

MID-AMERICA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWS & INSPIRATION

SIX HEALTHY
SCHOOLS IN
MID-AMERICA

OUTLOOK

THE EDUCATION ISSUE



JULY/AUG 2018
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CONTENTS | JULY/AUG 2018

ADVENTIST EDUCATION: FOUR GOALS—MANY METHODS



LOUANN HOWARD
education director

Enabling learners to develop a life of faith in God and to use their knowledge, skills and understandings to serve God and humanity is the mission of Adventist education. This past year, 2,548 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 were taught by 299 teachers in our 70 schools. In addition, 165 young people learn about Jesus in our two Early Childhood Education Centers.

In our classrooms, teachers focus on the following curriculum goals:

- 1) Learners will choose to accept God as the Creator and Redeemer;
- 2) Learners will grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's creation;
- 3) Learners will creatively apply their spiritual, physical, intellectual and social-emotional knowledge; and
- 4) Learners will demonstrate their commitment to the Creator through service to others.

In this issue, you will see several examples of how schools in Mid-America are fulfilling this mission. It is truly evangelism at its best.

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NEWS AND INSPIRATION



Creating a Connected School Community

bit.ly/2Lnm7ML



Mid-America Dispatch: Sunnydale and Maplewood

outlookmag.org/tag/mid-america-dispatch



Building up the Body Through the Creator's Special Learning Design

bit.ly/2sFAwfS



ON THE COVER

At V. Lindsay School in Kansas City, teacher Ezrone Bernard uses a variety of learning strategies to challenge her students in grades 5-7 to achieve academically, while also building confidence and character.

More on p. 11

Photo by Pablo Colindres Moreno



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"The most important thing I learned is that I should show kindness to friends, family and even enemies."
—p. 7



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PERSPECTIVES

ADVENTIST EDUCATION: EVANGELISM AT ITS BEST
—Gerard Ban p. 4

FEATURES

CARING HEART AWARDS p. 5

COLLEGE PARK ELEMENTARY p. 6

DAYSTAR CHRISTIAN p. 7

HILLCREST ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY p. 8

MIDLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY p. 9

MINNETONKA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY p. 10

V. LINDSAY SCHOOL p. 11

NEWS

- 12 Central States
- 14 Dakota
- 16 Iowa-Missouri
- 18 Kansas-Nebraska
- 20 Minnesota
- 22 Rocky Mountain
- 24 Union College
- 26 Adventist Health
- 28 Farewell
- 29 InfoMarket

Adventist Education: Evangelism at its Best

Ask most conference or union administrators what the Adventist Church's greatest focus or mission should be, and the majority would most likely say evangelism. And who would argue? Evangelism is how our church grows.

I support evangelism, and today I'd like to make the case for Adventist education as an integral part of evangelism. If we want our evangelistic efforts to stick—to develop strong Adventists—we must ensure they have healthy spiritual roots. If we never learn about our Adventist heritage, how can we expect to be truly grounded in our religion? How can we expect to have a sense of spiritual security about the direction our life should take if we don't even know we have spiritual roots? How do we value, nurture and draw energy from them?

GERARD BAN

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



Where else but church school and academy does a young person learn about our Adventist heritage? Not in Sabbath school. Not often in church. Not very much, if at all, in our baptismal classes. If we—or our children—are not readers of *Adventist Review*, *OUTLOOK* or any Adventist church history books, then where do we learn about Ellen White, her role in the church's past, and what her words mean for us today? Where do we learn to live for our eternal future while learning to survive our present? And where do we learn how to appreciate and apply the lessons of the Bible?

If our youth and young adults are not attending Adventist schools, and not engaged in Sabbath school or the worship service, how can we expect them to learn to love their church?

At one boarding academy where I was principal, the students were a main part of the church program. By being actively involved in church leadership, the students were prepared to become involved and contribute to their local churches when they went home.

Growing, tending, flourishing

If we expect the small seeds of faith we planted in our children during their babyhood to grow at all,

they must be protected and tended. They must be weeded, watered and warmed. That cannot happen unless they are planted in a garden tended by a Christian gardener.

Some feel that if they take care of the seed at home it won't matter what influences are encountered outside the home environment. But I have to tell you it is difficult for a seed to grow up into a strong and healthy plant if for any length of time it is exposed to compromising weeds, takes in poisonous water, or suffers through the cold of spiritual indifference.

Our minds and hearts are assaulted daily by thousands of impressions, most of them anything but positive. If we have not been given the tools to help ward off bad influences, then the probability of succumbing to them—of the spiritual seed withering away, of the roots shriveling up and releasing their hold—is enormous.

Fulfilling our mission

You might say that I, as an Adventist educator, am a little biased; but don't take my word for it. Listen to the voices of some Adventist young people who have reaped the benefits of an Adventist education:

"I have been in the Adventist education system my whole life and never have I wished it otherwise.

Through Christian education, I have come to know Christ Himself. By learning the alphabet in a Christian atmosphere, I learned to spell His name. By learning to read in a Christian atmosphere, I learned to read His Word."

"Why bother with a Christian education? Please realize that the Christian leaders of the very near future are being trained now. This is not merely a money issue. This is an issue of literal, eternal life and death!"

"Christian education is one of the most important missions, if not *the* most important mission, of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If Adventist children are not educated and brought up with good Christian influences, there is no future for the Adventist Church. We can either turn around now and start putting more emphasis on Christian education or just let it slide. But if we don't do something now, there is not going to be another chance. The bottom line is the Adventist Church needs Adventist schools."

By their definition, Adventist education is an imperative part of evangelism. How can it be otherwise? **0**

Caring Heart Awards

2017-18

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.



Campion Academy
Kelby Eickmann

Kelby Eickmann has been on several mission trips and has worked as a literature evangelist. Kelby is kind to everyone—freshmen through seniors. She was the spiritual vp for Student Association this year and a resident assistant in the girls' dorm.



Dakota Academy
Abigail Brooke

Abigail Brooke actively leads out with school drama, praise teams, workshops for students and staff, and participates in VBS and mission projects. Abigail leads by positive example and encourages others to get involved.



College View Academy
Jannah Follett

Junior student Jannah Follett has a passion for helping others through mission trips, student leadership and National Honor Society. Additionally, Jannah always demonstrates kindness while playing varsity volleyball and basketball.



Mile High Academy
Sara Paduli

As Student Association president, Sara Paduli is known for her consistent kindness, hard work and integrity. Last summer she went to Indonesia, where she passionately shared Christ through music and VBS programs.



Midland Academy
Faith Josiah

Faith Josiah has served as a leader in the Student Association, pastor of her class and as a member of Diversity, a vocal touring group. She has also been an active member of her home church, Beacon Light.



Sunnydale Academy
Graciela Silva

A first year senior, Graciela Silva was elected senior class co-pastor, spoke for the alumni business meeting worship and sought to include all students in activities. In March, Gracie also participated in a mission trip to Tanzania.



Maplewood Academy
Becca Denniston

During her two years at Maplewood, Becca Denniston has shown a gentle, helpful and cheerful spirit toward both students and teachers. Her work as a tutor, in campus ministries and as resident assistant in the dorm shows her desire to serve in a spiritual way.

College Park Elementary

Columbia, Missouri

Visitors to College Park Elementary School in the heart of Columbia,

Missouri, will be met at the door with the unmistakable sound of fun being had.

Sandra Blackburn teaches third and fourth grade and has been teaching at College Park since 1996. She also served as principal for 15 years before stepping down to focus on her family.

“God really works in this school. We had two teachers and we’ve grown to five,” she says, reminiscing on her time at College Park. “We had 24 students and we’ve grown to over 60—so it’s been amazing.”

For Blackburn, her educational focus goes beyond “book knowledge” and into an understanding of who God is and how students fit into His plan. This, to her and the other teachers, is a key element of the mental development to which they have dedicated their lives.

Blackburn attributes the success of the school to the students’ families and close cooperation from the local church, on whose campus the school is built. “Everybody works together pretty well,” she says, admitting that problems may arise now and then. A healthy school, though, means “having people work together and be supportive of



Pablo Colindres Moreno

each other.”

College Park’s mission revolves around the physical, mental and spiritual triangle of development, long a mainstay of Adventist education.

Currently, 61 students attend from kindergarten through ninth grade. On Fridays, 10 additional students—home schooled children from the community—join the school kids for Friday morning chapel, art, music and P.E.

Growing and gaining

Principal Heidi Jorgensen is busy with compound sentences in her classroom. This is her first year in Columbia, where she teaches grades 7-9.

“The school opened in 1944,” explains Jorgensen once her students are busy on an assignment. “They added new classrooms a few years back...then we added an extension and finally a standalone kindergarten

classroom—so it’s definitely been steadily growing over the last several years.”

Their performance has matched their ambition, routinely meeting or exceeding academic standards set by the Adventist Church and testing comparatively with public schools in their area.

“For some [students] there seems to be a little adjustment to those tests in the first few years, but they have a big jump in fifth grade,” says Jorgensen. You can imagine a child who has been in the same classroom as students in more advanced grades picking up concepts they otherwise wouldn’t be exposed to in a standard school setting.

Signs of their continuous growth also include a new chapel, remodeled from an older section of the building. While it may seem a straightforward addition to the school, a dedicated space that is inviting can go a long way in

attracting a larger community.

Speaking of community, College Park has intertwined their approach to the physical side of the triangle with their outreach. A 5K fun run, open to the public, is being hosted by the school, with a pancake breakfast fundraiser afterward.

“We have seen some great growth in this school, and I hope we can see that continue and become a center of influence here in Columbia,” says Jorgensen. To her, building community connections goes hand-in-hand with guiding children spiritually, and she sees College Park as the best platform to find “those opportunities to be able to spread the gospel with the students, families and the larger community as well.” **0**

Pablo Colindres Moreno is digital media manager for the Mid-America Union.

Daystar Christian

Pueblo, Colorado

Michelle Velbis



Kindness. It's something our world is running short on these days.

Daystar Christian School, located in Pueblo, Colorado, wanted to do something about it.

"I read *Wonder* this past summer, and there is a great quote that says, 'When given the choice between being right or kind, choose kind,'" says Michelle Velbis, principal and grades 1-8 teacher. "Immediately, I knew I wanted to share this book with my students and to talk about practical ways we could show kindness in our school, families and community."

Daystar students did projects this past year to make a difference. These included raising almost \$1,000 for Adventist Community

Services, Pennies for Patients, Rescue Mission Valentine's Day Party, Thanksgiving Day baskets for needy families, anti-bullying posters, cards and visits to the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center, and cards for local and African prisoners.

The students learned that young people can truly make an impact on their communities, both local and afar, and that giving is as good as receiving.

"I learned that serving people makes me feel awesome," says Audra Bennett, a seventh grader.

"The most important thing I learned is that I should show kindness to friends, family and even enemies," adds sixth-grader Jolyssa Salinas. "Even if others treat you bad, you should show them kindness."

The Daystar students have had several handwritten

notes from individuals and organizations thanking them for their generosity.

Learning kindness through projects

"The children from Daystar demonstrated love and kindness for people who are treated so unkind almost everywhere they go," says Jackie Jaramillo, president and CEO of the Pueblo Rescue Mission. "All of the gifts were deeply appreciated by our guests. It was such a blessing to witness an event that brought joy and smiles to the faces of our guests."

Local veteran Joe Montano wrote a note after receiving a Veteran's Day card: "Thank you so much for the card I received. It really made me feel good that you would honor us for serving our country. May God's blessings be upon you."

Velbis points out that

"when we show kindness, the ripple effects can change our world in a big way. I want to empower my students to understand that they can show kindness in small and big ways. If they don't like the atmosphere of their school or community, they have the power to change that."

Steve Shoffner, Prison Ministry director for the Adventist Church in Pueblo, says that inside jail walls, such gifts as a handmade card are often priceless.

"The cards have a different value system in the jails. What we take for granted, the inmates take as precious," Shoffner says. "These cards will not just brighten their days but possibly their lives. For some, this might be the only card they ever get."

The ripple effects of these projects will be monumental and the students at Daystar are learning that the size of the giver doesn't matter. "This project shows that a little school can do big things," says Luke Velbis, a seventh grader.

"I think that young people have a natural desire to be kind," says Michelle Velbis. "Sometimes it just needs to be fostered. By thinking about other people, our world is enlarged." **O**

Lonnie Hetterle is superintendent of education for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Hillcrest Adventist Elementary

Jamestown, North Dakota

The teachers and Hillcrest constituency are working

diligently to train their students to

be servants of God in their local community of Jamestown, North Dakota. On Sept. 21, 2016, students, teachers and volunteers went into the community for the first bi-annual Hillcrest Help-Out Day. Students were divided into groups and dispersed all over Jamestown to perform acts of kindness.

In the past two years, students have made the Jamestown community a better place by cleaning food and water dishes and socializing with the animals at the Humane Society, picking up trash in various locations, cleaning and weeding at a cemetery, and raking leaves. Students come away from each Help-Out Day excited for the next one. They get to work with friends and make a difference in their community. The most exciting thing is they are learning the importance of service.

Block party with a purpose

Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School has

come up with a creative marketing strategy. The school has joined with the local church's community service organization to participate in the University of Jamestown block party. This is a community event to welcome the freshmen at the University of Jamestown and help them see what is available in the town.

On a Thursday afternoon at the end of August, about three blocks are closed off and tables are set up representing businesses, churches, schools—you name it! The whole community shows up to take part in the free food and giveaways at the tables. It is a time of fellowship where

connections are made.

The Jamestown Adventist Church reserved a table and prepared vegetarian sloppy joes to serve. Brenda Weber, a parent at Hillcrest, decided to also put together Ziploc bags with eight science experiments in each bag. She enlisted the help of three Hillcrest students: Noah Weber, Ana Weber, and Aubrey Babcock. The students made up 150 bags to give away. The school emblem was on the front of the bag and school contact information was on the back.

Since teachers, parents and students were attending Dakota Conference's Outdoor School the day

of the block party, Pastor James Venegas and Pastor Casey Bartlett manned the table. They handed out 142 bags to young people who came by. The pastors' knowledge, enthusiasm and positive promotion of the school led to many people requesting more information about Hillcrest. Next school year Mrs. Weber plans to make a Ziploc bag full of old-fashioned games.

It is evident that Hillcrest is training its students in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6). **O**

Sue Nelson is superintendent of education for the Dakota Conference.

Hillcrest students are active in keeping the community of Jamestown beautiful and helping at the local Humane Society.



Rachel Fisher



Sue Kahler

Midland Adventist Academy

Shawnee, Kansas



When the Midland AcroClub gymnastics team at Midland Adventist

Academy attended the 26th Annual AcroFest at Washington Adventist University in November 2017, the highlight of the program was one of the AcroClub's team members, Heidi Burke, being recognized with the Heather Boulais Courage Award. This unique award is presented at each AcroFest to a gymnast who exhibits the character and courage Boulais has displayed, both before and after her injury.

Heidi is a seventh-grader at Midland and a first-year

member of MAC. She has been doing gymnastics since she was young. She watched her older sisters, Erin and Lily, as they practiced headstands, did the splits and turned cartwheels. Erin and Lily saw no reason why Heidi should not learn along with them, so the sisters did gymnastics together for years in the living room.

Besides her sisters, Heidi credits coach Matt Evens for her development in gymnastics. Evens was the elementary P.E. teacher and assistant gymnastics coach at Midland last year. "Coach Matt would show all of the kids a move, and then he would come over to me and say, 'Okay, Heidi, how can we do this?' He would try something, and then try something else, until he figured out a way that I

could do it," Heidi says.

This year, Lily, who has been on the team since its inception, urged Heidi to join. Because of Evens' and Lily's confidence in her, she decided to follow in her sisters' footsteps. Attending AcroFest was a particular high point of the year for her and the team.

Higher and higher

AcroFest is an annual gymnastics clinic in which teams from Adventist schools across the NAD and beyond come together for skill building, fellowship and fun. One of the skills stations this year was building three-highs. Clinician Doug Peterson had brought a men's four-group to assist him at AcroFest, and they jumped

at the chance to carefully help Heidi climb up a three-high.

Each AcroFest concludes with a three-hour performance by the teams. During the middle of the show, Peterson and the men's four-team came onto the mat and asked for Heidi to join them. In one of the highlights of the program, the young men built a three-high again with Heidi at the top. The cheers from the crowd were amazing.

Afterward, Union College coach Ryan Perry, with help from Heather, presented the award to Heidi. She was surprised by the recognition and gave credit to others.

"I love being on the team," Heidi says. "We're like a family because we're together a lot, and we have to trust each other. Gymnastics is a sport where trust is really important. It's fun because I love everything about gymnastics. I guess I'm also an adrenaline addict. The higher the toss, the better!"

Dawn Burke, Heidi's mother, has been just as enthusiastic about Heidi's experience in gymnastics. "Heidi always wants to try everything, has no fear, and doesn't set limits for herself at all. It's just a matter of getting others to see her that way. I am thankful for the warm family environment that MAC provides for my girls. Gymnastics has undoubtedly been one of the biggest highlights." **O**

Jonathan Borne is head coach for the Midland Adventist Academy AcroClub.

Heidi Burke (holding award) is honored with the Heather Boulais Courage Award at this year's AcroFest. Burke is pictured with Boulais (left) and at the top of a 3-high.

Jonathan Borne



Dawn Burke



Minnetonka Christian Academy

Minneapolis, Minnesota

As soon as you walk into Minnetonka Christian Academy, you are greeted

with students' art. It is displayed from the walls and the ceiling and it washes over you.

Take a quick left and you will see a mural of a famous painting by impressionist Georges Seurat on the wall. In the art room there are displays of student work everywhere—ranging from pencil drawings to replicas of Egyptian headdresses that would make a pharaoh proud.

Art teacher Suzanne Elmer inspires this creativity at both Minnetonka Christian Academy and Maplewood Academy in Minnesota. Between the two schools, she teaches art to students ages 4-18.

"I've been interested in art all my life," Elmer says. Despite a long history of artists in her family, she studied health education in college because her father insisted on a more marketable degree than art.

"In 1994, the principal at Minnetonka contacted me and said the school needed an art department," Elmer recalls. "I said, 'Yes!'" She loves to show students that they have some of that creativity that God has given to each of us.



Pablo Colindres Moreno

"It is the most fulfilling when you see kids who think they can't do anything with art change their mindset and discover they have talent," she adds. "You see that transformation from 'I can't' to 'I can.'"

Looking for beauty

Elmer also enjoys relating beauty to the Master Artist. "Sometimes I have students draw or paint something up close to see the beauty of how God created it," she explains. "We usually don't observe the color patterns and texture that God put there for us to enjoy. After art class, students often see God in a new way. They see Jesus in a new way."

Sophomore Shelly Parral experienced that change

firsthand. "In one class, she taught us to draw an eyeball," Shelly says. "She taught us how God sees us and how the world perceives us. It makes you think how beautiful you are to God."

Sophomore Olivia Sweet says, "She helped me because I want things to be perfect. She helped me to be open to whatever comes up and that it does not have to be perfect at the start."

One common thread through Mrs. Elmer's classes is an emphasis on God and a positive view of life. "I like

Suzanne Elmer teaches art at Minnetonka Christian Academy and Maplewood Academy.

art that is on the happy side," she says, "but sometimes kids are dealing with depression and it comes out in their work, and that is okay."

Students quickly see in Mrs. Elmer lots of reasons to be thankful and happy. "She will smile at me in the hallway and she is so friendly," 10th-grader Shee Paw says. "Mrs. Elmer has so many ideas and so many techniques for different kinds of art."

Art class may use traditional mediums like water colors and pastels or it may be sculpture using masking tape or mailing tape. Her most recent new tool is Sharpies.

As students do their best to improve their artistic techniques, Elmer sees her role as a simple one. "God gives creativity to everyone; sometimes we have to have it pulled out," she says. "That is my job, pulling it out." **O**

John Bedell is education superintendent for the Minnesota Conference.



Courtesy Minnesota Conference

V. Lindsay School

Kansas City, Kansas



On the campus of the Central States Conference sits a mid-century building

that has served as the home of V. Lindsay Adventist School since 1985. Inside, 33 children (up from 27 last year) from pre-K to grade 7 fill up three of the six classrooms in the building. There are teachers and resources for eighth-graders, but none are currently enrolled.

Lead teacher and principal Jessica Jacob teaches grades 1-4 at V. Lindsay. “My mission is to grow them spiritually and to grow their characters,” she says. “Not only to teach them academics but to be

able to get out and serve in the community.”

This is Jacob’s fifth year at this school, and it’s her first year as lead teacher. As the lead teacher, she also guides the larger vision for the school.

Academically, Jacob is committed to having her students exceed the expectations set forth by the state and the Office of Adventist Education.

“We were able to order a program—Star 360—to be able to test our students more often than the standardized testing,” she says. “We’re able to see where our students need help and do intervention in those areas to bring our students up more quickly.”

Throughout the classrooms, students are involved in hands-on

learning. Younger grades embark on singing and building with blocks while older grades use the school-issued tablets to immerse themselves into their lesson for the day.

Becoming that school

Ms. Jacob’s vision is to enroll around 125 kids and fill up the six classrooms within five years. The school’s aggressive marketing and involvement is putting the school on firmer ground in the community. “I want everyone in the community to know who we are and what we are about,” she explains.

An overflowing school building with a waiting list for enrollment is the legacy Ms. Jacob wants to build at V. Lindsay. “I want V.

Lindsay to be *that* school,” she says, “to be the school everyone wants to have their kids attend.”

Day-to-day, she oversees any discipline issues, materials and supplies for the teachers and students, as well as marketing the school to the community and interacting with parents.

“We’re trying to get our name out there, so we’re doing a lot of outreach,” says Jacob.

According to Jacob, at least 60 percent of the student body is not Adventist. This gives the school an opportunity to minister, while the focus can remain the same: teaching the students character.

At V. Lindsay, this takes the shape of a total focus on the child. According to Jacob, any learning connection has to begin with a personal connection with the student. They identified five aspects of each student to target: spiritual, mental, physical, emotional and social. “Kids come in with all different kinds of issues, and they have to know that you love them first. From there we build their confidence and character—so it’s *more* than just teaching.” **O**

Pablo Colindres Moreno is digital media manager for the Mid-America Union.

Photos: Pablo Colindres Moreno



St. Louis Unified Students Hatch Chickens

A 4H Extension program offered through the University of Missouri allowed St. Louis Unified School to rent an incubator and receive fertilized eggs to hatch. The students watched videos and tracked and documented their observations throughout the process.

The first of the 12 eggs hatched on day 21 and more hatched over the next two days. The chicks stayed in the incubator until fully dried. The students kept the chicks for two weeks, during which time they fed, held and prayed over the chickens every day. The chickens were then given to a farm. The students have been able to see the progress of the chickens' growth at the farm as well.



Photos: Courtesy Carla Drake



CENTRAL STATES CALENDAR

JULY-DEC 2018

JULY 14	Women's Ministries Offering
JULY 27-28	Men's Ministry Summit (Great Lakes)
JULY 29-AUG 1	ORCM NAD Black Caucus
AUG 4	<i>Message Magazine</i> Campaign Ends
AUG 18	Seasoned Seniors Day—Women's Ministry
AUG 25	EndItNow Day
SEPT 13-15	Conference on Mission (AHS Event)
SEPT 20-23	Growing in Jesus Women's Conference
SEPT 21-22	Men's Ministry Summit (Great Plains)
SEPT 29	Random Acts of Kindness Campaign
OCT 6	Wear Pink—Breast Cancer Awareness
OCT 23	ORCM Meeting
NOV 2-4	Singles Summit
NOV 11	Veterans Day
DEC 22	Random Acts of Kindness Campaign

Student Project Featured in Parade of Homes

Growing students' talents and teamwork skills through creating tiny homes

Dakota Adventist Academy's construction class debuted their first project for the Parade of Homes event April 26-28. The newly constructed tiny house, which was designed and

built entirely by students of the Construction II and Construction III classes, was showcased at Kupper Chevrolet in Mandan, North Dakota.

This project began in January of 2017. At the start,

construction teacher **Ryan Peterson** set up parameters for the students. Together they researched and discussed different design concepts until they agreed on the perfect layout. After creating the blueprints, the

students worked on making their vision a reality.

In October of 2017, DAA's construction program joined the Bismarck/Mandan Home Builders Association and the students attended BMHBA's Parade of Homes in the fall of 2017. They perused the completed homes and discussed how the designs they viewed pertained to their project. When the BMHBA heard about the tiny house project, they were thrilled to add the home to their spring Parade of Homes.

The students worked diligently during class—as well as putting some extra time in on Sundays and evenings—to complete the tiny house in time for the parade.

Tracy Jo Peterson, recruitment director for DAA, shared, "The students work really hard; I am proud of them. They did things they never thought they could do. They saw things that were overwhelming at first, but now they take pride in their accomplishments. The class pushes the limits of the student and helps them grow their talents and teamwork skills."

Anthony Oucharek is principal of Dakota Adventist Academy.

Jacquie Billoff



Construction students (l to r) Andy Waldner, Faith Peterson, Leticia Venegas and Najeeb Dubreuze display the recently completed tiny house at the local Parade of Homes.

Tracy Peterson



Tracy Peterson



It Takes a Visionary (or Two)

You are never too young or too old to make a difference

Invitation Hill Adventist School, in its third year of operation, launched into the 2017-18 school year with two teachers and 12 students ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade. Though blessed with a beautiful, brand-new facility, there are still many challenges that IHAS faces, one being the lack of playground equipment. Fortunately, God often provides answers to challenges in unexpected places and through unlikely persons.

The need for a new playground was recognized, but no definite plans or movement had been made to build one. This was changed by the

can-do attitudes and inspiring acts of one young man and one older man.

Jacob Reiss entered IHAS as a first grader this year. Before the school year started, his mom shared with the principal that Jacob was worried about going to a school that had no playground. Jacob is a man of action, and on his own he began fundraising efforts to make his dream for a playground come to fruition.

Jacob began selling rocks in his neighborhood. He found rocks and also used some of his grandma's aquarium rocks to sell to his neighbors. His first donation that started the playground fund was about \$9.

Each week, and sometimes more than once a week, he brought in a bag of money and set it on the principal's desk saying, "This is for the playground."

A few weeks after he started on this mission, his story was featured in the school newsletter, and it prompted more people to give. It even inspired people outside of the church and school family to give to the cause. To date, \$4,454.02 has been raised for the playground fund.

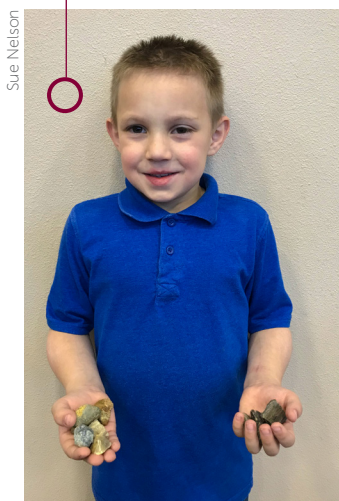
Another way God is making the dream for a playground a reality is through a senior member of the local congregation, **Ivan Sievers**,

who recently turned 95 years old. Sievers is known in the community for being able to fabricate anything. His life is one of dedication, volunteering and donating to Christian education.

Sievers is designing and building some unique and creative pieces from discarded farm equipment to add to the playground collection. The plan is to install the first piece of equipment this summer.

Janna Wright, principal and teacher at Invitation Hill School, and Frankie Fields, head deaconess and member of Invitation Hill Church, collaborated on this article.

Jacob Reiss (below) sells rocks to raise money for new playground equipment at his school. Because of Jacob's initiative, Ivan Sievers is designing playground equipment, such as the ones shown, from discarded farm equipment.



Sue Nelson



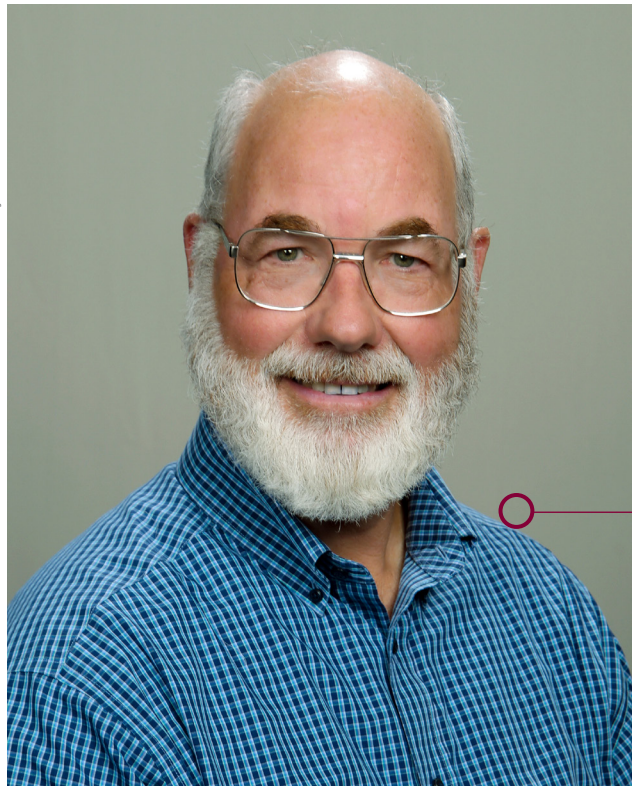
Frankie Fields



Frankie Fields

Educator Richard Booth Retires

Courtesy Iowa-Missouri Conference



Richard Booth, principal and grades 5-8 teacher at Maranatha School in Moberly, Missouri, taught for 35 years in Adventist schools. His commitment to Adventist education and his steady leadership are deeply appreciated.

married, began their 22-year teaching partnership with a year in Joplin, Missouri, before heading to Moberly where, except for a few years Kayla stayed home when their children were young, the Booths have been teaching together ever since.

"I have appreciated the local leadership of Maranatha School and the Moberly Church members," shares Booth. "I have also appreciated the Iowa-Missouri Conference leadership and the support they have provided over my career."

Booth's plans for retirement include continuing to support Maranatha School, giving greater attention to his large garden and taking on more building and landscaping projects around their property.

The Iowa-Missouri Conference is thankful to Booth for the stability he has provided all these years at Maranatha School. Serving over 30 years in a single school, especially a small one, is rare. He has touched many lives and been an inspiration to us all.

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

After 35 years of service in Adventist education, **Richard Booth**, principal and grades 5-8 teacher at the Maranatha School in Moberly, Missouri, is retiring.

"We have been so blessed here at Moberly to have Mr. Booth as principal and teacher for the last 30 plus years," said **Dana Diede**, school board chair for Maranatha School. "That kind of longevity at one school is rare. His steady leadership, Christian example and commitment to children have fostered an engaging classroom experience and made a positive impact on the many students who have passed through our school. It has truly been a pleasure to

work with him over the years and we deeply appreciate all that he has done in preparing our students not only for life here on earth but for our eternal life in heaven."

Booth's history with Adventist education began long before his teaching career. His parents believed strongly in sending all eight of their children to Adventist schools. Booth attended grades 1-8 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and graduated from Oak Park Academy in Nevada, Iowa.

Intending to go into full-time gospel ministry, Booth started at Union College as a theology major. The following year he attended a community college in

Cedar Rapids, but when he returned to Union for his third year of college he decided to change his major to elementary education.

After graduating from Union in 1976, Booth taught for one year in Humbolt, Iowa, before deciding to take a break from teaching to work in construction. Education kept calling him, however, and he eventually started working at Alpine Springs Academy in Fountain City, Wisconsin, performing a variety of tasks as well as being a house parent for several male students.

Booth enrolled in summer school courses at Union College in 1984 to begin working toward his master's through La Sierra University. This is where he met his future wife and teaching partner, **Kayla Wagner**.

Following summer school, Booth taught at the Cedar Rapids school for two years. In 1986 he and Kayla, now

Perry Joins Conference Office Staff

The Iowa-Missouri Conference is pleased to welcome **Heather Perry** to the office team. Perry began in April and will serve in human resources.

“Heather brings needed experience and training in human resources,” said **Rhonda Karr**, conference treasurer. “Her energy and enthusiasm, as well as her previous work experience outside of church employment will be instrumental in helping us better serve our employees.”

Perry graduated from Union College in 2008, earning a degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and management. She previously served in human

resources and project management roles in healthcare and manufacturing.

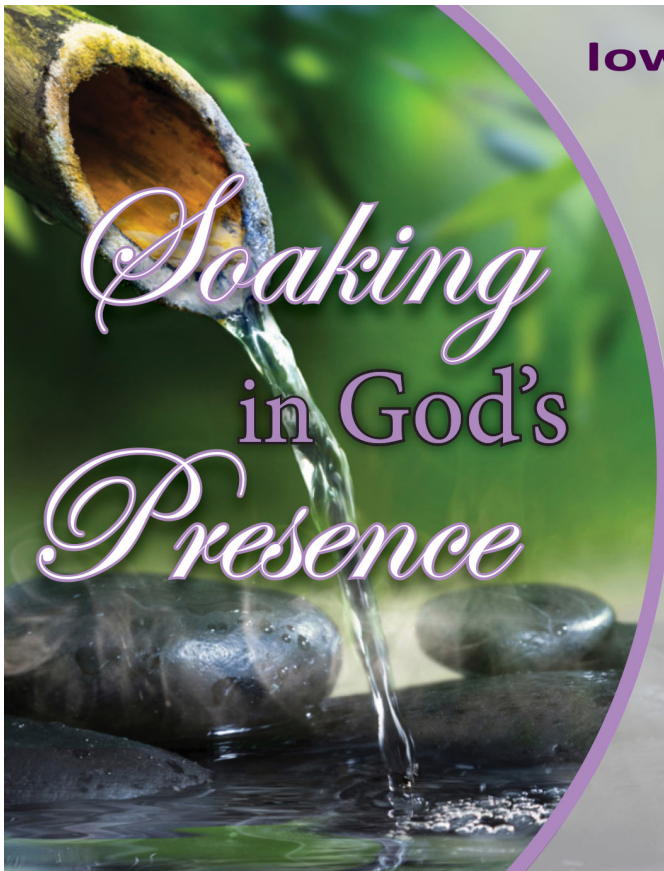
“I love helping people and making a difference,” said Perry. “I’m excited about the opportunity to help our employees, churches and schools continue their work of furthering the ministry of Christ.”

When not working, Perry enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors, working on crafts, listening to music and singing. She lives near Des Moines with her dog, Chevy.

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



Randy Harmdierks



Iowa-Missouri Conference 30th Annual Women's Retreat

September 28-30, 2018

Embassy Suites
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Kansas City, MO 64153

Featuring



Janet Page

General Conference associate ministerial secretary for Shepherdess International and Prayer Ministries

Register at:

imsda.org/women/retreat

Midland Teacher Honored with \$2,500 Educational Grant

Steven Hutchison among 60 teachers nationwide to receive an award from Farmers Insurance

Steven Hutchison, who teaches music to students in grades K-12 at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas, has been honored with a \$2,500 educational grant from Farmers Insurance as a part of the Thank America's Teachers program.

Hutchison's grant will be used to purchase two composite instrument storage lockers to properly and safely house student instruments within the school's growing music program.

Local Farmers Insurance agent **Laurie Mendon** stated that "seeing the students, community and my Farmers colleagues pull together to support and vote for Steven

made the time and effort all worthwhile. My team is so grateful to represent a company that gives back to the amazing teachers of the Kansas City area who devote their lives to educating and molding the future of our city. Steven exemplifies the teacher that we all want our children and grandchildren to learn from, and his amazing inspiration

and ethics confidently mold them into the best version of themselves!"

Hutchison is among the first group of 60 teachers to receive an educational grant through the Farmers Insurance Thank America's Teachers national program in 2018.

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



Seeking the Kingdom of God

Christian Women's Retreat 2018

October 26-28, 2018

Quality Inn & Conference Center
Grand Island, Nebraska



Featured Speaker:
Jennifer Woody
Chaplain
Ashburn Adventist Academy

Visit www.ks-ne.org/womensministries
or call 785.478.4726.

Sponsored by the Kansas-Nebraska Conference

Steven Hutchison, music teacher at Midland Adventist Academy, was awarded an educational grant from Farmers Insurance's Thank America's Teachers program. The grant will go toward purchasing two composite instrument lockers for Midland's growing music program.



Courtesy: Laurie Mendon/Farmers Insurance

Midland Adventist Academy Welcomes New Principal

Courtesy Kansas-Nebraska Conference



Richard Young (pictured with his wife Natalie, daughter Nola and son Jonathan) is an alumnus of Midland Adventist Academy and looks forward to working in the community where he grew up.

Midland Adventist Academy is pleased to welcome **Richard Young** as their new principal. There has been much excitement and anticipation by the MAA community, since Young is a 2002 alumnus of the school.

After graduating, Young continued his education at Union College where he earned a BS in Secondary Education.

Young went on to serve at Union College in various capacities after college. In 2011 he was appointed director of recruiting and his responsibilities took

him to many regions of the country and also to Canada and Brazil.

“I loved working on strategies for recruiting students into Adventist education,” he said, “and I look forward to this aspect of my responsibilities as principal at MAA.”

Most recently Young served as head boys’ dean and vice principal for student life at Maplewood Academy. Other responsibilities included classroom teacher, coach and athletic director.

“I especially enjoy helping young people develop a relationship with Jesus. That

is the primary reason we have Adventist schools,” he said.

Young and his wife Natalie have two children, Nola and Jonathan, and they are looking forward to working with the families who entrust their children to the MAA staff every school day.

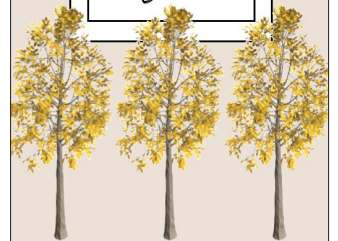
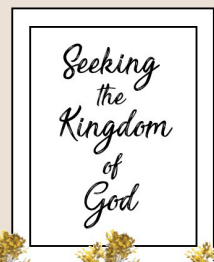
The family solicits your prayers as they begin their ministry at Midland Adventist Academy.

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Gary Kruger serves as education superintendent for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Young Women's Retreat 2018

October 26-28, 2018 | Ages 14-18

Grand Island, NE



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Sponsored by the Kansas-Nebraska Conference

Maranatha Scholars Learn to Write Well

Students study and write about shells, Seder celebrations and paper airplanes

This year, students at the Maranatha School in Dodge Center, Minnesota, spent class time learning how to write well. Lessons on grammar, spelling, sentence structure and more came together to provide a slough of clever and sweet articles about what school at Maranatha has been like over the last few months. Following are a selection of the students' work. We hope this will give you an idea of a day in the life of an Adventist elementary student.

Our Field Trip to Mrs. McNeilus' House

By Jade

On March 23, the lower graders went to Mrs. McNeilus' house for a field trip and for lunch. For lunch we had macaroni and cheese, hotdogs and corn. Mrs. McNeilus surprised us by giving us dessert, too! We had cupcakes and ice cream.

After lunch, we went downstairs to look at shells. We saw conch shells and shells that leper colonies in Hawaii carved. We saw many interesting shells, but Mrs. McNeilus has a lot more than just shells. She has taxidermy animals, rocks, and taxidermy snakes. Mrs. McNeilus has an armadillo, puffer fish, chipmunk, piranha,

and tarantula. She has bacon rocks, jade rocks, carved rocks, pre-flood rocks and many more. She keeps dangerous snakes in jars to preserve them. They're creepy.

At the very end of our field trip, Mrs. McNeilus turned over a bucket that was filled with shells on one of her tables. She let us pretend we were at the ocean and search for shells, and even let us keep some. Our field trip was really neat. Thank you, Mrs. McNeilus!

The Seder Meal

By Dylan and Jonah

During one Bible period, Mrs. Smith recreated a Seder meal for the 6th-8th grade classroom. Some of the foods we tried were bitter herbs with salt water, candy eggs, a mixture of apples and other stuff, grape juice, "lamb," and Triscuits.

Before we ate anything, Mrs. Smith explained what each food meant. Here are the meanings:

At the Seder meal, they usually had roasted lamb. The lamb represented the lamb that was offered as a sacrifice during the first Passover. We didn't cut a lamb's throat and paint the doorframe with the blood; we didn't have roasted lamb either. Instead, we had a cake roll. It was pretty good.



Courtesy/ Minnesota Conference

Maranatha students recently created paper airplanes for a math project. They collected data from the distance the airplanes flew, then found the mean, median and mode.

Bitter herbs with salt water means it is a token of gratitude to God for His rebirth, and a reminder of the bitterness of slavery.

Eggs are a symbol of a freewill offering that accompanies the sacrifice.

A mixture of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon and grape juice represents the mortar with which the Israelites made bricks for the Pharaoh.

Grape juice and bread are symbols of Christ, who was the perfect sacrifice without spot or blemish.

We set an extra place for Elijah because it is a symbol that we will someday go to heaven too.

During the meal, we gave each other disciple names.

We wanted to invite two students from the lower grade classroom, so we would have 12 students around the table; one for each disciple, but Mrs. Smith wouldn't let us, because it wouldn't have been fair to all the 2nd-5th grade students.

Math Activities Can Be Fun

By Dawson

During one math period, the students threw paper airplanes. After they were split up into teams, each team got a different type of airplane. Then the teams had to collect the data from the distance they had thrown the planes. Using that data, they

Spreading the Gospel to an Internet Generation

Involving students at Stone Ridge School in media ministry

Stone Ridge School is supported by two constituent churches: Duluth Church in Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior Church in Superior, Wisconsin.

Stone Ridge helped the constituent church in Wisconsin as **Pastor Myoung Kwon** (Pastor MK) launched his first internet event. Over the past school year, the communication department has produced monthly “Stone Ridge Minutes” to update their constituent churches about what’s happening at the school. The department includes adults and students in the production

of these videos. Because of the success of these videos, Pastor MK requested help from Stone Ridge’s communication department in filming and producing the one-minute spots he wrote for internet viewing.

“We had to do some research, and there was some trial and error involved in the practice sessions,” says **Rudy Carlson**, principal and head teacher at Stone Ridge, “but eventually we figured out how to shoot vertical video in a visually pleasing manner.”

Market research shows that smart phone users are more likely to view a video all the way to the end if they don’t

had to make a table and find the mean, median and mode. The planes flew in every direction, from left to right, to and fro, and from 9 feet to 16 feet 8 inches.

Another time, the students were split up into teams again. They rolled dice to move a helicopter on a piece of grid paper; the mission of the helicopter was to

save people in a cabin on the mountain. The chances of moving in a direction changed as they rolled. Most of the kids thought that the game was rigged, and many didn’t “save” the people on the mountain. They just kept crashing into the mountain.

Dawson has taught some of the math classes throughout



Monthly “Stone Ridge Minutes” videos update the constituent congregations about what is happening at the local school.

have to rotate their phone to the horizontal position when they’re watching. Pastor MK wanted to be in line with the emerging research.

Myoung Kwon’s first posting reached 5,000 views in its first night! To date, 10 videos have been produced and there are currently four more in post-production. These videos will be released weekly.

“I’m just so thankful that we are getting positive responses!” Pastor MK says.

Carlson added, “At Stone Ridge, it is our joy to provide a solid education, and help the gospel to reach a post-modern world.”

Collene Rognlie-Klick is communication director for Stone Ridge Elementary School.

Watch the videos at facebook.com/superiorsdachurch.

the year. Back in October, Dawson made a game board. The students were split up into three groups. It took about three lessons to complete it. The game was made to review some of the lessons we covered in math class. Students moved an eraser from island to island to escape captivity and sail to paradise. All the problems

were made by Dawson. Throughout all the activities, most of the kids had fun.

Trudy Smith is principal and grades 6-8 teacher at Maranatha Adventist Christian School in Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Interest in Wilderness Survival Leads Young Man into Danger

If you're ever attacked by a black bear, fight back as hard as you can," his grandfather told him when he was young. Little did he know how appropriate that advice would prove to be.

Dylan McWilliams is an extraordinary young man. Within the last three years, he was bitten by a rattlesnake, dragged by a bear and bitten by a shark. How could all this happen to one human being?

"I think it's just 'cause I'm out in nature so much more than anyone else," he says simply.

His first attack happened in the fall of 2015 while hiking at night in Moab, Utah. Dylan thought he had kicked a cactus, but looking down, he saw fang marks on his leg. Survivalist friends had told him that 60 percent of snakebites are dry bites, so he

decided to wait 10 minutes to see if any symptoms appeared. Ten minutes later, without symptoms, he chalked it up to a dry bite. Over the following couple days, though, he felt sick and began to vomit. With some medical treatment he was able to recover.

Putting advice into action

Working at Glacier View Ranch last summer as a primitive skills instructor, McWilliams was camping in the open with other staff when he awoke around 4 am to a crunching sound and realized a bear had wrapped its mouth around his head and was dragging him from his sleeping bag. His instincts responded exactly according to his grandfather's instructions. He fought back, punching the bear in the nose and

poking its eyes as hard as he could. The bear dropped him. Other GVR staff, awakened by the sound, made enough noise to scare it off.

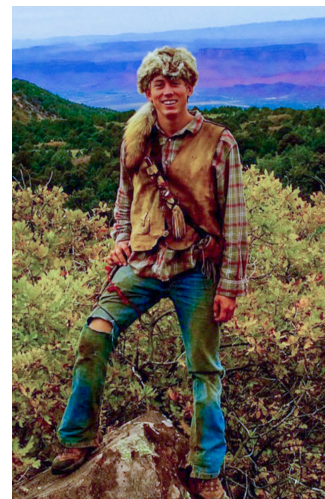
Dylan received nine staples in his head, a badge of honor for this outdoorsman.

Just last month while body boarding off Shipwreck Beach on Kauai, Hawaii, Dylan faced another attack—this time by what he believes was a tiger shark. He was paddling out on the surfboard when something hit his leg. He saw blood in the water and a shark underneath. Kicking at the 6-8 foot shark, he paddled as fast as he could toward shore, where a bystander called paramedics. He received seven stitches.

Interviewed by more than 100 news sources from all over the world, including Jimmy Kimmel Live, Good

Morning Britain, and Studio London, Dylan says, "I didn't really want all the publicity, but it's helped me." He believes it has given him a larger platform for speaking about God.

Carol Bolden is communication assistant for the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Dylan McWilliams

In Memoriam: Julio R. Arias (1963-2018), Associate Director and Stewardship Coordinator for Planned Giving and Trust Services

Rajmund Dabrowski



Rocky Mountain Conference mourns the loss of a man whose dedication to the church, its stewardship and its people was exemplary. He has left a void in the ministry of Adventism.

Julio Arias passed away April 23 at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center where he had been admitted for a minor infection. During his stay, he suffered cardiac arrest. Arias joined the RMC staff in March 2016 and served as field representative, stewardship coordinator and associate director of RMC Planned Giving and Trust Services.

"Julio will be deeply missed," said Ed Barnett, RMC president. "He always had a sweet spirit about him. It was obvious he loved Jesus and longed for His soon coming."

full story: rmcsda.org/news_entries/6603

US Congress and City of Brighton Honor RMC's Rex Bell

Pastor Rex Bell has made the City of Brighton a better place to live" said U.S. Congressman Mike Coffman at a ceremony in Brighton, Colorado, on May 1. Coffman presented a plaque, voted in the U.S. House of Representatives, recognizing Bell for serving on the Brighton City Council for two terms.

Signed by Coffman, the plaque states: "Rex Bell represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer."

Surrounded by his family and fellow members of the City Council, Pastor Bell commented, "I'm humbled, grateful and kind of empty because it's the passing of a part of my life that has been very important to me, so I feel like I'm moving on to new land and ventures where I don't know what I'll be."

Pastor Bell, who is a retired minister and still serving

the Northeastern Colorado churches alongside Pastor Don Lopes, says he believes "Adventist ministry needs to be in the marketplace. In Brighton, when we came here, there were 11,000 people and it grew to 31,000 in that period of time. How are we going to involve and relate to all of that rapid growth unless the Adventist Church is in the center of the movers and shakers, the formers of our community?"

Reflecting on his community service, Bell explained, "I do not want to take my religion to the city, but I want to take my faith, and there's a difference."

Phillip Rodriguez, city manager, commented that "to be able to honor Councilman Rex Bell is not only a reflection of his service and all the good things he was able to do for the community, but it was a chance for us, as an organization and as a city, to really just honor and focus in on

the good man that Rex Bell is and the family that the Bell family is in our community."

Rodriguez says he will remember Rex Bell's cool approach to issues as well as his quiet, kind demeanor, which is what many fellow council people will miss. "We were having some tension over water rates and water billing and things like that, and one of the things he said that I won't forget was, 'The one thing we never want to do is lose our people. If we don't have a people,' meaning a community, 'then there's no point in anything we're doing. Let's not lose our people.' We all just took a proverbial moment of silence and focused back on what it is that we really do," said Rodriguez.

Eric Nelson, Rocky Mountain Conference vice president for administration, was also at the event in Brighton's City Hall. "It was wonderful to hear the

Council members recalling phrases Rex often repeated as they worked together for so many years," commented Nelson. "There was an obvious appreciation and admiration of Pastor Bell's wise and calm presence."

Nelson pointed out that at the outset of the ceremony, Pastor Bell took time to pray for his fellow Council members and Congressman Coffman. Before the event, he prayed for America and the challenges of Washington, D.C.

The investment of Pastor Rex's time and effort as a pastor and community leader has been a major contributing factor in helping the Brighton Adventist Church be recognized as a church of significance to Brighton and its people.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Photos: Rajmund Dabrowski



Congressman Mike Coffman (right) presents a plaque to Rex Bell for his service to the Brighton community.

Union Launches Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Two year degree leads to lucrative and rewarding career

Union College has always adapted to the needs of the students and communities it serves. In 1891, that meant offering classes in German and Danish, and training students to preach the gospel in the immigrant communities of the Great Plains. Today, the college's commitment to its students and community means extending the healing mission of Christ through a new associate's degree for occupational therapy assistants.

The OTA program will be a two-year program, and students may enroll at Union College and begin the general education part of the program

in Fall 2018. Pending accreditation approval, students may apply for the OTA-specific portion of the program in December 2018, begin classes in August 2019 and graduate December 2020.

OTA is an in-demand profession

"It's important for any educational institution to be constantly assessing what they're offering," said **Michelle Velasquez-Mesnard**, vice president for Enrollment Services. "We need to offer new majors and improve our education so students will succeed in the marketplace."

Velasquez-Mesnard began the process of creating the new program as a part of her previous role as the associate vice president for academic initiatives. "Union has developed a strong reputation in the health sciences, and we excel in experiential learning. Occupational therapy is all about practical, hands-on learning. It's the perfect fit."

One of the fastest growing careers in the U.S. according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for occupational therapy assistants is projected to grow 28 percent by 2026. Entry-level salaries for the two-year program are significantly above

average and the occupation as a whole enjoys a median annual wage approaching \$60,000 per year. In fact, *US News and World Report* ranked OTA as #1 "Best Health Care Support Job" and #12 in "The 100 Best Jobs" for 2017.

What is an occupational therapy assistant?

Occupational therapy assistants work alongside occupational therapists to help people who are injured, ill or disabled develop skills needed for daily life, such as using assistive technologies, adaptive equipment, recovering motor function and developing therapeutic interventions to help clients become more independent. In addition to being the second college in Nebraska to offer an OTA program, Union will also be the second

Cami Hollins (left) is director of Union's new occupational therapy assistant program. Her extensive experience as an OT has helped her develop a program that will equip graduates for a rewarding career helping the injured, ill or disabled develop skills needed for daily life.

Photos: Courtesy Union College



Adventist college to offer an OTA program in the U.S.

Building a new program

Good programs require good leadership, and an exhaustive, year-long search lead Union College to name **Cami Hollins** as the program's first director. Hollins will be responsible for ensuring the program's success as the program seeks accreditation. "Getting to be involved in the development of the program from the ground level is an amazing opportunity," she said. "Union's faith-filled environment along with our commitment to service blend well with the healing nature of the profession of occupational therapy."

Hollins completed her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North

Dakota. Since then, she has worked in hospital care, acute rehab, long-term care, school-based settings as well as home health, and has held both treatment and management positions. "I am eager for the opportunity to inspire others as they pursue the profession of occupational therapy," she said.

"Her varied experiences will help build the education our students need. Her multi-field knowledge and administrative background will help as we work to get accredited," said Velasquez-Mesnard.

Curriculum for this program is grounded in the sciences with students studying anatomy and physiology, human movement, and occupations, which all help to develop a foundation for more in-depth courses that expand on humans as occupational beings across the lifespan. "Our program is

unique in that we focus not only on the development of knowledge, but on real-life experience," said Hollins. "Our graduates will have the knowledge and experience to be highly sought graduates in the field."

Because occupational therapy is a hands-on field, "our program will utilize hands-on learning experiences in a simulation lab, during volunteer experiences as well as during required fieldwork experiences to reinforce didactic learning," she continued.

"In a constantly changing world, occupational therapy has a vital role in facilitating quality of life," said Hollins. "I can't think of a better way to spend the next phase of my career than by helping Union College students learn the adaptability, critical thinking skills and compassion they will need to be a light in the lives of their clients."

Emily Roque Cisneros graduated from Union College in 2016 and now works as a freelance writer and photographer in Western Colorado.

From college to career in just two years

Become an occupational therapy assistant

Want to help others live life to the fullest? Get the training at Union College to join one of the fastest growing careers in the country as an occupational therapy assistant. Apply now to start classes in August.

Learn more at www.ucollege.edu/ota



Kansas City Couple Devoted to Helping Kids with Special Needs

Thanks to a lead gift from **Doug and Nan Smith**, Kansas City will soon be home to a world-class facility that will serve as a welcoming, safe place for children of many diverse abilities. Currently under construction on the Shawnee Mission Medical Center campus, the B.E. Smith Family Center, which is named after Doug's father, will house the renowned Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center and the Shawnee Mission Health Early Learning Center with the primary goal of promoting understanding and inclusion of children with special needs.

After retiring as the CEO of B.E. Smith, Doug wanted to continue being involved in something meaningful. He began searching for work that would fulfill the later part of his life and make a difference within the community.

Doug and Nan are natives of Kansas City with strong spiritual beliefs and have

always appreciated the whole-person, faith-based care provided by SMH and Adventist Health System. While attending a benefit for SMH, they had the chance to meet children with special needs and were made aware of the opportunity that existed to help kids in Kansas City.

"We decided to make it our mission to raise the level of care for kids with special needs by combining education and training," said Nan. "We want to see these kids reach their fullest potential and provide the first-class facility they deserve."

Continuing a legacy of care and involvement

Since 1972, the Britain IDC has been a unique place offering a supportive environment where children with a variety of special needs can receive comprehensive therapies and early childhood special education in one

location by an exceptional team of professionals. Families are never turned away due to their inability to pay, but there are around 30 families on the waiting list at any given time. The Britain IDC encourages a high level of parental involvement in therapy sessions, training and support groups.

"When families first start looking for services, they are scared and not sure what the future holds," said Britain IDC director **Amy Milroy**. "But once here, they feel confidence in their new journey of raising a child with special needs. The friendships and support network families develop at the center last a lifetime."

Opening in 2019, the B.E. Smith Family Center will allow the Britain IDC to offer comprehensive services to a larger number of families and will promote inclusivity amongst kids of all abilities. The new center will feature an integrated harness system in multiple classrooms and therapy areas, which is the first of its kind in the world. It will allow all kids, regardless of their disability, to explore their environment independently, promoting social inclusion and cognitive development.

Additionally, the new center will feature two state-of-the-art indoor saltwater pools for aquatic therapy. The larger pool includes zero depth entry, natural light and therapeutically designed areas. The smaller pool will provide

a more controlled sensory environment with specialized equipment including bubble tubes, fiberoptic lights and an acoustically designed space with an integrated sound system for music. The pool area also includes intentionally designed family friendly changing spaces with changing tables to meet the needs of the population.

"Regardless if a child attends our Center, our hope is that the B.E. Smith Family Center will improve care as a whole in the Kansas City area and have a positive impact on kids across the city," said Doug.

Both agree that the entire experience has been very gratifying, especially when parents stop to say thanks and offer hugs when in restaurants and around the city.

"I knocked on many doors to raise money for this project," said Doug. "The way the Kansas City community has stepped up has been unbelievable. We are very grateful and blessed."

Nan added, "This is what God would want. Our community coming together and reflecting what Jesus would do—to show love to all."

Jackie Woods is a project manager/writer for Shawnee Mission Health.



Learn more at BESmithFamily.org.

Adventist Health Delivers Comprehensive Care

Adventist Health/Centura Health serves the Rocky Mountain Region through five Colorado hospitals:

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Web: avistahospital.org



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Castle Rock, CO 80109
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Web: castlerockhospital.org



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Littleton, CO 80122
Phone: 303.730.8900
Web: mylittletonhospital.org



PARKER

9395 Crown Crest Blvd
Parker, CO 80138
Phone: 303.269.4000
Web: parkerhospital.org



PORTER

2525 S Downing St
Denver, CO 80210
Phone: 303.778.1955
Web: porterhospital.org

Arens, Tom, b. June 10, 1962 in Langdon, ND. d. April 25, 2018 in Cleveland, ND. Member of Cleveland Church. Survivors include son Daniel Ringwelski; 2 sisters; 1 brother.

Baker, Evelyn J. (Shepherd), b. July 11, 1931 in Pierre, SD. d. March 31, 2018 in Sun City, AZ. Survivors include son Dick; daughters Kathy Berthelsen and Tammy; 3 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Barker, Lyle G., b. April 3, 1924 in Jaroso, CO. d. March 19, 2018 in Frontenac, KS. Member of Pittsburg (KS) Church. Preceded in death by 4 brothers; 3 sisters. Survivors include wife Evelyn; sons Guy, Bruce and Gary; daughter Sherry Christian; 1 brother; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Bender, Elsie, b. Jan. 6, 1929 in Dodge, ND. d. April 13, 2018 in Orange County, CA. Member of Bismarck (ND) Church. Preceded in death by husband William. Survivors include children Douglas, Bruce, Fonda Opp, Joel and Marianne DeCoteau; 1 sister; 1 brother; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Berg, Irvin D., b. Jan. 2, 1934 in North St. Paul, MN. d. April 21, 2018 in Maplewood, MN. Member of St. Paul First Church. Preceded in death by daughter Heidi Sue. Survivors include wife Marlene; children Susan and Thomas; stepchildren Bruce Craven and Rick Craven; 1 brother; 2 grandchildren; 4 step-grandchildren.

Bietz, Darwin Reuben, b. Aug. 22, 1936 in Jamestown, ND. d. March 26, 2018 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Anita Louise; sons Frank and Michael; daughter Wanda Hilton; 2 sisters; 6 grandchildren.

Bivins, Jesse Lee, b. Jan. 23, 1936. d. March 28, 2018 in Hutchinson, KS. Member of Great Bend (KS) Church. Preceded in death by wife Esther L. Christian.

Burns, Gerald Dean, b. Jan. 10, 1943 in Kansas City, MO. d. April 20, 2018 in Wichita, KS. Member of Hutchinson (KS) Church. Survivors include children Michael, Daniel and Matthew; 2 granddaughters.

Dietz, Dorothy Grace Schander, b. May 7, 1942 in Fessenden, ND. d. April 3, 2018 in Fergus Falls, MN. Member of Fergus Falls Church. Survivors include husband Doug; children Wendi Gernhardt, Jay, Stacy Galasso and Tracy Guest; 1 brother; 11 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Dirksen, J. William, b. May 16, 1936 in Hutchinson, KS. d. April 22, 2018 in St. George, UT. Survivors include wife Marlys J. McTaggart; children James, Shari and Todd; 2 sisters; 4 grandchildren.

Goodson, Pauline, b. April 10, 1930 in Chicago, IL. d. March 14, 2018 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by husband Lowell; son Robert. Survivors include 3 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Guy, G. Herman, b. Dec. 18, 1930 in Iola, KS. d. April 22, 2018 in Lawton, MI. Preceded in death by 1 grandson. Survivors include wife Jane; daughter Jan; sons Jon and Jim; 7 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Heaper, Clark A., b. Aug. 18, 1951. d. Oct. 29, 2017 in Sedalia, MO. Member of Sedalia Church.

Jepson, Clayton R., b. May 4, 1923 near Brainerd, MN. d. April 10, 2018 in Walla Walla, WA. Preceded in death by wife Irene.

Survivors include daughter Gail Szana; sons Trent and Gary; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandson.

Johnson, Gayle, b. July 10, 1932 in Kansas City, MO. d. April 27, 2018 in Pierre, SD. Member of Pierre Church. Survivors include husband Lloyd; children Craig, Marlin and Rhonda Goransson; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren.

Jonson, Daniel J., b. Aug. 21, 1960 in Sedalia, MO. d. Sept. 21, 2017 in Columbia, MO. Member of Sedalia Church. Preceded in death by 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Ana and Cassandra Fitzpatrick; son Zach; 1 sister; 1 grandson.

Kirwin, Emile Lahti "Laddy", b. Aug. 29, 1922 in Mobile, AL. d. April 17, 2018 in Auburn, KS. Member of Enterprise (KS) Church. Survivors include wife Mary Lou; daughter Cheri Real-Hurt; 3 granddaughters; 10 great-grandchildren. Air Force veteran from WWII.

Krupsky, Elsie, b. Sept. 7, 1922 in Greatstone, ND. d. April 1, 2018 in Oakes, ND. Member of Dakota Conference (ND) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Curtis Haugen; second husband Stanley Krupsky Jr.; children Gary and Carolyn; 3 brothers; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Deanna Bird, Connie Teske, Bonnie Hopkins and Nancy; 1 sister; 1 brother; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Meyers, Ruth I., b. May 18, 1924 in Horton, KS. d. Dec. 15, 2017 in Norfolk, NE. Member of Norfolk Church. Preceded in death by son Gary. Survivors include husband Garth; sons Jerry, Larry and Duane; daughters Virginia and Donna; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Nelson, Ruth V., b. March 10, 1921 in Lincoln Valley,

ND. d. March 6, 2018 in Minot, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by husband Irwin; son Darold; 7 siblings. Survivors include daughters Cynthia and Lorraine; 2 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Prusia, Lois J., b. Feb. 16, 1929 in Pontiac, MI. d. Feb. 23, 2018 in Denver, CO. Member of Denver South Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 brother. Survivors include husband Norman; daughter Janis Parfitt; sons Duane and Ronald; 1 brother; 3 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Reiner, LeRoy A., b. Feb. 25, 1949 in Bismarck, ND. d. May 5, 2018 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Rapid City Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include children Lisa Gage and Derek; 4 siblings; 5 grandchildren.

Riley, Donna L., b. Oct. 12, 1950. d. Oct. 23, 2016 in Kansas City, MO. Member of Sedalia (MO) Church.

Schneider, David, b. April 27, 1929 in Eaton, CO. d. Jan. 2018 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Preceded in death by son David. Survivors include wife Bonnie; daughters Vicky, Terri, LeAnn and Lori; 9 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Sturges, Barbara L., b. June 9, 1927 in San Diego, CA. d. April 26, 2018 in Grand Junction, CO. Member of Grand Junction Church. Survivors include husband Hubert; children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact or email [Brennan Hallock at brennan@outlookmag.org](mailto:Brennan.Hallock@brennan@outlookmag.org). Questions? 402.484.3028.

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EMPLOYMENT

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in various routine support services including generating reports, maintaining budgets, managing correspondence with clients, recruits or other parties, collecting and maintaining accreditation and assessment documents, and management of confidential files. Will maintain program files, spreadsheets, manipulate web-based applications, conduct significant amounts of research in support of program accreditation and assessment activities. www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_7

Andrews University seeks administrative assistant in social work. Manages a variety of general office activities relating to future and current students, faculty, university personnel and members of the community. General duties involve routine office management and communication, document preparation and coordination, financial management, and ongoing event planning. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_10

The General Conference is seeking an experienced cyber security analyst to assist in installing, configuring and maintaining all aspects of the organization's security and network systems as well as conducting security assessments. A bachelor's degree in a related field with a minimum of four years of experience is required. Master's preferred. Must be Adventist Church member. Interested applicants should send resume to stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org.

OB-GYN, Pediatrician, Psychiatrist and Psychologist needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at: 615.604.0142.

Teachers needed in Taiwan. Taipei Adventist American School is an elementary school serving students in grades 1-8. If you are interested in teaching overseas at a mission school and have a four-year degree, please send your resume and three references to secretary@taas-taiwan.com. For more information on current openings and benefits, please see www.taas-taiwan.com. You may also see our postings on the NAD Education website under K-12 world.

Union College seeks full-time professor of communication with strong experience in emerging media and public relations beginning July 2019. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit a curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at mark.robison@ucollege.edu.



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EVENTS

40th Weimar Institute

Anniversary: We're celebrating 40 years of God's blessings at Weimar Institute this year! If you attended academy or pursued higher education here, join us Nov. 2-4, 2018 and reconnect with friends. More information: weimar.edu/alumni

GYC Conference in Houston, TX, Dec. 28, 2018-Jan. 1, 2019.

GYC has always been dedicated to a radical adherence to the Word of God. At this year's conference, there will be a focus on missions. All over the world, people are dying for a lack of knowledge about who God is. Together we will be exploring the exciting possibilities that God has in

store for young people who desire to be His witnesses to the end. www.gycweb.org/conference/information

The Office of Adventist Mission announces the 2018 film contest titled "My Story, My Mission." Students around the world are invited to creatively express, in one minute or less, what mission means in their lives. Young filmmakers have four months to create their masterpiece. The winners will be announced in October at the Society of Adventist Communicators Conference. For more details, please contact Kayla Ewert at 301.680.6696 or by email EwertK@gc.adventist.org.

Standifer Gap School (Chattanooga, TN) is celebrating its 70th anniversary (1948-2018) Sept. 28 and 29. All alumni and former staff are invited to attend our celebration. Festivities will begin Friday

through Saturday evening. Contact: 423.892.6013 or for further details visit sgsdaschool.org.

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TRAVEL/RENTALS

ISRAEL TOUR WITH PASTOR JIM GILLEY, 3ABN'S PASTOR C.A. MURRAY AND FRIENDS. Two trips this fall, Nov. 11-19, 2018 \$3,095; Nov. 18-27, 2018 \$3,395. Includes all tips, taxes, air and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. Other departure cities available. Call Jennifer at 602.788.8864.

JULY 2018

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
	Denver	8:31	8:28	8:24	8:18
	Grand Junction	8:20	8:40	8:36	8:30
	Pueblo	8:25	8:22	8:18	8:13
	IOWA				
	Davenport	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:25
	Des Moines	8:51	8:48	8:44	8:37
	Sioux City	9:05	9:02	8:57	8:51
	KANSAS				
	Dodge City	9:05	9:02	8:59	8:53
Goodland	8:16	8:14	8:09	8:04	
Topeka	8:51	8:49	8:45	8:39	
MINNESOTA					
Duluth	9:04	9:00	8:54	8:47	
International Falls	9:17	9:13	9:06	8:58	
Minneapolis	9:02	8:58	8:53	8:45	
MISSOURI					
Columbia	8:37	8:35	8:30	8:25	
Kansas City	8:47	8:44	8:40	8:34	
St. Louis	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:16	
NEBRASKA					
Lincoln	9:01	8:58	8:53	8:47	
North Platte	9:18	9:15	9:11	9:05	
Scottsbluff	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:18	
NORTH DAKOTA					
Bismarck	9:39	9:35	9:29	9:21	
Fargo	9:23	9:19	9:13	9:06	
Williston	9:56	9:52	9:45	9:37	
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Pierre	9:28	9:24	9:19	9:12	
Rapid City	8:38	8:35	8:29	8:23	
Sioux Falls	9:10	9:07	9:02	8:55	
WYOMING					
Casper	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:31	
Cheyenne	8:34	8:31	8:27	8:21	
Sheridan	8:56	8:52	8:47	8:40	

AUGUST 2018

SUNSET CALENDAR	COLORADO	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24	Aug 31
	Denver	8:11	8:02	7:53	7:43	7:32
	Grand Junction	8:23	8:15	8:06	7:57	7:46
	Pueblo	8:06	7:58	7:49	7:40	7:30
	IOWA					
	Davenport	8:17	8:09	7:59	7:48	7:37
	Des Moines	8:30	8:21	8:11	8:00	7:49
	Sioux City	8:43	8:34	8:24	8:13	8:01
	KANSAS					
	Dodge City	8:47	8:39	8:30	8:21	8:11
Goodland	7:57	7:49	7:40	7:30	7:19	
Topeka	8:32	8:24	8:15	8:05	7:55	
MINNESOTA						
Duluth	8:37	8:27	8:15	8:03	7:50	
International Falls	8:48	8:37	8:24	8:11	7:57	
Minneapolis	8:37	8:27	8:16	8:04	7:52	
MISSOURI						
Columbia	8:18	8:10	8:01	7:51	7:41	
Kansas City	8:27	8:19	8:10	8:01	7:50	
St. Louis	8:09	8:01	7:53	7:43	7:32	
NEBRASKA						
Lincoln	8:40	8:31	8:22	8:11	8:00	
North Platte	8:57	8:48	8:39	8:28	8:17	
Scottsbluff	8:10	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:30	
NORTH DAKOTA						
Bismarck	9:12	9:02	8:50	8:37	8:24	
Fargo	8:56	8:46	8:34	8:22	8:08	
Williston	9:27	9:16	9:04	8:51	8:37	
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Pierre	9:03	8:54	8:43	8:32	8:19	
Rapid City	8:14	8:05	7:54	7:43	7:30	
Sioux Falls	8:47	8:37	8:27	8:16	8:04	
WYOMING						
Casper	8:23	8:14	8:04	7:53	7:41	
Cheyenne	8:13	8:05	7:55	7:44	7:33	
Sheridan	8:31	8:21	8:10	7:59	7:46	

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573.682.2164
sunnydale.org



I came so that they may **have** and **enjoy** life, and have it in **abundance**. — John 10:10



Abundant Life

Adventist Health System takes a Christ-centered, whole-person approach to healthcare, serving more than 4.7 million patients each year. To do this, we look to the principles of Creation as the blueprint for helping others live an abundant life. Explore these eight principles of CREATION Health at [CreationHealth.com](https://www.creationhealth.com).