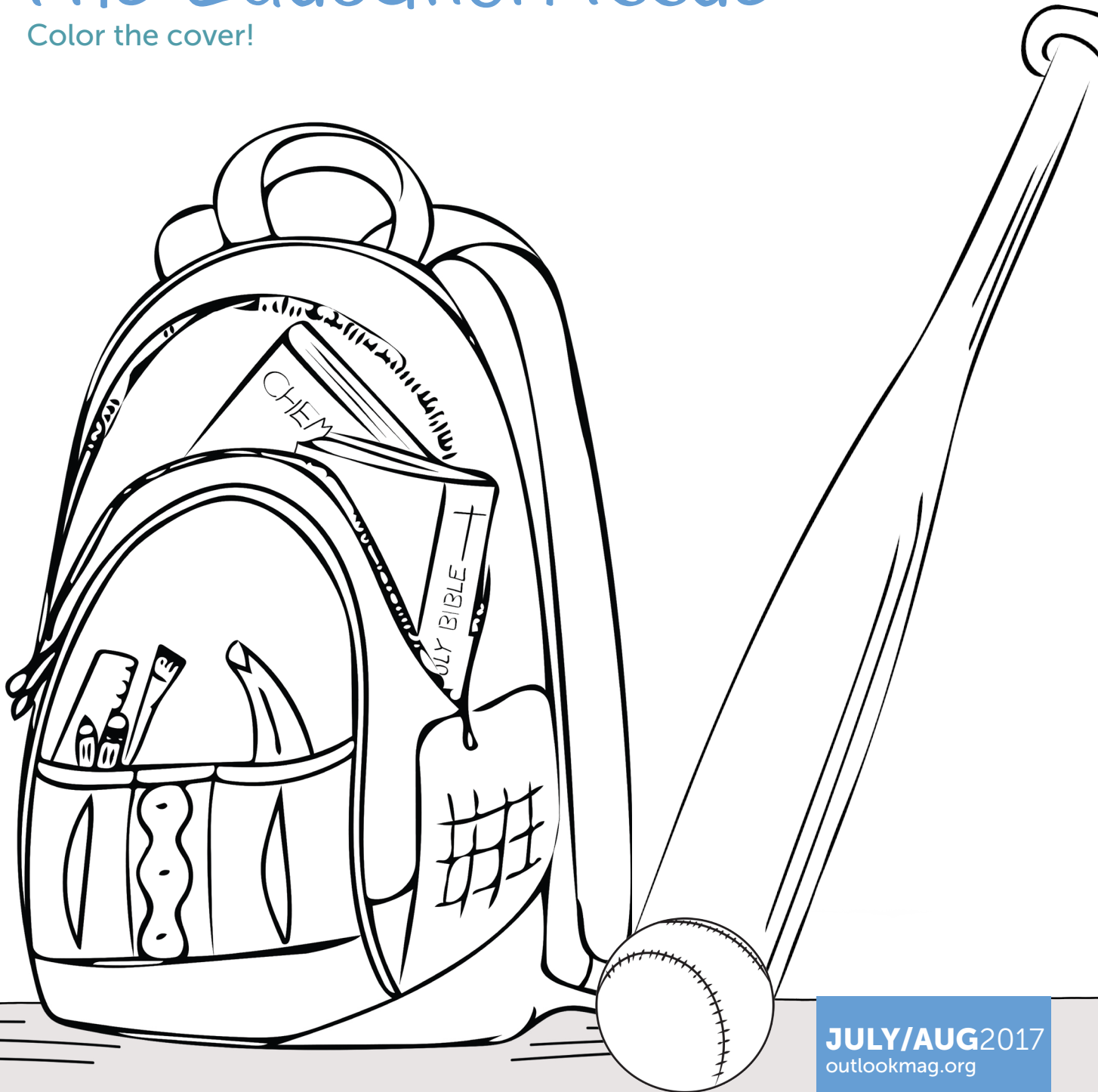


OUTLOOK

The Education Issue

Color the cover!





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THE ENVIABLE CHOICE



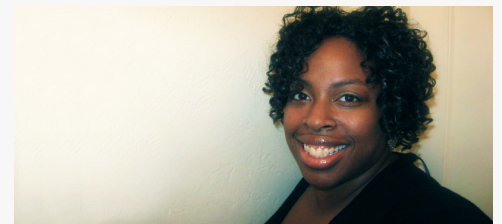
GIL WEBB
VP for administration

“...Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15).

After sharing the history of God’s protection and provisions for His people, Joshua presented this powerful challenge to the tribes of Israel. It is significant that Joshua set the example for them by firmly making the choice for his family to dedicate their lives in service to God.

In these days of chaos, corruption, immoral maneuvering and political posturing, the call to make right choices is still paramount. Making right choices starts at home and migrates to the school. Therefore, it is crucial for our children to be in academic environments where value is placed on living daily in favor with God and developing strong family ties and lifelong friendships. In Seventh-day Adventist schools, students are encouraged at all grade levels to choose to serve the Lord with all their heart and to remain in an ongoing relationship with Jesus—the only means of salvation.

OUTLOOKmag.org
NEWS AND INSPIRATION



Ms. Anderson Goes to Washington
bit.ly/prayingfordc



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The Education Issue

Color the cover!



ON THE COVER

This August approximately 2,200 students will be enrolling in 70 elementary and seven secondary schools around the Mid-America Union to receive a Christ-centered, uniquely Adventist education.

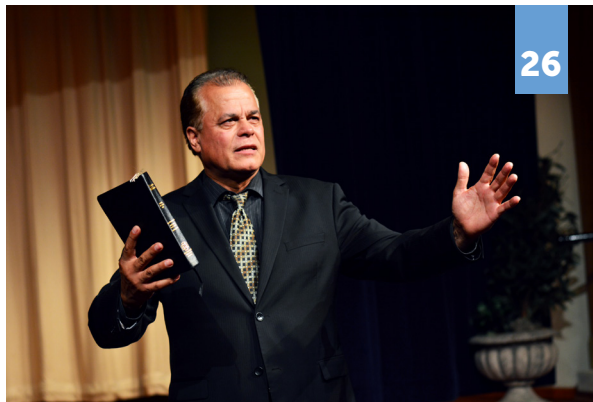
Illustration by Brennan Hallock



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MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE

President

Gary Thurber

VP for Administration

Gil F. Webb

VP for Finance

Troy Peoples

Communication

Brenda Dickerson

Education

LouAnn Howard

Human Resources

Raylene Jones

Ministerial

Mic Thurber

Youth/Church Ministries

Hubert Cisneros

midamericaadventist.org

OUTLOOK STAFF

Editor: Brenda Dickerson

Digital Media Manager:

Pablo Colindres-Moreno

Designer/Ad Manager:

Brennan Hallock

outlookmag.org

CONFERENCE NEWS EDITORS

Central States

Brittany Winkfield

communications@central-states.org

central-states.org

913.371.1071

central-states.org

Dakota

Jacque Biloff

jbiloff@icloud.com

701.751.6177

dakotaadventist.org

Iowa-Missouri

Randy Harmdierks

rhardierks@imsda.org

515.223.1197

imsda.org

Kansas-Nebraska

Stephanie Gottfried

sgottfried@ks-ne.org

785.478.4726

ks-ne.org

Minnesota

Savannah Carlson

scarlson@mnsda.com

763.424.8923

mnsda.com

Rocky Mountain

Rajmund Dabrowski

rayd@rmcsda.org

303.733.3771

rmcsda.org

UNION COLLEGE

Ryan Teller

ryteller@ucollege.edu

402.486.2538

ucollege.edu

"Sometimes the church's outreach is not thousands of miles away but right here at home."

—p. 8



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Preparing Today's Students

Each time I watched Jane* at recess I knew she was in the right place.

LOUANN HOWARD
is director of education for the Mid-America Union.



I remember the first time I met Jane.* She was in the third or fourth grade, although she was tall for her age and could easily have been mistaken for a sixth or seventh grader. I was a new superintendent visiting her small two-teacher school.

During recess I began to recognize that Jane wasn't like the other learners. There was a kickball game going on in the gymnasium and I watched from an upstairs window. When it was Jane's turn to kick the ball, she shied away from it as it approached and would not even try to kick. Yet no one yelled at her or made fun of her, which impressed me.

The rest of my time visiting the school I watched Jane and noticed she struggled in most of her subjects. But she had the sweetest smile! In my mind I can still see her smiling. It seemed like her smile was always there. And it was clear she loved Jesus.

The teacher and I talked about how to help Jane, since she was not demonstrating normal academic growth. We discussed the possibility of having her tested through the public school so we would know exactly what services she needed. We were not even sure we could provide her with the assistance she needed to succeed. But the teacher began discussing with Jane's parents our desire for further testing, and after some time the parents agreed and began the process of requesting testing through the local public school.



The results showed that Jane would probably never learn more than basic life skills and she would be better served attending a small school than attending public school. After talking with her parents, everyone agreed Jane would continue in school but normal academic gains would not be expected. Jane would be encouraged to socialize and learn at her own pace.

Every time I visited Jane's school I watched for signs she was learning. The teacher patiently worked with her and created an inclusive classroom environment (before that term was even used) where Jane could experience success. While this was not a perfect school, in general all classroom learners respected and encouraged one another. It was a fun place to visit. Each time I watched Jane at recess I knew she was in the right place when I saw her kick the ball and run to first base with her teammates encouraging her and showing her where to run.

REACH resources

Jane's teacher did not have the resources we have today.

Adventist educators today can utilize the REACH website and manual (reach.adventisteducation.org) for resources to make a difference in the lives of students with learning differences. They know they can differentiate instruction, provide minimal supports and create an inclusive classroom which allows all learners—including those with learning differences—to succeed.

While there are times where a learner may be better served in a different environment, Adventist teachers know that with supportive parents, pastors, church members and administrators, and with Divine guidance, most learners' physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs can be met in the classroom.

Jane's teacher did what dedicated Adventist teachers have done for years—she created an environment where learners are prepared for service here on this earth and in the New Earth to come. **0**

LouAnn Howard is director of education for the Mid-America Union.

*not her real name

Meeting the Needs of Early Learners

From its inception, the Seventh-day Adventist educational system was based on the idea that children would remain in the home where their parents were their first teachers to prepare them spiritually, socially and academically until they reached an age of 6, 7 or 8 and began attending elementary school. Outside urban areas, this model also dominated the United States until 1965.

When President Johnson created federal funding for Head Start, which served 3- and 4-year-olds, the early childhood education movement in the United States began. In the 1960s only 10 percent of the nation's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in a classroom setting. However, by 2005 over 800,000 children (69 percent of 4-year-olds) nationwide participated in some type of state or private preschool program.

The annual increase in enrollment in preschool programs throughout the years is due to higher maternal employment rates, national anti-poverty initiatives and research showing the link between early childhood experiences and the brain development of young children. These combined factors have caused the rate of attendance in preschool programs to grow each year.

In the 1970s the Seventh-day Adventist Church began to look at the opportunity to serve this growing population—not only to have a program designed to align with the

faith of their own members, but also as a ministry to the broader communities for parents who were interested in a faith-based alternative to secular programs. Several Adventist colleges began offering an early childhood associate degree to provide leaders and teachers for the early childhood programs being created by churches and schools across the North American Division.

Safe haven for growth

In the Iowa-Missouri Conference we have two early childhood education programs, each of which serves mostly community students. In Rolla, Missouri, the Stepping Stones Preschool and Infant Center enrolls several Muslim children whose Middle East family members study at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. These parents expressed a desire to have their children attend our Christian preschool because they know their children will not be served foods that violate their dietary practices—only vegetarian meals are served each day. The parents also feel it is a safe place for their children where they will not be looked down upon or harassed for their faith.

In Columbia, Missouri, the parents of College Park Christian Preschool students are very happy to have their children in a program with a spiritually-focused curriculum. Some prospective parents preregister their child

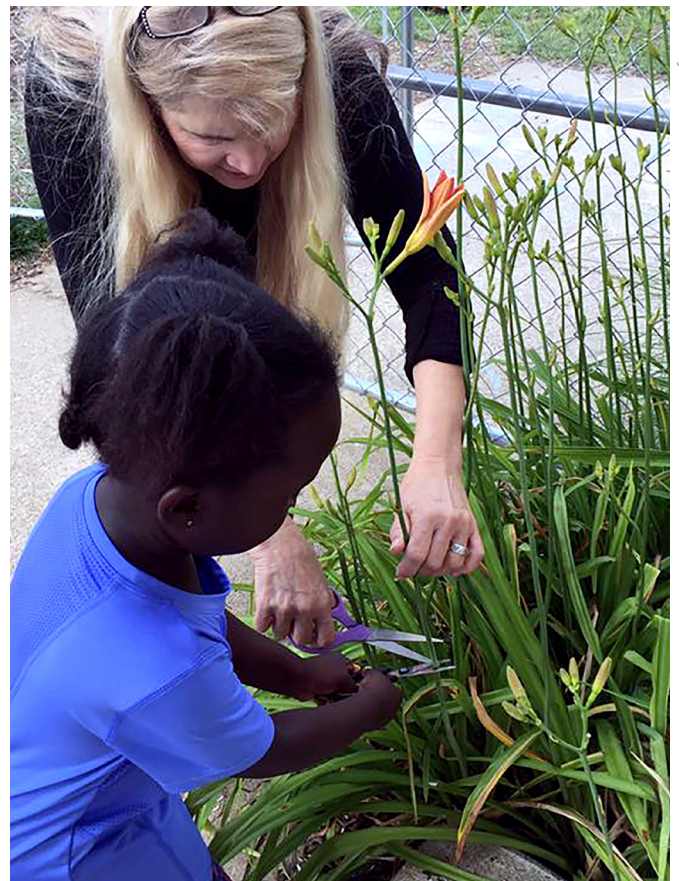
as soon as they know they are expecting, to make sure their child has a spot in this Christ-centered preschool.

One great resource that can be used by all preschools in the NAD has been developed and provided by Florida Hospital and the NAD since 2015. The CREATIONkids curriculum provides guidance for creating engaging environments; facilitating learning and growth of young children; meeting the needs of the whole child; assessing progress and individualizing instruction and experiences; encouraging spiritual, personal and professional growth for teachers; and connecting the families, the

church and the community. CREATIONkids is designed to address the spectrum of learning styles and incorporates activities that allow children to use all their senses.

Every day in early childhood education programs, year in and year out, spiritual seeds are being tenderly planted in young hearts and minds. Only the future will reveal the results of that harvest. **0**

Joe Allison is superintendent of education for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.



Courtesy Joe Allison

Caring Heart Awards

2016-17



MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY

Carlie Hanson

Carlie Hanson is a four-year senior who is not only a leader on campus but a friend to all. She has a heart for service.

Carlie has been involved with campus ministries and has served as a resident assistant for two years. Carlie lives her life for Jesus every day through her kind smile, giving heart and Christian example.



DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Hannah Chin

Hannah Chin is always looking to help spread the Word of God. She looks for ways to lend a helping hand and improve the spirit of the school. She is a hardworking student who strives to do her best. No matter when or where you see her, she always has a smile on her face and is ready and willing to help a fellow student.

Hannah has a love for drawing and writing, which she uses to express her thoughts and ideas. She hopes to eventually have her own Bible or English classroom in which to share her passion for Christ.



COLLEGE VIEW ACADEMY

Alyssa Lambrecht

Alyssa Lambrecht was chosen by the faculty and staff at College View Academy to receive the Caring Heart Award because she exemplifies the true meaning of Christian love.

Alyssa has a passion for helping others. She spent her Spring Break serving the homeless in Portland, Oregon, has taken initiative to involve everyone in school programming as the student association president, and volunteers with the College View Church youth group to serve the community through free babysitting, birthday parties for homeless children, purchasing food for a family in desperate need and more.

Each school year, senior academies in the North American Division select a junior or senior student with a strong citizenship record, a personal commitment to witnessing and service, and an overall positive influence on their campus to receive a \$500 scholarship, a plaque and an engraved Bible.



MIDLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY

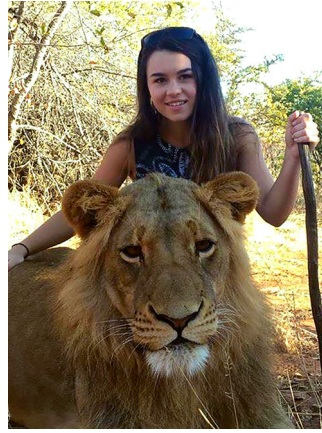
Estibaliz Vasquez

Estibaliz “Esti” Vasquez was chosen to receive the Caring Heart Award because of her servant heart. Esti has served as pastor of her class, and this year was the spiritual student leader on campus, planning weekly chapels and organizing Power Up Weekend.

Esti’s bilingual skills have been a blessing as she has graciously helped parents, students and staff communicate more effectively.

Esti is active in her local church as well, serving in various capacities.

Esti plans to attend Walla Walla University in the fall and major in mechanical engineering.



CAMPION ACADEMY

Rayna Williams

A four-year senior and top student in her class, Rayna Williams was chosen to receive the Caring Heart Award because she has demonstrated an outstanding personal commitment to service and witnessing activities during her time at Champion Academy.

Rayna has worked as a literature evangelist, traveled with at least five mission trips (including one to Africa) and set an amazing example by finding Jesus through these activities.

Rayna Williams embodies Champion’s mission for its students: to find Jesus and share Jesus.

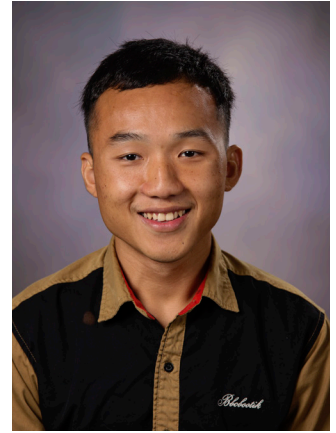


MILE HIGH ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Derwin Suyatno

Derwin shows his caring through school and church involvement. He is assistant youth director at his church and class pastor at Mile High. His true mission is making sure everyone hears about Jesus and has the chance for heaven. He has a heart for ministry that extends daily to his peers through prayer, encouragement and a willingness to lead out in worships. He is always there when students need someone to talk with them.

At MHA, one of our main focuses is Christ-centered living, and Derwin demonstrates this daily.



SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

K Paw Soe

K Paw Soe has attended Sunnysdale Adventist Academy for two years and was chosen to be this year’s recipient of the Caring Heart Award.

K Paw is originally from Myanmar (formerly Burma). He was voted the most friendly person in the senior class.

K Paw plans to become a pastor after high school. His favorite Bible verse is 2 Cor. 5:7: “For we live by faith, not by sight.”

Adventist Education and

One family's challenges and dreams for the future

OUTLOOK editor Brenda Dickerson interviews Dr. Cindy Bracken-Schwagerman, mother and homeschooling teacher of a special needs child.

Please share your family's background and struggle with educating your daughter.

Our family lives in a small rural community outside Kansas City, Missouri. My husband, **Bill**, is an engineering project manager and I was an animal science professor at a local university. I became a full-time homemaker after our daughter **Emaline**, now almost 10 years old, was born with Down syndrome (Ds) and the heart defect Tetralogy of Fallot.

We have a small acreage with a few animals and raised-bed gardens. We love living in the country, but the distance from a city with resources for a child with a cognitive disability can be problematic.

Before our daughter was born we considered either enrolling her in our local Adventist school or homeschooling. After the Ds diagnosis, we were not sure what the best schooling option would be, as now we had a child who required intensive interventions with speech, occupational and physical therapy. While there are good resources available in Kansas City,

accessing those resources increased the demands on our already strained finances and scheduling.

When it was time for Emaline to start school we enrolled her, reluctantly, in our local public school. We felt we did not have the skills to homeschool her and the local Adventist school did not have the personnel resources to take on a student who would require a one-on-one adult paraprofessional.

It was a difficult decision to say the least. To ease the transition we kept her in kindergarten two years, which was wonderful. The special education teachers, as well as her kindergarten teacher, were well trained and knew just how to accommodate her needs.

As she progressed into first and second grade the quality of her educational experience began to drop significantly and we knew we had to pull her out of the public school system. Unfortunately, enrolling her in our local Adventist school was still not an option and we were left with homeschooling for third grade.

Homeschooling has been a significant change for our family, with its challenges and rewards. Our daughter is now reading at a low first grade level, which probably would not have happened if she was still enrolled in public school. On the down side, she no longer has

access to activities such as choir—one of her favorite activities in school.

We would like to find a way to access that activity through our local Adventist school, but we haven't yet. It is discouraging, to say the least. Because most Adventist schools (especially in rural areas or with low enrollment) don't have the necessary resources, our daughter and other students with developmental and cognitive disabilities will not, for the foreseeable future, be able to receive an Adventist education.

What are some solutions to the challenges of providing Adventist education for students with special needs?

1. Make sure college students who are pursuing education degrees at Adventist colleges are receiving adequate courses about educating children with special needs. I would like to see at least a special education minor, if not a major, available.
2. Increase church members' education and awareness of needs. In our area, we have a local Down Syndrome Guild that provides educational and awareness information. Additionally, the internet offers a wealth of information regarding even the rarest of

Sometimes the church's outreach is not thousands of miles away but right here at home giving a helping hand to members with special needs children—a mission that can also be extended to families in our community.

Special Needs Students

conditions. Because the Adventist community has a relatively low population of children with developmental and cognitive disabilities, most Adventists are simply unaware of the needs and challenges. For example, Christian Record Services has done a wonderful job of making people aware of the needs of those who are visually impaired or blind. It is time for the church to expand on their work to include disabilities of many types.

3. Create infrastructure. Either build or remodel existing facilities to accommodate and educate children with special needs.
4. Provide financial support from all levels: General Conference, North American Division, union, local conference and local church.

What's your vision for expanding Adventist education for developmentally challenged students?

For children with disabilities who are high school

Bill Schwagerman and his wife, Dr. Cindy Bracken-Schwagerman, are exploring every option for giving their daughter Emaline the best possible education.

age, I would like to see an Adventist school placed in each region of North America that is dedicated strictly to educating special needs students. Yes, this goes against the current trend of "inclusive" education, but many students with disabilities just don't fare well once they reach middle and high school ages. Schools dedicated to educating only students with disabilities can place learners in classes based upon developmental progress rather than by chronological (age) cohort.

We also need in-depth curriculum and teaching modalities/methods with our Adventist values targeted for special education students. Not only

will this benefit children with special needs, but in all likelihood teachers will find this helpful for typical students who are struggling to learn certain concepts.

Finally, I believe there needs to be dialog between Adventist educators (directors, administrators, teachers, teacher's aides), parents with special needs children, and students representing several types of learning disabilities to better identify needs, teaching strategies, and expectations that can be realistically implemented. I know this is a complex issue with many facets but I believe it is something God is wanting us to address more openly and bring to greater awareness across the church. **0**

Courtesy Dr. Cindy Bracken-Schwagerman



Embracing Families with Special Needs

Give grace and support.

Unless someone lives with a special needs child on a daily basis it is difficult, if not impossible, to relate to the physical and emotional wear it causes. One common misconception is that children with Ds are loving and compliant and will readily obey. Point in fact: it is common for children with Ds to be resistant, even oppositional. Therefore, parents are most likely very tired.

Provide a parent's day or night out,

especially if there isn't extended family to help with care. A few hours break from time to time can make the difference between having a marriage that is healthy versus just coping.

Engage in annual events

such as Down Syndrome Buddy Walks, or other public special needs events to familiarize yourself with the special needs culture.

Volunteer to teach a

class on life skills needed for adulthood. A good example is healthy cooking classes that include how to safely use meal preparation equipment.

Volunteer to coach for

Special Olympics or other extracurricular sports activities to teach the importance of healthy living through exercise. Provide needed tutoring for math, reading or other subjects.



2017 COMMUNITY SERVICE & URBAN MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

Aug 12-15 : K.C. Central Church, Kansas City Missouri



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Cost:

\$20/person

ONLINE Prework

1. Go to <http://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>
2. Log in or create account
3. On the main page find the search window for courses, resources, certificates and type in "Community Service" –hit enter
4. In the courses that come up select "Community Service & Urban Ministry Certification" (Should be the first one)
5. Read through the description, watch the intro video and click on the "Enroll in the course" tab.
6. Once you're on the main page of the course look for "Modules" on the LH top of the welcome page picture in the banner. This is where you will select module #1 and then resume the course every time you return.
7. NOTE: You will be required to take a quiz at the end of every module. You must pass the quiz with a 100% before you will be allowed to take the next module. You can take the quiz as many times as needed.

The conferences will be held on Sabbath & Sunday for all interested and available parties. The conference will be repeated on Monday and Tuesday for Conference workers and those who were unable to attend on the weekend. (see dates above) The class dynamic of the conference will be fast paced and what Dr. Kwon calls the "Flipped Class Room" which provides for an "Adult Learning" structure.

Farewell, Pastor Darriel Hoy

In early April, the Nevada-Utah Conference extended a call to **Pastor Darriel Hoy** to serve as their Children's Ministry and Youth Director. After a month of prayer, fasting and weighing pros and cons, Pastor Hoy accepted their invitation and is now based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Hoy grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is one of six siblings and has a host of beautiful nieces and nephews. Hoy holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from Duke University as well as a certificate in African-American studies with an emphasis in Civil Rights Movement history. She earned a master of divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where she was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and became the first female elected president of the Black Student Association of the Seminary.

Hoy believes that "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people." As the former director of community and youth

ministries for Central States Conference, she assisted congregations with sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways. She also serves as a consultant for churches and nonprofit organizations across America, specializing in grant writing, holistic ministry and youth leadership development.

"While I'm excited for the new opportunity, my heart aches every time I think about leaving my Central States family," says Hoy. "This has been my home for the past eight years and I've been blessed as a person, pastor and leader. It's been a joy and a privilege to minister, pray, serve, agree, fight and make up with you. I think the world of each of you and pray God's very best for you! Thank you for giving so generously of your time, talent and love, and investing in our children, youth and young adults."

Hoy's ministry is rooted in God's mandate for social justice and call to serve the least of these. Before joining the Central States team, Hoy advocated for children and lobbied for legislation to help impoverished children as the Southern Regional Field Organizer of the Children's



Courtesy: Central States Conference

Pastor Darriel Hoy has accepted a call by the Nevada-Utah Conference to serve as their Children's Ministry and Youth Director in Las Vegas, Nevada. Having served in the Central States Conference for the past eight years, Hoy will be remembered for her dedication and passion.

Defense Fund. We wish her a warm farewell on her new journey as she continues to lead with passion for young people.

"I love you," says Hoy, "and

you will continue to be in my prayers."

Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

MEN AT WORK!
CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE MEN'S RETREAT
AUGUST 17-20, 2017

Pre Register Now!

www.central-states.org

One-room School Evokes Memories

Roger Boyko



Long ago, almost every American child attended classes in a single-room schoolhouse. Today, according to a 2014 CBS news report, only 200 schools in 22 states continue that tradition. The report points out that John Adams taught in a one-room school near Boston in the 1700s, Abraham Lincoln was educated in a one-room school and

Henry Ford loved his so much he had it moved to a museum in Michigan.*

Karen Boyko, of Turtle Lake, North Dakota, spent 42 years in the field of education—25 of those in administration. She taught K–6th grade and started an elementary music program in 1968, which continues to this day and for which she was recognized at the time of her retirement.

Boyko attended a one-room school for three years and says she always secretly dreamed of owning her own. Consequently, whenever she traveled Boyko collected memorabilia, which she kept in a grain bin on her farm. “I have the large George Washington bust that was in all country schools, but the Lincoln one is missing. Some things were given to me,” she says. “I created an honor roll of people who have donated things to me. One gentleman said, ‘Karen, this is the first time I have seen my name on an honor roll.’”

Then one spring her school came up for auction. “My husband **Roger** had said, ‘You are going to have to think about your antiques because we are going to be needing your grain bin this year,’” Boyko explains. “That was when Lake Williams Township Board put the school up for

bids. I was so struck by the tin ceiling inside. I knew I had to put in a bid for it.”

But Boyko admits she worried about what she would do if she got the school. She knew it would need to be relocated from its original site to their farm.

In 2002 Boyko purchased the school and hired a house mover to move it. “It took a little to get it refurbished, to make it the one-room school that it once was,” Boyko says. She acquired a potbelly stove and sandblasted and painted it.

The school is now a museum and in 2006 was opened to the public. It is open from the first of June through October every year.

Melted crayons and other history

“Turtle Lake Days, all-school reunions and special-year reunions are

The Lake Margaret #3 one-room schoolhouse, constructed in 1928, is furnished with slate boards, potbellied heater, hectograph, 1890s student desk from Holland, 1940s complete Compton's Reference Library, 48-star flag and original *Dick and Jane Big Book*.



Karen Boyko

a big time in Turtle Lake,” Boyko explains. “One of the classes had a 50th class reunion and several were there who had attended the school. They told stories of their years. One was about the coal stove. They would have to bank the stove using coal to hold the heat overnight. The students whose desks were in close proximity to the stove would find their crayons melted in the morning.”

Boyko states that the school’s furnishings bring back many memories for visitors who have been enrolled in a one-room school. Others come desiring to experience the

one-room setting. One sixth-grade class spent the entire day there and enjoyed the games of the country-school era: Kick-the-Can; Annie, Annie Over; and Simon Says.

“The courthouse burned at about the same time the [previous] schoolhouse burned, in 1927,” explains Boyko. “All school records prior to that were lost. My school was built in 1928. I feel so honored to have the records from when my school was opened until it closed in 1959, when the McClean County reorganization took place and they eliminated the country schools, as we knew them.

Lake Margaret #3 is my school. I have books from Lake Margaret #3 and Lake Margaret #2.”

Boyko says her school could be on the national record if it had not been moved from its original location. “But I am so glad to have it and be able to share it,” she adds. Boyko also observes that many of our current church schools have a culture much like a one-room school, with the philosophy of working together. “Some of the teachings students get to hear eight times if they continue through eighth grade,” she points out.

When it comes to

education, most students who have attended a one-room school consider themselves fortunate, even regarding it an advantage.* Boyko concurs. “I have never heard anything negative about going to a one-room school,” she says. “It provides a top-notch education.”

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

*Petersen, Barry. “Lessons to be learned from a one-room schoolhouse.” cbsnews.com. June 1, 2014.

Roger Boyko



Karen Boyko purchased her one-room schoolhouse in Turtle Lake, North Dakota in 2002. Since 2006 it has been a museum open to the public yearly from June through October.

Lebanon Church Hosts Baby Shower for Local Organization

Courtesy Marcia Clark



For several years the Lebanon Church has participated in the local Pregnancy Support Center's Baby Bottles fundraising campaign, an annual effort to raise funds for the center and promote the vital services it provides.

This year **Florence Dull**, the church's community services director, conceived

a creative way for the church to do more. In addition to fundraising, church members donated items the center could use to help young mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies. The church then hosted a baby shower for the center.

Lenita Davison, volunteer/fundraising coordinator for the center, and two current

clients attended the shower to receive the gifts. The clients, one about to give birth and one with a newborn at home, spoke with attendees about their experiences with the center and how support from the center made it possible for them to care for their babies and find jobs.

The Pregnancy Support Center provides spiritual direction and counseling to its young clients who may be considering abortion or who feel they have no support should they decide to keep their babies. The center also offers a way for these young women to earn necessary items for their unborn children. The gifts from the shower will go into the "Mommy Market" where clients can purchase items with points earned by attending childhood education classes and classes on budgeting,

health and other pertinent topics. Approximately 40-45 clients attend these classes weekly.

The facility also includes a maternity home called My Sister's House, where clients can live during pregnancy and for a short time after their babies are born. These young women receive assistance with transportation to and from work or school as they continue their journey toward independence.

Davison expressed her deep appreciation to the Lebanon Church for the shower and their ongoing involvement in helping ensure these vital services continue to be available to community members.

Marcia Clark is communication secretary for the Lebanon Church.

Estrella Dominguez Commissioned to Ministry

On May 20 **Estrella Dominguez**, a chaplain at Shawnee Mission Health, was recognized by the world church and formally commissioned to the gospel ministry.

Her call to ministry was affirmed by prayer and the laying on of hands in a moving ceremony held at the Ebenezer (Spanish) Church in Independence, Missouri, where Dominguez serves as head elder. She is the first female chaplain to be

commissioned in the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Dominguez will continue to serve Shawnee Mission Health as chaplain for their Birth Center, Heart & Neuro Vascular Unit and Short Stay Unit; and the Iowa-Missouri Conference as head elder of the Ebenezer Church.

Mark Stoddart is administrative director for spiritual wellness at Shawnee Mission Health.

(l to r) Peggy Wagley, Robert Wagley, Gil Webb, Patricia Webb, Estrella Dominguez, Manuel Moral, Mark Stoddart and Juan Acosta

Courtesy Mark Stoddart



Karen Rhodes Retires after 45 Years

Karen Rhodes loved school from an early age and knew she wanted to be a teacher. “I would set up a classroom and play school with the neighborhood children,” she said. “I told my first and second grade teacher I wanted to stay there day and night.”

Now, after 45 years of teaching—most of which has been in the Iowa-Missouri Conference—Rhodes has decided it’s time to retire.

Her teaching career began in Des Moines, Iowa, where she taught from 1972-1979. Rhodes then took a call to Idaho, but returned to the Iowa-Missouri Conference seven years later. She’s spent the last 31 years teaching at the Adventist school in Springfield, Missouri, making her the longest serving teacher at that school and one of the longest serving teachers at any one school in the conference.

Rhodes received a bachelor’s degree in music education from Andrews University in 1971 and, after taking some additional courses, became certified for elementary education. She went on to receive a master’s degree in curriculum

instruction from La Sierra University in 1995.

In May over 200 friends and colleagues from around the conference and beyond gathered—some coming from as far as Texas—to celebrate Rhodes’ career and wish her well as she enters this new chapter of life.

“I have had the privilege of visiting Karen’s classroom many times and always looked forward to seeing the theme she had created for her students,” said **Dr. Joe Allison**, education superintendent for the conference. “The quality of instruction she provided her kids set them on a course of academic success and spiritual growth.”

Looking back, Rhodes says what she’ll miss most about teaching is being greeted by the students as they come to school or when they see her at church. “These little people come dancing into the classroom in the morning with their eyes sparkling and their stories bubbling up inside them,” she said. “It has always been heartwarming to see their excitement when running into their teacher somewhere other than school. The greetings and hugs and

the smiles and waves from across the sanctuary during church bring a special joy.” She added that the greatest fulfillment in her career has been those moments when the light bulb went on and a student finally caught on to a particular concept.

Rhodes isn’t yet sure of her plans in retirement, but she’s looking forward to a break from early mornings and long hours, as well as the freedom to travel during the school year.

“Karen will be greatly missed by the conference, by her colleagues and by her

students,” said Allison. “Her students have gone on to be successful adults, many of whom credit their start down the path of success to the education they received from Karen. That is a recognition fitting for someone who has given so much to Adventist education.”

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

Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference



Karen Rhodes, who taught for 31 years at Springfield School, is one of the longest serving teachers at any one school in the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Pathfinders Unite for Conference Camporee

You can expect several predictable things from a Pathfinder camporee: the sound of laughter as campsites are set up, the smell of campfires burning, getting your Class A uniform right without a good mirror and the taste

of Sabbath lunch easing empty stomachs. What you don't always expect are the friendships made, the fascinating lessons learned in honor classes and the spiritual seeds God plants in your heart.

On May 5 Pathfinder clubs

from around the Kansas-Nebraska Conference met at Woodland Acres, near Seward, Nebraska, for the yearly conference camporee. It was an amazing opportunity for both the expected and unexpected joys of being a Pathfinder for the nearly 300 Pathfinders who attended.

The theme for the weekend was The Naturalist Master, focusing on the shells, marsupials, cats, palm trees and worms honors.

Sabbath afternoon included a special guest from Fontenelle Forest, a rescue organization for birds. She brought in a number of large birds including owls and falcons, and taught the Pathfinders about what her organization does to protect endangered birds. They help to heal them and to set them free again. The Pathfinders

enjoyed seeing the large birds up close, and it fit the theme for the weekend nicely.

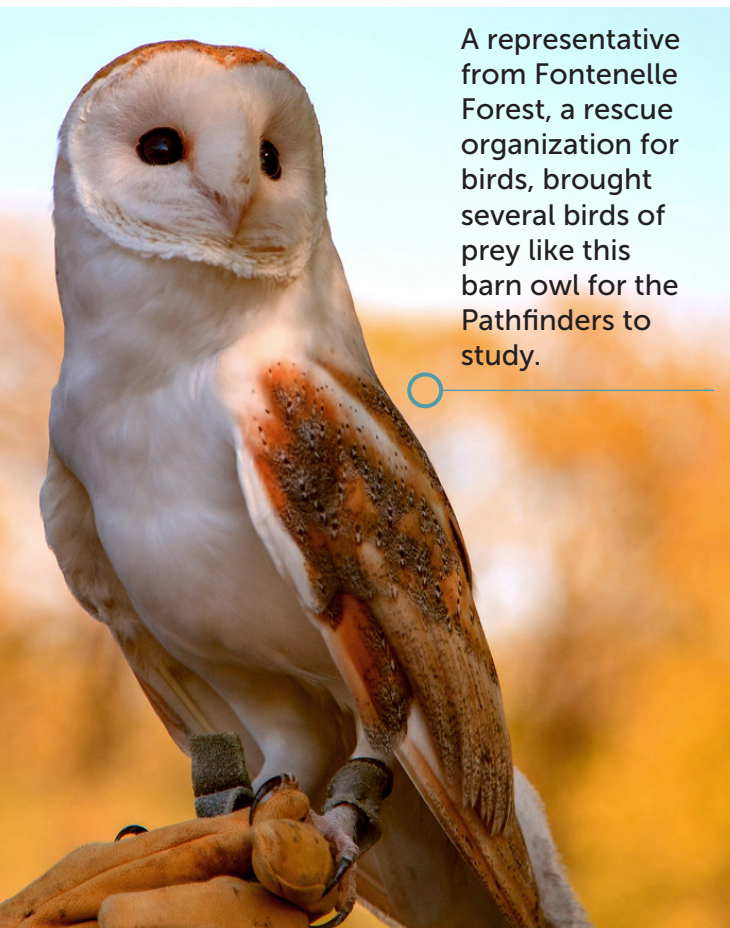
For worships, practical lessons were taught through physical activities and problem-solving games. Each game was designed to provide opportunities for the Pathfinders to see how God works in their lives, in both visible and invisible ways. After the activity, everyone discussed the lessons they observed.

This Pathfinder camporee was both fun and educational. It provided a place for the clubs to practice their camping skills and prepare for the Mid-America Union Camporee to be held in Custer, South Dakota, at the end of this summer.

Tim Floyd serves as Youth and Young Adult Director for the Kansas-Nebraska conference.

A representative from Fontenelle Forest, a rescue organization for birds, brought several birds of prey like this barn owl for the Pathfinders to study.

Photos: Tim Floyd



Nearly 300 Pathfinders gathered in May at Woodland Acres, Nebraska, for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference Pathfinder Camporee. The nature-focused theme for the weekend was The Naturalist Master.



Churches Engage in Creative Service

Connecting with our communities through outreach opportunities and evangelism is an important part of church life. Several Kansas-Nebraska churches have found ways to affect their communities for Christ.

The Fort Scott Church has partnered with several other county church groups under the umbrella of *CarePortal*. The church receives regular emails from state social workers about needs that foster children and families on social assistance are experiencing. This provides the church the option to visit those families and determine what needs the church can assist with. “The

church is enthusiastic about the prospect of one-on-one contact with those in need in our community,” says **Pastor Rod Scherencel**.

The Enterprise, Junction City and Salina districts each hosted *Shadow Empire*, a four-part video series by speaker/director **Shawn Boonstra** of *Voice of Prophecy*. Nearly 40 guests from the community attended. Many guests came early each evening to dive deeper into what they were studying. The churches are continuing on with the *Revelation Speaks Peace* video series. **Jackie DeHerrea**, member at Salina Church, requests, “Please keep our new

friends and church family in prayer as we seek the Lord and His soon coming!”

Participants at Chapel Oaks Day of Ministry organized by **Matt Crouch** served the community in several ways: yard work at Operation Wildlife (a facility that provides rehabilitation and veterinary services for injured and orphaned animals), delivering sandwiches and literature to the homeless, delivering cookies to police and firemen, and working with Scraps KC to help

children make seed bombs and Mother’s Day cards for their mothers. While groups went out to serve, some stayed behind for intercessory prayer. **Reba Lucky**, member at Chapel Oaks, shares, “We are thankful for the opportunity to serve in the community and pray God blesses our efforts.”

Photos Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



A group from Chapel Oaks Church focuses on yard work for Operation Wildlife.

Tim Floyd Ordained to Ministry

Tim Floyd realized in high school he wanted to serve youth, but his desire to help young people know Jesus better was not truly cemented until college.

Born in Topeka, Kansas, and a graduate of Union College, Floyd began his career in ministry in 2006 at Milo Adventist Academy as a religion and history teacher and as a pastor at the academy church. Soon after, he and his wife, **Teresa**, moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where Floyd worked at Mount Pisgah Academy as the chaplain and religion teacher. In 2011, they transitioned to Florida to work with young people at Forest Lake Academy as the associate chaplain and religion teacher.

Tim and Teresa joined

Kansas-Nebraska Conference in 2013, where Floyd served as an associate youth pastor at New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas. In 2016, Floyd joined the conference office to serve as Youth and Young Adult Director.

Floyd was ordained to the ministry April 29 at New Haven Church. **Ron Carlson**, the Kansas-Nebraska Conference president, gave the message, sharing the parable of the mustard seed. “The seed of God’s Word is in

every life,” explained Carlson. “It may be sitting there doing nothing, but it’s there. The best place for that person to be is in a place where God’s Word is preached and His love is shown. We provide an environment where the Word of God can sprout. Tim, you’re a minister of the Word. Use it, preach it, share it, and God will do amazing things.”

Floyd is passionate about helping youth and young adults develop an authentic

relationship with Christ. As a lifelong student and educator, he says, “I see my mission as a pastor/teacher following in the footsteps of the greatest Rabbi who ever lived—Jesus—and to teach others about our Heavenly Father while serving those around us.”

Articles on this page were written by Stephanie Gottfried, publications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Front row: Ron Carlson, Tim Floyd, Teresa Floyd and Sue Carlson. Back row: Doug Elsey, John Sweigart, Dean Carlisle, Darin Gottfried and Mic Thurber.



Men's Retreat Makes Positive Impact

Dwayne Mauk



Pastor Dustin Hall of Southview Church baptizes Robert Fast-Horse in Rice Lake at North Star Camp in northern Minnesota. The men who attended the retreat prayed together and lifted each other up as they learned more about having the life God always meant for them.

One hundred and forty-six men from the Minnesota Conference gathered at North Star Camp on Rice Lake, which is connected to a tributary of the Mississippi River, April 21-23.

The men were blessed with five messages from **Dustin Hall**, pastor of the Southview Church in Minneapolis. His title was *Reason for Being: your life was meant for so much more than what they told you.*

"The only thing God ever wanted was to be with you," Hall told the men. "God wouldn't have made you if He couldn't save you. And He didn't make anyone He couldn't save!"

On Sabbath evening, **Robert Fast-Horse** decided to

be re-baptized in Rice Lake. After the first song of the evening, the men were thrilled to hear there would be a baptism immediately following the meeting. Fast-Horse gave a short testimony, then Pastor Hall led everyone to the swimming area where Fast-Horse was baptized. It was the highlight of the weekend.

This was the 23rd annual Minnesota Men's Retreat, and the fourth year the retreat has been held at North Star Camp, which is owned and operated by the Minnesota Conference. The Men's Retreat for 2018 is scheduled for April 20-22.

Ken Mayberry is pastor of the Southwest District in Minnesota.

An advertisement for Maplewood Academy. The background shows a student sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking at a large screen displaying a video lesson. The text 'MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY' is in blue, and 'Connected Learning' is in large, stylized orange and blue letters. A quote in an orange box reads: 'ATTENDING ADVENTIST SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT. SO IS BEING WITH FAMILY.' A white text box at the bottom right contains a paragraph of text.

MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY

Connected Learning

ATTENDING ADVENTIST SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT. SO IS BEING WITH FAMILY.

Maplewood Academy Connected Learning creates an opportunity for students to experience a loving, Christian environment, make friends, connect with and learn from experienced teachers, and become an active participant in a multi-campus high school without leaving their hometown! Listed as an official North American Division Distance Learning program, Maplewood Academy offers high-quality Adventist education at rates that are affordable. For more information, and to learn how Connected Learning differs from traditional distance education programs, call 320.587.2830 or visit maplewoodacademy.org.

Maplewood Academy Celebrates Cultural Awareness

One of the best parts of my job is serving as a sponsor for Maplewood Academy's National Honor Society. Nothing touches my heart more than seeing our young people inspired to serve others and make a difference in their school and communities. In NHS, students create projects that serve needs in the community. I assist with details if needed, but these projects are ultimately their own masterpieces.

Tracy Butuna, 2016-17 senior and president of the NHS team, recently shared an idea with me. "What do you think about having an International Week at Maplewood?" she asked. "We have so many different cultures represented here we could celebrate." Maplewood Academy is very multicultural with more than 20 countries represented within our student body.

Celebrating our diversity together

Butuna's little seed of an idea burst into life. All the NHS students became involved and, before we knew it, a full week was planned. Each day celebrated different continents, and the students decorated the school to represent different cultures. The World History class made displays about countries they were studying, and the cafeteria even made special meals in honor of the event. Flags were hung in the

lobby each day to represent the cultural backgrounds of our students.

Friday was All Nations Day. Students wore culture attire to class and flags were proudly and prominently displayed in the lobby. On Sabbath 15 students, each representing different countries and dressed in their cultural clothing, marched into the Hutchinson Church carrying their flags. Together they said the Lord's Prayer, each saying a line in a different language. It was beautiful to see our students celebrating both their individuality and their connectedness. All students, with vastly different backgrounds, heritages and cultures, are woven together with the common thread of Jesus' love.

This is just one of the many projects our students are diving into. This year we have students serving at the Humane Society, visiting patients in hospitals, ringing bells for Salvation Army, serving food at blood drives, packing meals for hungry kids and raising money for causes they are passionate about. They are tackling the call to actively serve God with all of their might, and I, for one, am proud of them.

Laura Cummings is registrar for Maplewood Academy.

Photos: Stacy Stocks



The finale of Maplewood Academy's International Week took place during the church service, when 15 students marched in carrying flags representing the countries of MWA students.



Front Range Mourns Passing of Ronald Sackett

Adventist healthcare giant **Ronald L. Sackett**, 86, passed away April 14 in Louisville, Colorado.

Retired in 1998, Sackett played an outstanding role in expanding Rocky Mountain Adventist healthcare as president of Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver, Colorado, and regional vice president of Adventist Health System, Rocky Mountain Region. His long career in Adventist healthcare includes leadership at the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, Walla Walla Hospital in Washington, and Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois. Sackett also served on many denominational committees, including the Rocky Mountain

Conference Executive Committee. Those who knew him testify that Sackett's legacy as a healthcare leader is much deeper and more personal than the growth of the hospitals he led. Though he built new hospitals, expanded others and even expanded hospital systems through acquisition and planting new hospitals in population growth areas, he loved to help people grow and expand their knowledge, skills and ability to serve in larger capacities.

"Ron Sackett was an extraordinary leader whose influence in the church, in our conference and the Adventist healthcare ministry will be enshrined in Adventist history," said **Ed Barnett**,

RMC president.

"He truly was a giant and someone who leaves a legacy of deep faith and professionalism. He will be missed by the family, by his local church in Boulder and by scores of professionals who were inspired by his dedication to the Adventist health message," Barnett added.

Sackett inspired and mentored three generations of Sackett clan members in a wide variety of healthcare leadership roles, including sons **John** and **Wally**, his wife **Karen** (all hospital CEOs); his brother **Allen** and

nephew **Glenn** as chaplains and spiritual care leaders; daughters **Audrey** and **Ronda**, who have been active on boards of not-for-profit organizations; and nephews, in-laws and grandchildren, some of whom are just now developing their careers.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Glenn Sackett is a chaplain and spiritual care leader.



Ron Sackett (right) with nephew Glenn Sackett

Donna Sackett

Lee Lee Dart: First RMC Woman Lead Pastor



Rajmund Dabrowski

"This is a special day for you as we affirm Lee Lee as your lead pastor," stated **Craig Carr**, RMC ministerial director in his introduction of **Lee Lee Dart**, who The Adventure Church in Greeley, Colorado, has known for the past six years.

Carr and the congregation then surrounded Pastor Dart and prayed for her and her ministry.

"It's wonderful to work not for God, but with God," Pastor Carr added. "We are thankful to know Pastor Dart and her passion for Jesus, along with her passion for others to know Jesus."

In August 2015, Dart became RMC's first female pastor for The Adventure, a 300-member congregation in Greeley. As associate pastor, she served as minister for discipleship, overseeing small group development, spiritual growth training and mentorship for new and existing church members. As minister for worship until 2015, Dart became known for her creativity in making worship services contemporary and, "most of all, Spirit-led," as

The Adventure's former lead pastor **Mitch Williams** said.

On May 13 Dart officially became the first female lead pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference. She is one of three female pastors in the conference. Others include **Lisa Engelkemier** at Newday Christian Church in Parker and **Jessyka Albert** at Boulder Church.

"This is a very momentous occasion," said Dart. "It's interesting because I didn't have this day on my radar. I have been a woman who just wanted to serve the Lord in any way He wanted me to. He opened the doors for me and I said, 'Yes, Lord, I will answer.' And so this is the day for me to celebrate

those doors and also that opportunity."

Looking forward to her new role at The Adventure, Dart said that "obedience to God is the most important thing. When He said, 'Walk through; I walked through, and I look forward to seeing what God is going to do in the future at The Adventure through not just me, but our whole team.

"We all want to work together for the glory of God because these are the last days. His message is going out and He's saying, 'All hands on deck!'"

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

LifeSource Fellowship Builds Mile-Long Table

Danielle Cress



Dany Hernandez and **Tim Cress**, LifeSource Fellowship pastors, along with a “slew of supporters,” are creating a mile-long table for a picnic in Denver’s City Park Aug. 10. Tables often symbolize human connections and can be important and effective tools of communication, even in this era of technology. Hernandez and Cress say they want to use the table “to bring hope to the Denver area.”

Cress sees a recurring theme in his life. In April he attended the Orange Conference in Atlanta, a Christian ministry that bridges the gap between church and home for pre-school children, students and NextGen. This year’s theme was For Our Neighbors. At the Orange Conference, Cress was interviewed about plans for the record-setting table. Add to that his sabbatical project, *How to Reach Neighbors in More Practical, Down-to-Earth Ways*, and you begin to see the theme. Working on plans for the mile-long table was a natural next step in reaching out to his neighbors.

The table will seat 5,280 people from diverse backgrounds, sectors, economic levels and nationalities who

will join together for a meal around a common table. It will break down walls—socio-economic, racial, gender, denominational and political.

Thirty-three mayors from surrounding Denver neighborhoods have already committed to attending and other community leaders and members are being invited “with no thought of political party, without branding, without advertising. They’re just coming as people, as members of a community, to a common table,” says Cress.

At 5,280 feet, the table will be made up of 660 eight-foot sections. It is in the prototype stage, and will be custom built by teams of contractors. After being used for the gathering, the 660 sections will be given to neighborhoods around Denver so they can invite people in their communities to eat around the table together.

“A ton of other faith communities are helping us host this event,” says Cress. If you want to be involved, there are ways. Hosts are needed for every section of the table whose job will be to furnish and arrange the settings, provide hospitality for that section and be everything for

Tim Cress talks about the record-breaking, mile-long table planned by LifeSource Fellowship for this summer.

those guests.

A special day of prayer will happen Aug. 9, the day before the picnic, to pray for the people at the table. Churches around the area will be invited to join in prayer. Cress will provide a sermon for pastors to share with their congregations explaining the meaning behind the mile-long table and encouraging hospitality and hope in many communities. Suggestions will also be provided with ways to organize prayer groups, and small group studies will be available explaining the significance of a table.

“What if faith communities around our nation and our world decided to bring people together around common tables and have a party?” Cress asks.

It sounds a little like that extravagant meal we’ll eat together on the day all wrong will be made right and the broken will be made whole.

Carol Bolden is communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Find out about volunteer opportunities by visiting 5280table.org/volunteer-2.



2017 RMC Women’s Retreats

Aug. 26-27

Wyoming: Seaside Escape—A Study of Sarah and Hagar

Mills Spring Ranch on Casper Mountain
Contact: Rhonda McDonald
307.259.8147

Sept. 16

Colorado Metro, NE/SE: The Best Is Yet to Come

Speaker and Musician: Jaclynn Huse and daughter Shelby (age 16)
BEGINS SATURDAY NIGHT WITH FREE CONCERT at Greeley Church
EVERYONE IS INVITED (not just for women)!

Sept. 17

One-day Women’s Retreat

Pinehurst Country Club in Littleton
Contact: Ginger Bell
720.980.9006

Oct. 6-8

Colorado Western Slope: Falling in Love Again

Speaker: Darla Sherman
Mountain Top Retreat (15 miles from Montrose)
Contact: Linda Johnson
970.245.2294

New at Union College 2017

Guarantee a spot through Union's guaranteed nursing admission program

Union College 2016 nursing graduates have posted the highest NCLEX-RN first time pass rate in Nebraska.

Esther Pervis sat beside the road, waiting for the police to arrive. She wasn't involved in the accident, but she was there—offering kind words, keeping the dazed driver calm and checking scrapes for warning signs of a more serious injury. This was the third accident in the last year she'd seen, and the third time she'd pulled over to help. After all, Pervis is one of the lucky ones who have medical training to offer—she's a junior in Union College's nursing program.

A gifted student, Pervis was among the first batch of students Union accepted into their guaranteed nursing placement program in 2015. Union has now reintroduced the program as Guaranteed Nursing Admission, which opens the door for even more

incoming freshmen to be eligible.

"Most nursing schools won't consider an application until a student has completed the required prerequisite college courses—usually three semesters," said **Nicole Orian**, chair of Union College's Division of Nursing. "If for some reason a student doesn't get into nursing school, they have to wait and try the next semester. At Union, a high-performing freshman can guarantee his or her spot and know they'll go straight into the program."

While some nursing programs have two-year wait lists, Union specializes in getting students prepared and working in their field quickly. And the results show.

For the past two years, Union College nursing graduates have posted the highest

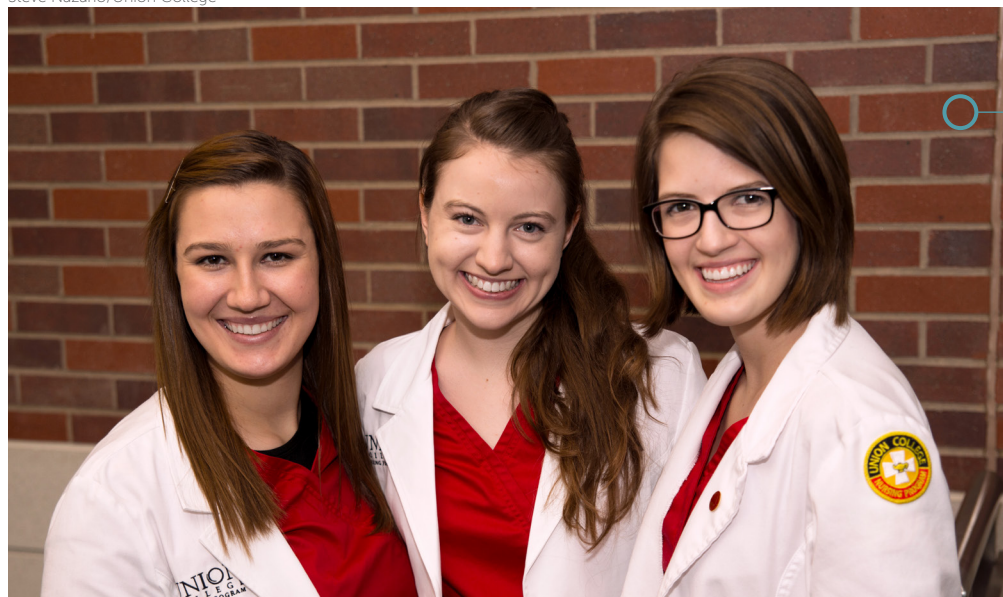
NCLEX-RN first time pass rate in Nebraska—96.07 percent in 2016. That's 10 percent higher than the U.S. average on the national licensure examination all graduates must take to become a registered nurse.

"I always wanted to come to Union," said Pervis, who liked the friendly atmosphere and close proximity to home. "But knowing I had a spot in the nursing program took away the guesswork. I didn't have to worry about whether I had made the right decision."

If you know a high school student who is inspired to make a difference in the world through nursing, has a GPA of 3.5 or above and a 24 ACT or higher (or 1650 on the SAT), encourage them to check out Union College's guaranteed nursing admission program.

Learn more at ucollege.edu/nursing/guaranteedadmission

Steve Nazario/Union College



Esther Pervis (right) with classmates Courtney Fast (left) and Sarah Pope were the first students to guarantee their spot in Union College's nursing program as freshmen.

New associate's degree focuses on video and photographic arts

The fact that you're reading this is likely because of photos or other visual elements on this page, not the words. Humans are visual creatures, and whether or not a picture is truly worth a thousand words, few people today will read even 10 words unless a visual element first grabs their attention.

With six out of 10 Americans identifying social media as a primary source of news, the power of visual communication is clearer than ever before. Posts with a compelling image have 94 percent more interaction than plain text, a fact today's communicators—from marketers to pastors and journalists—can't afford to ignore.

Union College is answering this 21st century challenge with a new minor and associate's degree in video and photographic arts.

"We believe this new program will help our communication, marketing and graphic arts students be even more competitive in a visually driven world," said **Bruce Forbes**, chair of the Division of Fine Arts.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a significant job growth rate for photographers and videographers—as much as 18 percent for film and video editors. "However, as the cost of photographic and video equipment falls, competition in these fields continues to heat up," said Forbes. "We believe multitalented communicators

who have related skills like photography, graphic design, video editing and writing will be much better positioned to succeed."

The two-year associate's degree combines photography and photo editing courses with script writing, videography and basic graphic arts classes, but Forbes believes the program is at its best as a minor combined with a four-year degree in a related field such as graphic design or communication.

"We all walk around with the equipment in our pockets to take photos and videos," he said. "In order to stand out, today's communicators have to be better trained than ever. This program will train students to create high-quality photos and video while using affordable and available equipment. It's a necessity for today's creative professionals."

Learn more at ucollege.edu/photography

Scott Cushman/Union College



New online offerings make it easier to take summer courses

For most Union College students summer is hardly a vacation. Whether on the family farm or in a high-tech internship, students work for their tuition. Because of this, Union College has resisted the trend to offer a jumpstart program which would take precious weeks out of the summer for new students. This year, the college is using technology to create better balance for students who need to work and desire to earn college credit. Two online classes are proving you can earn college credit and keep your summer job, too.

"We want to make it easier for students to take summer courses at Union College," said **Michelle Mesnard**, associate vice president for academic initiatives. "Staying on campus isn't possible for many students. Providing them a more flexible online format makes the classes accessible to a lot more students."

HIST 157, more commonly known as West and the World, is a general education requirement for most bachelor

degrees at Union College. This summer, **Dr. Ben Tynner**, associate professor of history, taught the six-week course, which focused on the contributions of major cultures in shaping the modern world.

Mike Mennard, an adjunct professor of English, taught Ancient Western Literature, a chronological look at major works of literature that influenced Western culture.

The teachers combined a regular online meeting time twice a week in Google Hangouts with a variety of resources students can access on their own time.

"Our goal is to take the best from our instructors' face-to-face teaching and add to that the benefits that come with the discussion boards and other online resources," she explained.

Mesnard says these courses will start a trend to offer more online courses, adding more flexibility for students. "We are testing the waters with two classes this summer," she said. "Our plan is to add more online classes next summer."

Ryan Teller is executive director for Integrated Marketing Communications at Union College.

Union students can now study remotely over the summer thanks to two courses offered online.

Camp Bluebird – Encouragement and Fellowship for Cancer Patients and Survivors

Sponsored by Shawnee Mission Health and financially supported by the Foundation for Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Camp Bluebird is a three-day, two-night retreat in Parkville, Missouri, for those who have endured a cancer diagnosis. The camp is open to adults and offers a supportive and educational experience amidst the beauty of nature.

While at camp, participants enjoy special speakers, crafts, horseback riding, massages, themed parties and the company and fellowship of other cancer survivors. Long-time SMH oncology nurse **Kristi Sneegas** has been instrumental in the development of Camp Bluebird over the years and knows firsthand how the camp can benefit attendees.

“Camp Bluebird provides the perfect combination of learning, listening and fun,” said Sneegas. “It is the campers and their energy, stories and new friendships that make each camp unique.”

People come to Camp Bluebird at different stages of their cancer journey, from those who are first diagnosed to those who are 20-year survivors. Each camper brings a unique perspective, and the mix creates a wonderful place where attendees are able to find others who can relate to their own personal experience with cancer.

SMH is involved in the development, promotion and funding of the biannual camp, and also provides staffing. Counselors are members of the SMH Cancer Team and include nurses, chaplains, social workers, physical therapists, care associates and volunteers.

“The Foundation for Shawnee Mission Medical Center has always been the main supporting force behind each camp,” said Sneegas. “Associates have also supported us by making financial donations, preparing food for the parties and giving their time and talents

as counselors.”

On a personal level for Sneegas, Camp Bluebird has been an extension of her nursing career. Although she has cared for many of the campers in the hospital, the event serves as an opportunity for her to touch the lives of patients outside the clinical environment.

“At Camp Bluebird, we celebrate life as a family by trying new things and challenging each camper to embrace life, learn from others and share experiences,” said Sneegas. “It is a blessing to see patients who were acutely ill now dancing with their new friends. It always puts my priorities in perspective.”

Those who have experienced a cancer diagnosis know how terrifying the news can be. When asked to provide advice for recently diagnosed patients, Sneegas offered the following tips:

- Don't sweat the small stuff, but educate

yourself and take control of your illness.

- Celebrate the blessings, both small and large, that will pour upon you.
- Do not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone to join others who are walking along your same path.

Camp Bluebird celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. The name Camp Bluebird originated from a project to protect bluebirds in North America, which are a symbol of hope for many cancer patients. During camp, each participant has the opportunity to build a bluebird house to assist with this national endeavor.

Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

Learn more by emailing campbluebirdkc@gmail.com or visiting bit.ly/campbluebird.

Photos Courtesy Shawnee Health



Creating a Culture of Health

It's one thing to talk about being healthy. It's another thing altogether to put healthful living into practice. But that's exactly what employees of the five Denver-area Adventist hospitals are doing.

Recent internal survey results reveal that employees of the Adventist hospitals of Colorado overwhelmingly approve of the culture of health that characterizes Adventist Health System. In fact, the survey shows a whopping 93 percent of employees are currently attempting lifestyle changes—an outstanding testament to the lifestyle messages the organization is sharing with its employees. This year, each campus actively seeks to improve its employees' health by encouraging participation in the "Activity" component of the CREATION Health model.

"Being active is a cornerstone of being healthy," says **Dr. Eric Shadle**, director of Community Health and CREATION Health for the Denver area Adventist Hospitals. "That's why we are looking at innovative ways to encourage our employees to engage in healthy activities on a regular basis. In

addition to the immediate health benefits of activity, we believe it increases employee engagement and retention over time."

Survey respondents from the various hospital campuses have shared creative lifestyle improvement suggestions. Many of those suggestions are already being implemented as a result of the study. Hospital administrators continually explore better ways to make exercise accessible and fun. It may be as simple as scheduling short work-break options that allow employees to get their hearts pumping by walking on campus pathways or by starting meetings with stretching exercises and light calisthenics. The idea is to keep employees moving to counteract negative health impacts that accompany a

sedentary lifestyle.

The Adventist hospitals' internal emphasis on healthful, active living has been well received by employees from a wide variety of faith backgrounds. Most seem to appreciate having spirituality incorporated into the healthy lifestyle mix. They support the hospital system's emphasis on preventive health as an aspect of fulfilling its healing mission.

"We have made a huge amount of progress in the area of modeling healthy lifestyle choices in the lives of our team members, but there's always room to improve," says **Morre Dean**, CEO of Porter Adventist Hospital and president of the South Denver Adventist hospitals. "I'm proud to work for an organization that is

creating a culture of wellness by sharing the Adventist principles of healthy living with our employees and our community. We will continue to find new and better ways to 'extend the healing ministry of Christ' to everyone who enters our doors."

.....
This article was written by Mark Bond on behalf of the five Colorado Adventist hospital campuses that make up Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/Centura Health.

If you would like to explore opportunities for joining Centura Health's culture of wellness, visit *careers.centura.org*.

Centura employees are committed to making the workplace a healthier environment.





Setenta y Cinco Años Proclamando el Evangelio

En el año 1942 Dios separó al pastor **Braulio Pérez Marcio** para que asumiera la tarea de dirigir un ministerio radiofónico destinado al pueblo hispanohablante. Primeramente se denominaba La Voz de la Profecía y que, a partir del año 1954, sería anunciado como La Voz de la Esperanza.

El programa ofrecía música ennoblecida interpretada por el cuarteto Los Heraldos del Rey y la solista **Del Delker**; cursos bíblicos que constituyeron el sólido fundamento para la formación de una de las primeras escuelas bíblicas por correspondencia y, por supuesto, el mensaje de paz, de seguridad y de amor expresado en la incomparable voz del pastor Braulio Pérez Marcio. Con el transcurso de los años La Voz de la Esperanza se extendería a todos los países hispanohablantes tornándose en un ministerio internacional.

Después de casi 30 años de servicio de parte del pastor Braulio Pérez, fue necesario traer al ministerio el talento y la fuerza del pastor **Milton Peverini García**, quien a partir de 1974 ocupó el cargo de director y orador del ministerio. Fue él precisamente quien escribió *La Vida de Braulio Pérez Marcio*, un libro acerca del fundador de La Voz de la Esperanza.

Trascurrieron 24 años hasta que el pastor **Frank González** tomó la iniciativa de establecer el ministerio por televisión a través del programa "Descubra." Además, agregó al programa una variedad musical que incluía al violinista **Jaime Jorge**, al solista internacional **Junior Kelly Marchena** y al destacado cuarteto Los Heraldos de Esperanza.

En febrero de 2013, La Voz de la Esperanza recibía el pastor **Omar Grieve** como director y su esposa

Nessy Pittau, como directora asociada. Ellos, aparte de la radio y la televisión, decidieron compartir La Voz de la Esperanza con Centro y Sud América y la zona del Caribe, por medio de campañas de evangelismo, graduaciones de los cursos bíblicos y otros eventos especiales. En julio de 2014 se unió a ellos el pastor y evangelista **Ángel Rodríguez Medina**, quien de inmediato se sumó a la empresa evangelizadora.

Todo el personal del ministerio está identificado con la profunda visión de usar los recursos del ministerio para proclamar el mensaje de salvación con denuedo y eficacia.

Celebrando a lo ancho

Actualmente el ministerio celebra su septuagésimo-quinto aniversario con campañas evangelizadoras, caravanas de evangelismo, graduaciones y seminarios. En marzo viajamos a Cuba, donde se condujeron cincuenta campañas simultáneas; además, participamos en la caravana de evangelismo visitando diecisiete ciudades, graduando 22,000 alumnos y bautizando aproximadamente 1,800 almas para gloria del Dios.

En este año del aniversario se efectuarán graduaciones y eventos especiales en los territorios de las nueve uniones de la

División Norteamericana de la Iglesia Adventista, concluyendo con el evento cumbre del aniversario a celebrarse el 9 de septiembre en el templo de la Iglesia Adventista de la Universidad de Loma Linda, California.

Un ministerio completo

La Voz de la Esperanza cuenta con cinco baluartes para cumplir con la misión en el mundo hispanohablante: el ministerio de la radio, el programa de televisión, la escuela radio-postal, las campañas de evangelismo y la información por internet.

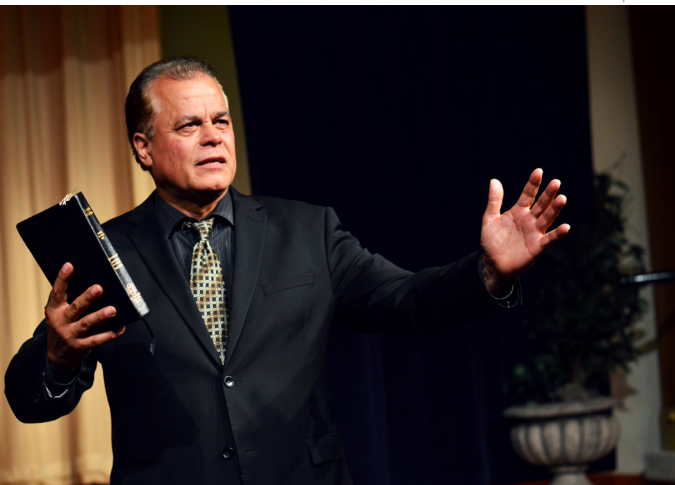
Es nuestra oración fervorosa en este aniversario, que Dios aumente nuestra fe, nos provea de más energía y más ingresos para continuar predicando su palabra con poder y, así, imposter La Voz de la Esperanza con tal firmeza que miles de hispanos acepten al Señor Jesucristo como su Salvador personal, de tal manera que se unan al pueblo que espera ansiosamente su regreso glorioso.

Ángel Rodríguez Medina es director de evangelista de La Voz de la Esperanza.

*La Voz de la Esperanza presentará un programa el 12 de Agosto en South St. Paul, Minnesota.

Visite www.lavoz.org/aniversario o llame 805.955.7641.

Fotos Cortesía de La Voz de la Esperanza





La Voz de la Esperanza Celebrates 75 years

In 1942, when the world was immersed in the most devastating war in its history, God appointed **Pastor Braulio Pérez Marcio** to assume the responsibility of directing a radio ministry for the Spanish-speaking world. It was first called The Voice of Prophecy, and since 1954 has been The Voice of Hope (La Voz de la Esperanza).

The program offered inspiring music by The King's Heralds quartet and soloist **Del Delker**. It also presented Bible study courses and messages of assurance, peace and love, expressed through the incomparable voice and invigorating energy of Pastor Braulio Pérez Marcio. Over the years, La Voz de la Esperanza extended its international ministry to all Spanish-speaking countries.

Following Pastor Marcio's 30 years of ministry, in 1974 **Pastor Milton Peverini García** transitioned from associate speaker to director and speaker of the ministry. He also wrote the outstanding book *Life of Braulio Pérez Marcio* that honors the founder of La Voz de la Esperanza.

Twenty-four years passed and someone of remarkable stature—not only physical but also spiritual—appeared on the stage of La Voz de la Esperanza.

Pastor Frank Gonzalez took the initiative to establish the ministry on television through the program "Descubra." He also added a rich variety of musical talent that included violinist **Jaime Jorge**, international soloist **Junior Kelly Marchena** and the outstanding quartet Los Heraldos de Esperanza.

In 2013 La Voz de la Esperanza welcomed two new leaders: **Pastor Omar Grieve** as director, and his wife **Nessy Pittau** as associate director. In addition to radio and television, they decided to share La Voz de la Esperanza on location through evangelism campaigns, Bible course graduations and other special events at churches in North, Central and South America. They were soon joined in this mission by evangelist **Angel Rodríguez Medina**. Today, the entire staff of La Voz de la Esperanza is dedicated to the important vision of using ministry resources to proclaim the message of salvation with courage and effectiveness.

Extending the celebration

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of God's leading we have been busy with evangelistic campaigns and tours,

baptisms, graduations and seminars. Last March we went to Cuba, where 50 simultaneous campaigns were conducted. In addition, we participated in an evangelistic tour visiting 17 cities in that communist island, graduating 22,000 students from our Bible courses and baptizing 2,200 souls for the glory of God!

But there is much more to do this year. We will hold celebrations of thankfulness to God in the nine unions of the North American Division, concluding with a special anniversary event at the Loma Linda University Church in California on Sept. 9.*

All-around ministry

La Voz de la Esperanza has five bulwarks to fulfill Christ's mission in the Spanish-speaking world: radio ministry, television programs,

radio-correspondence Bible school, evangelism and internet outreach. It is our fervent prayer on this 75th anniversary that God will continue enriching our faith, strengthening our energy and providing the necessary funds to continue preaching His Word with power.

Through God's blessing, La Voz de la Esperanza will carry on the flame of hope so that more souls will accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and be part of the "great multitude, which no man could number" eagerly awaiting His glorious return.

Angel Rodríguez Medina is director of evangelism for La Voz de la Esperanza.

*La Voz de la Esperanza will present a program on Aug. 12 in South St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more information, go to www.lavoz.org/English/anniversary or call 805.955.7641.

Photos Courtesy La Voz de la Esperanza



Dean, Thelma L., b. Sept. 11, 1913 in Fort Lupton, CO. d. May 7, 2017 in Oral, SD. Member of Hot Springs Church. Preceded in death by husband Milton. Survived by sons Everett and Amos; daughters Violet Ringering and Doris Stevens; 23 grandchildren; 57 great-grandchildren; numerous great-great-grandchildren.

Engel, Sandra (Veit), b. Feb. 5, 1960 in Faith, SD. d. May 9, 2017 in Faith, SD. Member of Bison Church. Survived by husband Leon; children Shawn, Josh, Becky and Shayna; 11 siblings; 3 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Erickson, Lila (Siebold), b. March 6, 1926 in Sykeston,

ND. d. May 10, 2017 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Cleveland Church. Preceded in death by husband Charles; 4 siblings. Survived by children Steve, Doug, Dwight and Connie; 2 siblings; 9 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Haymaker, Donald Dean, b. Aug. 25, 1932. d. April 16, 2017. Member of Chanute Church. Survived by wife Jo Lavonne; daughter Donna Jo Willis; 1 grandson.

Holguin, Paul, b. Jan. 17, 1926 in Garden City, KS. d. May 14, 2017 in Topeka, KS. Member of Topeka Wanamaker Church. Survived by wife Judy; daughters Norma Ester, Andria Graham and Kristina

Johnson. Veteran of World War II who fought in the Battle of Okinawa.

Stone, Catherine Sue, b. June 6, 1957 in Sidney, NE. d. May 1, 2017 in Sidney, NE. Member of Sidney Church. Survivors include mother Eloise; sister Pat Wright; brother Keith; 3 nieces; 5 great-nieces.

Correction: Torres, Michael Felix, b. May 21, 1952 in Trinidad, CO. d. Jan. 9, 2017 in Loveland, CO. Member of True Life Community Church. Survivors include wife Patricia; sons Michael and Patrick; 2 siblings; 2 grandchildren.

Warbitsky, Agnes B., b. Jan. 7, 1914 in Greatstone

Township, ND. d. May 8, 2017 in Velva, ND. Member of Butte Church. Preceded in death by husband Alex; 13 siblings. Survived by 1 nephew.

Wilson, John S., b. Jan. 27, 1937 near Beach, ND. d. May 4, 2017 in Fargo, ND. Member of Fargo Church. Survived by wife Ruth; 1 brother; 3 sisters.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email Brennan Hallock at brennan@outlookmag.org. Questions? 402.484.3028.

JULY 2017

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
	Denver	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:15
	Grand Junction	8:43	8:42	8:38	8:33	8:27
	Pueblo	8:25	8:24	8:20	8:16	8:10
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:40	8:37	8:34	8:28	8:22
	Des Moines	8:52	8:50	8:46	8:41	8:34
Sioux City	9:06	9:04	9:00	8:54	8:47	
KANSAS						
Dodge City	9:05	9:04	9:01	8:56	8:50	
Goodland	8:17	8:15	8:12	8:07	8:01	
Topeka	8:52	8:50	8:47	8:42	8:36	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	9:05	9:03	8:58	8:51	8:43	
International Falls	9:19	9:15	9:10	9:03	8:54	
Minneapolis	9:03	9:00	8:56	8:50	8:42	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22	
Kansas City	8:48	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:32	
St. Louis	8:29	8:27	8:24	8:19	8:13	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	9:02	9:00	8:56	8:51	8:44	
North Platte	9:19	9:17	9:13	9:08	9:01	
Scottsbluff	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:15	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:40	9:37	9:32	9:26	9:17	
Fargo	9:25	9:22	9:17	9:10	9:02	
Williston	9:57	9:54	9:49	9:42	9:33	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:29	9:26	9:22	9:16	9:08	
Rapid City	8:39	8:37	8:32	8:26	8:19	
Sioux Falls	9:11	9:09	9:05	8:59	8:51	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:47	8:45	8:41	8:35	8:28	
Cheyenne	8:35	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:17	
Sheridan	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:44	8:36	

AUGUST 2017

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26	Sept 2
	Denver	8:07	7:58	7:49	7:38	7:27
	Grand Junction	8:20	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:41
	Pueblo	8:02	7:54	7:45	7:35	7:25
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:13	8:04	7:54	7:43	7:32
	Des Moines	8:26	8:16	8:06	7:55	7:44
Sioux City	8:39	8:29	8:19	8:08	7:56	
KANSAS						
Dodge City	8:43	8:35	8:26	8:16	8:06	
Goodland	7:53	7:44	7:35	7:25	7:14	
Topeka	8:28	8:20	8:11	8:00	7:50	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	8:33	8:22	8:10	7:57	7:43	
International Falls	8:43	8:31	8:19	8:05	7:51	
Minneapolis	8:33	8:22	8:11	7:59	7:46	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:15	8:06	7:57	7:47	7:36	
Kansas City	8:24	8:16	8:06	7:56	7:45	
St. Louis	8:06	7:57	7:48	7:38	7:27	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	8:36	8:27	8:17	8:07	7:55	
North Platte	8:53	8:44	8:34	8:23	8:12	
Scottsbluff	8:06	7:57	7:47	7:36	7:24	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:07	8:56	8:44	8:32	8:18	
Fargo	8:52	8:41	8:29	8:16	8:02	
Williston	9:23	9:11	8:59	8:45	8:31	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	8:59	8:49	8:38	8:26	8:14	
Rapid City	8:10	8:00	7:49	7:37	7:25	
Sioux Falls	8:43	8:33	8:22	8:10	7:58	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:19	8:10	7:59	7:48	7:36	
Cheyenne	8:09	8:00	7:50	7:39	7:28	
Sheridan	8:27	8:16	8:05	7:53	7:40	

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AUC AEOLIANS! An Aeolian reunion is being planned for Atlantic Union College Alumni Weekend, April 20-22, 2018. Please contact Terry Koch: terrko2@charter.net.

ROLLA (MO) CHURCH SCHOOL REUNION SABBATH, SEPT. 2. Did you attend Rolla Seventh-day Adventist Church School? Teach? Pastor? Parent? Reunion Sabbath is Labor Day Weekend. Church program, fellowship dinner, photo share, musical vespers and pizza party in the gym Saturday night. Come and reconnect with friends. Contact Nona Lehman: 573.201.9159.

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