct. 21, 1941 in Protom, MO. d. Mar. 9, 2016 in Protom, MO. Member of Branson East Church. Preceded in death by wife Margy; 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Kerry Wood and Robin Cox; sons Bradley Dunn and Jeff Shipley; 6 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild. Served in U.S. Navy.

Dunn, Mary Lou, b. May 28, 1925 in Glendale, CA. d. Jan. 30, 2016 in Longmont, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by husband James. Survivors include daughters Janette McKinny and Julie Thompson; 1 brother; 4 granddaughters; 1 great-grandson.

Farmer, Billy, b. Jan. 8, 1946. d. Apr. 8, 2016. Member of Sedalia (MO) Church.

Goodwin, Sharon, b. Apr. 1, 1943. d. Apr. 8, 2016. Member of Sioux City (IA) Church.

Graham, Robert E., b. Mar. 18, 1918 in Boone, IA. d. Oct. 30, 2015 in Greeley, CO. Member of Greeley Church. Preceded in death by wife Hazel. Survivors include son Lowell; 2 granddaughters; 4 great-grandchildren.

Hansen, Martha E., b. Jan. 6, 1922 in Biwabik, MN. d. Feb. 10, 2016 in St. Paul, MN.

Herrera, Helen R., b. July 9, 1927. d. Jan. 17, 2016 in Colorado Springs, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Preceded in death by husband Joe; son Robert; all siblings. Survivors include daughters Linda Armijo, Carol Turner, Louella Day, Joann Turner and Dorothy Herrera; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Keller, Jack, age 98. d. July 13, 2015. Member of Independence (MO) Church.

Kliethermes, Mary, b. Feb. 26, 1924 in Bixby, SD. d. Feb. 3, 2015 in Jefferson City, MO. Member of Jefferson City Church. Preceded in death by husband Benjamin; 8 siblings. Survivors include daughter Sandra Sue Stovall; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Koh, Jeong-rye, b. Sept. 1, 1931. d. Dec. 25, 2015. Member of Rocky Mountain Korean Church.

Krug, Vernon L., b. Sept. 30, 1927. d. Apr. 12, 2016. Member of Wichita South Church.

Lambert, Daniel, b. Apr. 18, 1961 in Denver, CO. d. June 21, 2015 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Fruita Church. Survivors include wife Cindy; daughter Samantha; sons Chad Roberts, Jeff and David Lambert; 7 grandchildren; 6 siblings.

Liggett, William "Bill" H., b. Jan. 30, 1937 in Excelsior, MN. d. July 7, 2015. Member of Fairbury (NE) Church. Survivors include wife Elizabeth "Jeanie"; children Bill Bergstrom, Cari Cloud, Cori Bryne, Donna Quintana and Tina Taylor; 5 siblings; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Served in U.S. Army.

Nagurski, Duane L., age 69. d. Jan. 7, 2016. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include 3 siblings.

Pettis, Ima Jean, b. Apr. 13, 1930. d. Dec. 11, 2015. Member of Nucla Church.

Rogers, Ruth, b. July 5, 1926. d. Mar. 20, 2016. Member of Columbia (MO) Church.

Schnacker, June, b. June 3, 1934. d. Feb. 1, 2016. Member of Chapel Haven Church. Preceded in death by husband Lyle; daughter Vicki. Survivors include daughters Lynn Olson, Teresa Robbins, Judy Stoecklein, Joanie Fuller and Robin Winkleblack; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Schultz, Eleanor S., b. Feb. 15, 1922. d. Sept. 18, 2015. Member of St. Paul Eastside Church. Preceded in death by parents; 3 siblings. Survivors include numerous family and friends.

Springer, Charles C. Jr., b. Jan. 27, 1929 in Lamar, CO. d. Mar. 19, 2015 in Montrose, CO. Member of Lamar Church.

Springer, Louella, b. July 7, 1935 in Dadeville, MO. d. July 12, 2015. Member of Lamar Church.

St. Clair, Lavern, b. Dec. 31, 1940 in Wapato, WA. d. Dec. 26, 2015 in Durango, CO. Member of Durango Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister. Survivors include wife Beverly; daughters Tami Backus and LaDale Rein; stepson JP Perino Jr.; 7 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Villars, Helen E., b. Dec. 15, 1922 in Little Rock, AR. d. Aug 25, 2015 in Golden Valley, MN. Preceded

in death by husband Charles; son Robert. Survivors include children James, Gerald, Jeffrey, Dwight and Kathryn Brown; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren. Member of Westview Church. Served the Church's Sunshine Ministry.

West, Willard, b. May 8, 1942 in Lawson, CO. d. Dec. 26, 2015 in Holly, CO. Member of Lamar Church. Preceded in death by wife Doris; 1 grandson. Survivors include son John; 3 siblings; 2 grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter.

Whitson, Henrietta M., b. July 3, 1927 in Rural Altoona, KS. d. Feb. 20, 2016 in Chanute, KS. Member of Thayer Church. Preceded in death by husband Lamar; daughter Karen Sue Varnell; 4 siblings. Survivors include sons Lamar Jr., Danny, Donald, Dennis and Gerald; 13 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 5 step-great-grandchildren; 32 foster children.

Wilcox, Diane, b. Oct. 22, 1950 in Shenandoah, IA. d. Feb. 8, 2016. Member of Council Bluffs Church. Preceded in death by parents; 1 brother. Survivors include husband Ernie; sons Larry and Christopher Larsen; 6 siblings; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Williams, Gordon W., b. July 4, 1921 near Eaton, CO. d. Sept. 17, 2015 in Crawford, NE. Member of Crawford Church. Preceded in death by 3 brothers; 2 grandsons. Survivors include wife Marguerite; daughter Janeta Barkley; son Rocky; 4 granddaughters; 9 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-granddaughter.

Williamson, Jon, b. Oct. 6, 1968 in Des Moines, IA. d. Feb. 27, 2016 in Des Moines, IA. Member of Des Moines Church. Preceded in death by mother. Survivors include 1 sister.

Zerbe, Verda M., b. Feb. 9, 1940 in Lewellen, NE. d. Aug. 22, 2015 in Crawford, NE. Member of Crawford Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include 6 siblings.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email Raschelle Hines at raschelle@outlookmag.org. Questions? 402.484.3012.

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Gospel music recording artist LoLo Harris is currently accepting ministry requests for concerts, evangelism, AYS, retreats, conventions and more for 2016 and 2017. For more information, CDs and more visit www.LoLoHarris.com, call 937.545.8227 or write to PO BOX 492124, Atlanta, GA 30349.

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Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural Oklahoma setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Call Bill Norman 405.208.1289.

The Clergy Move Center at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is the way to move from one state to another! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 15 years, quality is inherent. Contact a Move Counselor for an estimate: 800.248.8313, sda@stevensworldwide.com, www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.

The Wildwood Lifestyle Center can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 1.800.634.9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

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EMPLOYMENT

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) seeks full-time religion faculty to teach undergraduate and graduate levels. Optimal candidate will be Adventist with Christian worldview who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an earned Ph.D. degree in religion, theology, or ethics, preferably with an emphasis in bioethics; has a strong history of teaching and scholarship. Send CV to Ernest Bursej at ernie.bursej@adu.edu.

Adventist World Radio seeks Donor Relations Director. Key roles include major donor cultivation, donor segmentation, planned giving outreach, and future capital campaign management. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send resume to AWR President Dowell Chow, chowd@gc.adventist.org.

Adventist World Radio seeks Maintenance Director for Guam station. Key roles include upkeep of buildings, vehicles, and grounds. HVAC certification preferred. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send resume to Kent Sharpe, sharpek@gc.adventist.org.

La Sierra University announces available tenure-track faculty positions in Computer Science, a growing department with expanded curriculum; Biochemistry, as it moves toward ASBMB accreditation; and Physics, a strong teaching & scholarship program. Visit goo.gl/llBpwF for more details.

Pacific Union College's Nursing and Health Sciences Department seeks full time and adjunct nursing faculty. Ideal candidates will possess master's degree in nursing or related field, current RN license, and meet CA BRN eligibility requirements. For more information or to apply call 707.965.6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

Southwestern Adventist University's Department of Music seeks Director of Orchestral Studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Preferred candidate will hold doctoral degree, be an accomplished string performer, and have professional experience as a conductor. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall: jwall@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University's Math & Physical Sciences Department seeks highly motivated individual to teach combination of statistics, upper-level mathematics and/or general physics. Doctoral degree preferred; master's degree considered. Send CV and copy of transcripts to Dr. Amy Rosenthal: arosenthal@swau.edu.

TRAVEL/RENTALS

Draw closer to the Creator of earth and sky by dwelling between them in the quietness and beauty of the mountains above Moab, Utah. Our Eagle's Nest cabin offers amazing views and sleeps 4-12. Access to Arches and Canyonlands national parks. Reservations: www.morris-last-resort.com/eaglesnest, 888.820.8525.

Israel tour with Pastor Jim Gilley and friends, Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 (\$3,099) or Nov. 28 - Dec. 6 (\$2,499). Rates include all tips, taxes, air from New York (other departure cities available), and daily breakfast and dinner buffets. Call Jennifer at 602.788.8865 or Pastor Jim at 530.368.3301.

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EVENTS

6-day Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy Workshop: July 31-Aug. 5 at Andrews University. For details visit andrews.edu/go/nrhw, email janinec@andrews.edu or call 269.471.3541.

Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary, Oct 7-9. Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. For

more information email alumni@gnyacademy.org, find us on Facebook at Greater Nya, or call 718.639.1752.

Madison College Alumni Homecoming, June 24-26 at Madison Academy. For more information contact Jim Culpepper at 615.415.1925.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend, Sept. 16-17. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited. Honor Classes: '36, '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St, Nevada, IA. For more information contact Allayne Petersen Martsching: 402.312.7368, allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Plainview Academy "Last Blast" Alumni Reunion, June 24-26 at Dakota Adventist Academy. Due to age, health issues and long travel distances this will be the final official organized PVA reunion. For more information contact PVA Alumni VP Everett Schlisner at 706.463.2861, or PVA Alumni Treasurer Lloyd Binder at 605.577.6280.

Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 7-8 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '77, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12. For more information call 701.258.9000 x236 or visit www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

Worship with us at Yellowstone National Park every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services at 10 am in employee recreation hall connected to Old Faithful Lodge.

NOTICES

Mission opportunity for Sabbath school groups, families or individuals! ACI (Adventist Child India) coordinates sponsors for Adventist children in India to attend school. \$420 (\$35/mo) will provide tuition, lodging, food, books, clothing and medical for a child for one year. Visit www.acichild.com for more info or contact Charlene Binder at rdbinder42@gmail.com.

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
	Denver	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:32
Grand Junction	8:31	8:36	8:40	8:42	8:44	
Pueblo	8:13	8:18	8:21	8:24	8:25	
IOWA						
Davenport	8:26	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:40	
Des Moines	8:39	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52	
Sioux City	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:05	9:07	
KANSAS						
Dodge City	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05	
Goodland	8:04	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:17	
Topeka	8:39	8:44	8:48	8:51	8:52	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	8:51	8:57	9:02	9:05	9:06	
International Falls	9:03	9:10	9:15	9:19	9:20	
Minneapolis	8:49	8:55	8:59	9:02	9:03	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:25	8:31	8:34	8:37	8:38	
Kansas City	8:35	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:48	
St. Louis	8:16	8:21	8:25	8:28	8:29	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	8:49	8:54	8:58	9:01	9:02	
North Platte	9:06	9:11	9:15	9:18	9:19	
Scottsbluff	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:25	9:32	9:37	9:40	9:41	
Fargo	9:10	9:16	9:21	9:24	9:25	
Williston	9:42	9:49	9:54	9:57	9:58	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:15	9:21	9:25	9:28	9:29	
Rapid City	8:25	8:31	8:36	8:39	8:40	
Sioux Falls	8:57	9:03	9:08	9:11	9:12	
WYOMING						
Casper, WY	8:34	8:39	8:43	8:46	8:48	
Cheyenne, WY	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:36	
Sheridan, WY	8:43	8:49	8:53	8:56	8:57	

CORRECTION



This photo appeared in the April issue with an article about Women's Ministries. It was actually taken at a Family Life hat and glove tea sponsored by the Sharon Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

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Legal Notice of the Eighth Session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the eighth session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held September 11, 2016 at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. This regular session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports, electing officers, adopting a constitution and bylaws, and transacting such business as may properly come before the session. The meeting will convene Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm. The delegates to this session are the regularly elected delegates from the conferences and institutions in the territory of the Mid-America Union Conference.

Gary Thurber, president

Gil F. Webb, vice president for administration

Legal Notice of the Quinquennial Session of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists, legal corporations, the regular business session will be held at the time of the eighth business session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting of the associations will convene Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees, receive reports and to transact business that may be properly come before the corporation at that time. The members of these associations are the accredited delegates in attendance at the meeting of the Mid-America Union Conference Session.

Gary Thurber, president

Troy Peoples, vice president for finance



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