YOUNG ADULTS ENGAGED WITH CHURCH
IN THIS ISSUE

The purpose of high tech is high touch. Electronic gadgets and the various social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are not to replace human fellowship but to enrich relationships for both outreach and nurture, thus building up the church. This month’s Outlook focuses on keeping young adults in the church, through love expressed in a winning combination of old-fashioned methods—such as the time-honored “care package” for college students—in partnership with new media outlets like Facebook friending. Special focus is given to keeping Adventist students on secular campuses connected with their church. Even pastors struggle to keep their own kids in the church, as addressed in my editorial on the next page spread.—MARTIN WEBER

College Students and the Local Church

High tech facilitates high touch in secular campus ministry, for the sake of keeping Adventist students connected with their church.

BY KIRK KING

Bible Worker Conference Coming to Glacier View

Guest speaker James Rafferty heads an exciting agenda for the October event.

BY KAREN LEWIS

Union College Offers Firefighter Emphasis

The groundbreaking international rescue and relief program takes another step forward.

BY THERESA TRUMBO
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**Blog:**
The Gift of Giving—giving is a laboratory where we learn to trust God.

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**Blog:**
He Remembered Me Today—a frustrated mother finds peace in recalling the day of her baptism.

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**Article:**
Best Bags Ever—great options for reusable shopping bags.
http://bit.ly/pMgWLh

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**Article:**
Perception: a key faith factor—we don’t have to “prove” God exists to believe in Him.
http://bit.ly/pMgWLh

SEPTEMBER 2011 OUTLOOKMAG.ORG 3
Farewell to Chris McConnell

Chris McConnell served as managing editor and also designer of both Outlook magazine and the website www.outlookmag.org. He has moved to his native Colorado with Candice, his remarkable wife, to serve Rocky Mountain Conference as director of information technology. In that role he will help church schools set up distance education and eventually connect scattered church districts so that pastors can preach to all their churches at the same time.

Tom Lemon, president of the Mid-America Union

“Chris brought significant improvements to our communication effectiveness, all out of proportion to the time he was with us. We wish him well in his new venture with Rocky Mountain Conference.”

Martin Weber, communication department director, Outlook editor

“During his eight months here, Chris achieved incredible accomplishments. He redesigned Outlook magazine and the website www.midamericaadventist.org while setting up www.outlookmag.org. He also streamlined our advertising process, launched online advertising and set up automatic billing and records. Chris did video interviews with people of influence for God. I was amazed how he gained access to Nebraska’s favorite son Tom Osborne, legendary national champion football coach, discussing how to communicate God’s love in a sport renowned for violence.

“Chris wrote insightful blogs and articles. He was always available for anything—and cheerfully. Everybody at Mid-America headquarters loved him. To me, Chris became like a son.

“Our communication staff prayed together every day and discussed responsibilities and priorities. Chris brightened our lives with his sense of humor—teasing me and challenging me, yet always respectful and supportive. He and Candice epitomize the dedicated, visionary, loyal and energetic spirit of God’s final generation.”

Brenda Dickerson, communication editorial assistant

“Chris McConnell accomplished many goals during his short tenure—designing a new logo for Outlook, creating a brand new website, producing our first video interviews for the web, writing compelling original content, and launching us deep into the exciting world of social media.

“We all know that people come and people go in the great Advent movement, yet Chris’ departure from the Mid-America Union is a loss of great magnitude. In addition to being highly efficient, skilled and knowledgeable, Chris is just an all-around wonderful guy and we will miss him greatly. We are, however, cheered by the fact that he will continue to serve constituents of our Union, blessing them daily with his enthusiasm and creativity.”
The purpose of technology and social media in the church is to facilitate outreach and nurture—-winning new souls to Christ while helping existing disciples grow in grace, as individuals and as a church family. Unfortunately, many members are abandoning the church—most painfully, many of our own children. Even pastors’ kids (PKs) are leaving us.

To find out why, I devoted my Doctor of Ministry project to the tragic topic of attrition of adult PKs in the Mid-America Union. I mailed an 111-point questionnaire to each of 222 active and retired clergy in our nine-state territory who have adult children (as of 2008). My research question was: “What influences from Seventh-day Adventist clergy parents in Mid-America may affect whether their children experience attrition from that denomination upon becoming adults?”

Data collected from the 113 questionnaires returned by clergy parents identified 40 attrition factors, yielding these conclusions:

Parental conservatism regarding lifestyle standards is not statistically significant in attrition.

Legalism regarding gospel doctrine (soteriology) is a moderately significant cause of attrition.

Legalism regarding practicing the principles of the gospel is a major cause of attrition.

For clergy parents to hold their own children to a higher behavioral standard is one of the highest causes of attrition.

Lack of relationality in the pastoral family is the most serious cause of PK attrition. Pastors with the highest retention rate of adult children are those who managed to provide the most positive and “fun” family experience in the parsonage and were close enough to talk about anything in an atmosphere of freedom that allowed children and teens latitude in developing their own faith experience.

The greatest predictor of future faithfulness as an adult is whether the PK during growing up years takes initiative to approach the clergy parent to discuss spiritual matters.

Closely associated with family relationality is the freedom and trust expressed in discussing controversial issues. There is no greater cause of attrition than to attempt to shield children from knowledge of, or resisting discussion about, church or denominational conflict.

Congregational criticism of pastoral family members portends future attrition of adult children.

There is definite correlation between the experience of entering the pastorate during one’s 30s and the future attrition of one’s children.

Having a clergy grandparent is a stabilizing factor in the spiritual life of a PK.

To summarize: The most significant factors in avoiding attrition are 1) being able to discuss church problems in the parsonage while also 2) managing to sustain joy and togetherness in the family circle and 3) giving teens freedom to develop their own faith experience without the expectation of being super saints because they live in a parsonage.

The final section proposed remedial recommendations based on the thesis: “The parsonage parent’s best defense against attrition is to foster the positive elements of joyous relationality and intrinsic spirituality in the family while avoiding negative factors such as suppression, rigidity and legalism; Seventh-day Adventists can pursue this in practical terms by interpreting fundamental denominational beliefs in the context of the gospel and living them out in a missional community of shalom.”

What that means, simply stated, is that there is nothing in the 28 fundamental beliefs of Adventists that would cause our children to leave the church. It is the abuse of our doctrines that causes attrition. Each Adventist belief is a channel through which we can experience Jesus. When taught and lived in the context of a fruitful and joyous relationship with Christ, church doctrine is a positive factor in keeping our kids spiritually safe for time and eternity.

Martin Weber, DMin, is communication director for the Mid-America Union.
College Students and the Local Church

by Kirk King

“The best support for college students is leaders and members who take an interest in us.” These words by David, a recent graduate of the school of business at the University of Colorado in Boulder, express the sentiment of most college students and the need of all.

College is a time of transitions. It is the age when youth learn to be independent, responsible and productive adults. Faith, borrowed to this point from family, must now be transformed into a personal relationship with Jesus. Many young people seem to disappear from church during this time of change, and it is easy to interpret their absence as disinterest. While it is true that young adults need the freedom to examine and explore the broader world, what they do not need is the absence of mature Christian influence. Yet, unfortunately, such is too often the church’s response. Whether students attend church sponsored colleges, secular schools or enter the workforce out of high school, there is often little purposeful effort on the part of the local church to maintain connection and conversation with the twenty-something demographic.

We have no excuse in 2011. The age of social media provides unique opportunities for connecting with students. College students are happy to “friend” those who impact their lives. Alyssa from Boulder, who attends Andrews University, reported: “I am friends with people from church on Facebook. I appreciate getting news from home.” Keeping in touch has never been easier.

However, while Facebook and other forms of social media provide opportunities, we should not limit our contact to tweets, texts and Facebook greetings. There are many other tangible ways to communicate to students that the church is still interested in them: photos on a bulletin board, a meal together, invitations to participate in worship, recognition of accomplishments and milestones—to mention just a few. Time spent listening to young people share their dreams, then praying with them through their struggles, is time well spent.

This past spring Boulder Church members communicated their love for college age young people by sending out 45 care packages. The congregation provided funds for the packages, baked cookies, wrote personal notes of encouragement and helped pack the boxes. The care packages included locally produced snack foods and school supplies. With spiritual needs in mind, also included were a music CD and Life in Color, a devotional book by local musician/writer Tony Wuerfel (blueprintforjonas.com), plus the booklet Spiritual LIFE for College and Beyond (noted in the sidebar).

“Thank you for the care package,” wrote Courtney from Union College. “I was touched by the love and care shown within it.” Alex, also at Union, added, “I think that just letting me know there were people back home who believe in me and want me to succeed was fantastic!” Raphael, a graduate student at CU Boulder from Germany, was impressed that the congregation he was visiting for a couple years included him. Kayla, a student at Florida Hospital of Health Sciences, told her aunt that the care package came at just the moment she needed cheering up.

Young men and women remember these intentional acts of love. Everyone is attracted to spiritual communities that nurture faith. The future lies in the hearts and hands of the youth. As they develop the knowledge and skills to lead, we, their church, must continue to influence their development with our encouragement, prayers and personal friendship.

Warning! Listening to young people can lead to radical transformation of your congregation. Their passion and energy, empowered by God’s Spirit, will threaten the status quo. The church will be transformed with them. Follow the ideas shared in this article only if your congregation is willing to take the next step and allow God’s Spirit to be heard through the next generation.

Anyone truly interested in the church will take an interest in college age young people.

Kirk King is the author of The Word on Campus: A Guide to Public College Ministry and several other resources for public college ministry. He has been a youth pastor, college chaplain and is founder of Service Safari, a non-profit dedicated to developing programs that cultivate maturity in young adults through involvement in service (www.servicesafari.org).
Spiritual LIFE for College and Beyond, available from AdventSource, makes a great gift for any young person in college. It is designed to walk students through four important principles in the development of a personal faith in God:

- Live abundantly in Christ
- Invest in meaningful relationships
- Fellowship in Christian community
- Engage the world for Christ

The 28-page booklet comes with a copy of the special Adventist Christian Fellowship edition of Insight magazine, with stories from Adventists attending public colleges relating how these four principles helped grow faith in secular environments. Learn more about this resource at the Adventist Youth Transition Network website: www.aytn.org.
Campus Ministry Resource Websites:
www.acflink.org (The official site for Adventist Christian Fellowship [North American Division], an organization supporting Adventist ministries on non-Adventist colleges and universities)
www.ar4cministries.org (The Affiliated Resources for Campus Ministries site directs students and leaders involved in Adventist ministry on non-Adventist campuses to valuable resources and training.)
www.adventsource.org (AdventSource has numerous resources for ministry with college age young people.)
Simplifying Your Life for Service

Following is an interview between Chris McConnell and Peter Furler, a Christian musician with wide appeal among young adults worldwide. Adventists of all ages may benefit from his testimony, which is excerpted here. The complete interview is online at www.outlookmag.org, click on “Youth.”

Q. Why did you decide to leave behind your life as the lead singer for the Newsboys and head in a new direction?

I wasn’t tired or burnt out. I just got a sense to let the ground rest creatively. I was enjoying the Newsboys. We’d had private jets, and really nice hotels. We were pretty spoiled. Then my wife and I had wanted to do something different. Instead of having a bus driver take us all around we took an RV out. We drove ourselves to all the shows—about 110,000 miles. We would play for 10,000 people, then stay in a KOA campground that night or Wal-Mart Super Center instead of a hotel.

We wanted to simplify our lives. We sold things, gave away things. It’s been a precious and good process.

Q. How is your life different now?

It’s a lot more simple. I take a day at a time now. Before it was so planned out—it had to be. I would look at a calendar and know a year in advance where I was going to be. Now, I don’t know what the future holds and I find that exciting. Not that we really knew before. As people, we make plans and we think we know what we’re going to be doing, but we really don’t. I savor not knowing what’s ahead. I’m led by things instead of being pulled along. That’s a big difference. But the simplification of life is probably the biggest difference.

Q. Switching gears a bit, was there a favorite behind-the-scenes moment you had while recording your “On Fire” album?

I think a highlight was having my wife, Summer, sing on it. She’s a real talent that has not been stirred up through the years. This
was another bonus of do-it-yourself and having the studio in our house. She’s very shy and if I told her two days prior I wanted her to sing on the record she probably would have run off. But about five minutes before the track was recorded I just said “Hey, come in here—I need you to sing something.” She didn’t have time to get scared. And when she put the headphones on and started singing I said, “That’s great—perfect—just what we needed.” And in about five minutes she really started enjoying it and a little fire came out of her. Then she turned and said, “You got any more?” That was a really great moment.

**Q. What’s one thing about being a Christian recording artist that you feel is often misunderstood? And what’s one thing you wish people knew about the job?**

One thing people misunderstand is they think recording artists just have a gift and they can automatically grab a guitar or drums or keyboard and record hit music, or they can write a beautiful song and it just happens. I think people don’t understand the discipline it takes. It’s a lot of hard work.

I was watching the basketball championship the other night and they were showing behind-the-scenes footage of the players in their sweats, just working so hard. There was no crowd, no one cheering them on; they were just running up and down the court, going through moves, doing weight training. We usually only see them on the court, doing these massive moves for however long it takes to finish a game.

That’s how it is with music. There are so many hours sitting with a guitar or keyboard and sometimes these instruments can represent frustration because you’ve sat there for eight hours playing the same chords and there’s no song coming. But you keep turning up again and I think the turning up is the big thing—that’s what brings the song.

**Q. Looking back over your career, is there something you can point to as a spiritual highlight?**

There are lots of things, but one that always comes to mind was when we were playing on the Sea of Galilee at a New Age festival with Buddhism, Hinduism, nudism—it was all on. Lots of people were smoking weed and drinking beers and here we were in the middle of it all, right on the shore of Galilee. And I’m thinking that this is probably the first time Jesus’ name has gone over a PA system here. We saw a lot of people touched and come to know Christ. The local church members that had come along who weren’t involved with the event in any way said over 100 people began to ask questions and learn about Christ. It was very powerful—an incredible night.

**Q. If you could start back at the beginning of your career and do it all over again, what would you do differently?**

I’d have practiced my instrument more and become a better musician. It’s easier and quicker to learn when you are younger, just starting out. Whatever your instrument, how much you practice defines who you become as a musician. And I think I might have read my Bible more.
Christian Record Receives Garden Gift
by Jeri Lyn Rogge

Christian Record Services for the Blind (CSRB), the Adventist Church’s official ministry for visually handicapped people, received the gift of a sensory garden this spring. It came from several local landscaping companies through a contest held by a local niche magazine. Along with decorating the CSRB campus, the garden has become a point of connection with the Lincoln (Nebraska) community.

Last winter, a part-time staff member noticed a contest announcement in L Magazine, a monthly journal covering philanthropic events in Lincoln. A “Landscape Revival” would be awarded to a deserving local nonprofit organization. Although busy that day and about to leave on a holiday vacation, the staffer quickly filled out the entry.

Donna Welch, whose cheerful voice welcomes visitors and answers phones at CSRS, received the prize announcement call. “I was so excited because L Magazine targets influential people in the Lincoln area. This would be a great opportunity to bring Christian Record into focus for a new group of people.”

Peggy Hansen, assistant camp director and field department administrative assistant, coordinated with the magazine’s team and landscapers in designing the garden’s layout, which includes a short walking trail, fountains, lighting and insets for future memorial benches.

“I challenged them to design it with a blindfold on,” said Hansen. Of highest interest was whatever could be heard, touched, or even tasted that would offer a sensory experience for all visitors.

“This garden is giving us a unique opportunity to show how we as Adventist Christians value God’s creation,” said Larry Pitcher, CSRS president.

Christian Record is located at 4444 South 52nd Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. The garden is open for personal tours at any time of day or night. Facility tours are also available by arrangement Monday to Thursday, 9 to 4; call 402.488.0981. Visitors may share reflections on www.facebook.com/ChristianRecord.
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Ron E. M. Clouzet, D.Min.
Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.

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• Broadcast live on Hope Church Channel
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• Plan to use this NET 2011 preparatory event
to reach the community
Central States members continue to bask in blessings received at camp meeting last summer. There is no room here to itemize all their cherished memories, but at the top of such a list would be the early morning and afterglow prayer times, fantastic workshops, community service projects, acknowledgment of lay soul winners, goals attained and celebrated, powerful preaching, temperance programs, youth services, Pathfinder honors, a golf tournament, great fellowship, friendships renewed and smiles on every face. Perhaps the most gripping camp meeting event was the Sabbath afternoon baptismal service.

For months, pastors had been preparing new converts to Christ for a big “old-time” camp meeting baptism. Then came Sabbath at camp meeting, when Unity Village swimming pool was transformed into a Jordan River baptismal site. With swimmers and lifeguards watching, members of Central States Conference began singing baptismal songs. Then came the baptismal vows, with enthusiastic candidates responding affirmatively to each question. As each person entered the water with his or her pastor, some who were present pictured John the Baptist lowering people into the waters of the Jordan.

God is still a saving people today! And then, through baptism, He adds to the church those who are being saved (see Acts 2:47).

Roger Bernard is communication director for Central States Conference.

Many longtime members witnessed people they had prayed for being baptized at camp meeting.
New Conference Office Groundbreaking
by Clif Freese

Groundbreaking for the new Dakota Conference office building was held July 24 on the northeast corner of North Washington Street and Highway 1804 in Bismarck. Members of the conference executive committee, office personnel and interested donors met to ceremoniously dig shovels into the rough sod and symbolically begin the construction process.

Fund raising began in late 2010, with a goal to be reached before groundbreaking that was exceeded this summer in July. Remaining funds are being raised from building donations, conference reserves and the sale of the 60-year-old house that serves as current conference headquarters. Although construction may be delayed by the permit procurement process, the goal is to have an enclosed structure before Dakota’s first snowfall.

The original Dakota Conference had offices in Sioux Falls, when Dakota was still a Territory. In 1902 (13 years after North and South Dakota became states), the conference divided into two entities—North Dakota’s offices in Fargo and South Dakota’s in Sioux Falls. North Dakota headquarters moved to Jamestown in 1914 and South Dakota’s moved to Redfield in 1912, Watertown in 1922 and Pierre in 1960. In 1981, the two conferences consolidated at the present headquarters in Pierre.

NOW
What’s happening in September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>SRA/DAA Alumni Weekend</td>
</tr>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>MIT Class/CLC Training @ DAA</td>
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<td>29-30</td>
<td>DAA Fall Festival</td>
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<td>29-30</td>
<td>Pathfinder Leadership Training</td>
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Turtle Lake Celebrates 100 Years of Service
by Jacquie Biloff

At Turtle Lake Church’s 100-year celebration in July, descendents of the charter members honored the oldest non-attending members, Esther Schmidt and Carl Loose. The North Dakota congregation also recognized the most elderly members present: Maynard and Della Mae Boyko and Stella Boyko.

Previous pastor Darrel Lindensmith presented the adult lesson study in the sanctuary, while children enjoyed their outdoor Sabbath school. Neil Biloff, Dakota Conference president, presented a sermon titled “Water of Life,” during which he distributed bottled water to the thirsty congregants. An overflow crowd in the basement watched the program on a large live-feed monitor.

Musical talent included 19-year-old Carli Boyko singing a solo for Sabbath school. Three church specials included a duet from 10- and 11-year-old cousins Cody Kostenko and Brittney Brewer. Nine-year-old Kelsi Brewer played the piano as she sang “As the Deer,” and Dan Spilovoy accompanied himself on guitar while singing “Who Am I?”

For lunch, attendees convened at nearby Turtle Lake Legion Hall. The afternoon program featured a memory lane of music, history and stories. Late evening celebrations included fireworks.

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for Dakota Conference.

Centennial cake at Turtle Lake

Centennial Celebration and Closure in Butte
by Jacquie Biloff

At the north end of Main Street in Butte (population 68), cars jockeyed for shady locations as people from across the nation gathered at the Butte (North Dakota) Adventist Church to celebrate its centennial on July 16. Although there was a standing-room-only congregation, it would be the last Sabbath for the small church, whose membership had dwindled to four. It was a time of celebration and sorrow.

Three fans ran continuously to help beat the heat that surpassed 90 degrees. Meanwhile, the congregation enjoyed a full Sabbath school with song service, special music and a lesson study led by “Bobby” Evanenko. Mary Moseanko led singing for the worship service and Neil Biloff, Dakota Conference president, welcomed attendees and inquired where they were from. The states of North and South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Washington and California were represented.

Special music came from Thomas Chapman of Bismarck; Bob and Charlene Evanenko (also of Bismarck) presented a children’s puppet-show story; Rich Moseanko from Los Angeles read the church history and Pastor Harry Sharley from Yakima, Washington stood up to preach after the town’s noon whistle blew.

A fellowship meal at the American Legion Hall preceded an afternoon of congregational singing, special music and sharing of memories.

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for Dakota Conference.

Visitors packed the Butte Church for its final Sabbath celebration.
Salem’s Tasting Extravaganza
by Becki Knobloch

Salem (Missouri) Adventists recently co-sponsored a Tasting Extravaganza that provided neighbors an opportunity to sample healthy, fiber-filled dishes. The event was hosted at the local community center in cooperation with the University of Missouri Extension Office, which taught the value of portion control and offered samples of black bean salad. The Community Partnership brought its FIT HELPS display, explaining how to use the daily “5:30” principle: five fruits and vegetables plus 30 minutes of exercise.

To prepare for the Tasting Extravaganza, a planning committee met every Friday for several months. Members took responsibility for different jobs at the event. After each planning meeting, the group shared a meal based on a fiber wheel to be featured at the Extravaganza. A six-week “Full Plate Diet” follow-up course is planned for later this year.

Salem church volunteers stocked tables with food organized according to the “fiber wheels” recommended in The Full Plate Diet, a weight management book. Participants learned that they could stack high-fiber food high on their plates without causing weight gain, while also combating diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Mary Lou Basham
Salem church member Helen Gibson staffed the Tasting Extravaganza’s healthy pancake and waffle station, along with her husband, Jon.

Chef Mark Anthony to Visit Sedalia Adventists

Mark Anthony, a celebrated chef and 3ABN featured guest, is coming to Sedalia, Missouri on September 3-4. During Sabbath worship (10:45 am), Mark will give his testimony of having been a Las Vegas casino owner, surrounded by sin and lost souls, before Christ transformed his life into being a servant of God. Sunday afternoon at 3:00, Mark will host a cooking show featuring healthy vegan recipes that attendees can sample. Both events will be at Sedalia Adventist Church, 29525 Highway 50.
Bringing Peace to Disaster Victims
by Michelle Miracle

The massive tornado that tore through Joplin, Missouri in May brought destruction but also created a spirit of unity within the local Christian community. “Our mission is to bring peace and order out of chaos,” said Roy Weeden, pastor of the Sullivan (Missouri) district and state director of Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACSDR).

Iowa pastor Jody Dickhaut, who is that state’s ACSDR director, worked with Weeden to set up a warehouse operation in Joplin to collect, sort and store emergency goods. The donated items have been given out to more than 50 distribution centers in the city. Residents visit these centers and take items they need at no charge.

One distribution center that sprung up after the tornado is located at College Heights Christian Church. The pastor of that church attended emergency management meetings with Dickaut and Weeden, and the three of them formed a friendship as they united in the same goal—getting goods to stricken Joplin residents. Pastor Weeden, who is also president of the Missouri State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), supervises a huge (60,000 square feet) warehouse for disaster response.

Phillip and Donna Bridges from West Plains (Missouri) Church were vacationing in Hawaii when they heard about the Joplin tornado. They couldn’t wait to get back to help. “It was the right thing to do,” said Donna, who volunteered with her husband for one month of service at the warehouse. Jay and Dawn Ellington, a former Iowa-Missouri pastoral couple and now Oakhill (Illinois) Adventist Church members, took their week of vacation and spent it sorting donations at the warehouse. “I asked my wife if she wanted a vacation she’d never forget,” said Ellington, “and she jumped at the opportunity.”

“This has been a very trying summer for disaster response in our conference,” said Pastor Dickaut, who is also president of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC–Iowa’s VOAD). “The Joplin tornado and the Iowa flooding are two very different events. In Joplin the devastation was both immediate and enormous, whereas the flooding produced devastation beyond the destruction of property and crops and loss of jobs—a huge emotional toll because of the delay and longevity of the event.”

Floodwaters may remain well past September, but Iowa-Missouri Adventists will be there to bring relief.
Church School Leads to Baptism
by Brenda Owen

Returning home after a long absence is for most a nostalgic experience, seeing family and friends missed over the years. For Kristi (Nelson) Vigil, her return to Chadron (Nebraska) on Sabbath, April 16, held all that and more. After deciding a few months earlier to follow Jesus and be baptized, Vigil chose her old home church as the place to make her decision public. She had been able to attend only grades 1 and 2 at the local church school, but those two terms had a lasting influence upon her life—and ultimately her decision to be baptized. Family members from many states came to celebrate with Vigil as she began her new life in Christ. Pastor and Mrs. Rodney Bieber had been in the Chadron district when Kristi attended the church school in 1983-85 and are now serving in Chadron again. So it was Pastor Bieber’s great privilege to baptize Kristi. She and her husband, John, live in Loveland, Colorado.
School’s Out for This Teacher

by John Treolo

For 41 years, Willis Callahan attempted to instill Christian character in the 435 students he was privileged to teach. He closed the book on his teaching ministry at Platte Valley Elementary School in Grand Island, Nebraska at the conclusion of the 2011 academic year.

Beyond instruction in the basic three R’s of education, Callahan invited Christ into the classroom so his pupils could learn from the Master Teacher. Throughout his faithful teaching career, Callahan epitomized the inspired counsel that “the great aim of the teacher should be the perfecting of Christian character in himself and in his students” (Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 68).

A native Nebraskan, Callahan’s four decades in the classroom were all within the Kansas-Nebraska territory, except for two years. After beginning in the Florida Conference, Callahan’s teaching tenure included schools in Chadron, Oconto, Gothenburg, Shelton, Pittsburg, Grand Island, Hays and Columbus. Most of these schools were one-teacher classrooms where he taught all eight grades.

In his honor, Callahan’s wife, Onna, and daughters Teresa Peckham, Lori Berlin and Melissa Kier, hosted a retirement celebration in Grand Island. More than 125 relatives, friends and former students attended to thank him for his teaching dedication.

“I wish I could say that every one of the 435 students who sat across from me in desks were now faithful, upstanding members of our church and society. But I have the faith to believe that they still are faithful to Jesus,” he says. “Teaching in an Adventist school means that you can feel safe with the kids. You can feel safe with the curriculum. And you can feel safe knowing that you are doing God’s bidding.”

Willis Callahan (back row, center) poses with former students who attended his retirement celebration. Ben Cobb, U.S. Marine Corps, (wearing helmet) is recovering from a head wound he suffered in Afghanistan.
Have You Swallowed the Hook?
by Tom Bentley

Last autumn, church leaders in Winona got together with their pastor to discuss evangelism. An idea surfaced to try something different at a venue that was neutral. “We wanted to find a way to reach out to a different group of people—people who don’t feel the need or sense the desire to attend a prophecy seminar,” said Pastor Tom Bentley. The idea was raised to create a seminar that might reach secular minds while still presenting the gospel and the Three Angels’ Messages. The result was “Have You Swallowed the Hook?”

Bentley chose a call to return to worshiping God as the Creator, which is found in Revelation 14:6-11. With this text as his guide, Pastor Bentley developed a six-night series that uncovered the scientific and social aspects of evolution and naturalistic philosophy and compared them each night to the creation model found in both the Bible and the world around us. The seminar took a historical look at this issue and focused on the big picture rather than details. Each night’s topic sprung from a hook dropped into the waters of our secular society. The hooks were “Science is just about facts; Religion is just about faith”; “Only evolution fits the data”; “There is no evidence for creation”; “You have no choice”; “Love is just a chemical impulse”; and “There are no miracles.”

The last night ended with the miracle of prophecy and a presentation of the Sabbath plus the need to return to worshiping God as the Creator. Winona State University worked well for the venue, with the church clearly shown as sponsor of the event. A mixed crowd of over 50 people attended almost every night. One young man invited the pastor out for dinner and hours were spent in discussion.

On the fifth night when the gospel was presented, a college student was in tears. Youth were overheard remarking that they had never heard prophecy like this before.

The Hook meetings were video recorded and will be available soon. Pastor Tom is also compiling the sermon manuscripts into book form for sharing with other churches that wish to try this outreach format.

Weekly follow-up prophecy studies are ongoing in Winona.
Ancient Nazareth Visits Detroit Lakes
by Conrad Vine

“Hometown Nazareth” was the theme this past June for Vacation Bible School at Detroit Lakes Church. More than 20 children participated in activities such as singing, games, crafts and Bible lessons. Most memorable were shopping and eating in the “ancient marketplace.” One dramatic feature each evening was a meeting with Mary, mother of Jesus, for a story on what it was like to raise Jesus as a small boy.

Church and community children enjoyed the activities, and several brought additional friends and relatives to join in the fun. The program was led by Luda Vine and a fantastic team of volunteers whose prayer is that God will help each child who attended, like young Jesus, to grow in “wisdom, and in years, and in divine and human favor” (Luke 2:40).

5K Community Fun Run
by Laura Cummings

Early on a bright Sunday morning, 42 runners and walkers participated in camp meeting’s first 5K Community Fun Run. Minnesota Conference and Maplewood Academy jointly sponsored the June 12 event, designed to encourage healthy living in the neighboring Hutchinson community. Approximately $800 was raised to benefit Common Cup Ministries, a Christian organization serving local people in need.
Nine Years of Nurturing
by Gordon Anic

After attending Arvada Adventist Church for more than nine years, Justin and Johnna Hunter were baptized. The June event culminated a journey that began when their children were little and they brought them to Sabbath school. Justin’s sister, Anessa, taught the class. Over the years, Justin and Johnna became an unofficial part of the church family. They always considered Arvada their church home.

As time went by they began supporting the church with tithes and offerings—without any pressure from the pastors. When the kids grew up, Pastor Milos baptized their daughter, Kristina. Soon after, their son Elijah also took his stand. Finally Justin and Johnna made their decision to publicly proclaim their dedication to Christ.

It was a wonderful baptism that didn’t require any convincing, long Bible studies or prodding by the pastor. God has perfect timing for everyone. Arvada members put their arms around people and let God do the rest. The motto for all members is “smile more, frown less”—and watch God fill those empty pews.

To learn more visit www.aachurch.org.

Cowboy Camp Meeting Report
by Steve Gillham

Despite afternoon and evening thunderstorms at Cowboy Camp Meeting, the July event was a huge success. Speakers included Hubert Cisneros, youth and church ministries director of the Mid-America Union, who described the miraculous rescue of his horse after it fell into a well, as a symbol of spiritual redemption. Gary Thurber, Rocky Mountain president and renowned storyteller, recounted his car accident as a teenager, after which God’s healing power defied the medical team’s prediction that he would never walk again.

As always, this year’s Cowboy Camp Meeting offered both an amazing wilderness retreat and a family vacation. The fellowship, speakers and scenery were all superb—an ideal opportunity to stop and commune with God and Christian friends.

Outlook readers are invited to attend next year’s Cowboy Camp Meeting on July 11–15. Guest speakers will be Tom Lemon (Mid-America Union president) and Pastor Fritz Krieger from Montrose.

For details, visit www.cowboycampmeeting.org.

Stepfast Lifestyle Series
by Julie Bakke

Pueblo Day Star Elementary School recently hosted a 12-week Stepfast Lifestyle Series. Twenty-two participants experienced significant results with the help of doctors Neal Nedley, Zeno Charles-Marcel, David DeRose and John Scharffenberg through the power of media. Participants learned how nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest and trust in God play critical roles in maintaining good health.

This autumn, Pueblo Day Star plans to continue working with participants through a vegan cooking class.
Glacier View Hosts 2011 Bible Worker Conference
by Karen Lewis

James and Risè Rafferty of Lightbearers Ministry

The Annual Bible Worker Conference at Colorado’s Glacier View Ranch will take place October 7-9. Events begin Friday evening at 7:00 pm and conclude Sunday at noon. This year’s guest presenter will be James Rafferty, co-director of Light Bearers Ministry, a supportive evangelistic publishing ministry that has printed over 550 million pieces of literature in 30-plus languages for worldwide evangelism.

Since becoming a born again Christian at age 21, Rafferty has shared the gospel in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and America. He has also conducted seminars on Daniel and Revelation for hundreds of pastors from every Christian denomination. Rafferty is a featured speaker on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), a worldwide satellite television ministry.

For more information about Light Bearers Ministry, visit www.lbm.org.

Register now to receive the early bird fee of $115/person, which includes seminars, lodging and meals. To register, contact Karen Lewis at lewkarenan@comcast.net.
Union College Teacher Education Program Reaccredited
by Victoria Tobing

For nearly 50 years, the Union College education program has sought the highest standard of teaching excellence through accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Last school year, that organization renewed Union's accreditation, giving the education program a top score.

“We are very excited,” said Dr. Joe Allison, former chair of the Division of Human Development and now education superintendent for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. “Union received a perfect result, which only occurs in ten percent of colleges or universities each year.” Allison served as the division chair from 2002 to 2010 and through two NCATE accreditation visits.

“The distinction we received acknowledges that Union College provides quality education to nurture future educators to make a difference in the lives of young people,” said Dr. Denise White, newly appointed chair of the Division of Human Development. “We have a great team who worked hard to prepare for this and I am honored to join their ranks.”

Recognized as a certifying agency for teacher education programs by both the U.S. Department of Education and the state of Nebraska, NCATE accredits nearly 800 schools in the United States. Accreditation is a rigorous process, and only four Adventist teacher education programs have achieved NCATE standards.

“In today’s world where quality teacher preparation is a major concern in the nation, to graduate from a nationally accredited teacher preparation program means more than simply taking professional courses toward a teacher certification,” said Y. J. Moses, professor of education. “It means getting a wide variety of field experiences beginning freshmen year and culminating with a semester-long student teaching assignment under the guidance of qualified cooperating teachers. Without the NCATE accreditation, we will not be able to publicly claim this accomplishment.”

Many of those teaching experiences are made possible by George Stone Elementary, Union College’s unique on-campus lab school, which provides education students many opportunities to teach and observe in a small, multi-grade environment starting their freshmen year (see Outlook, June 2011, p. 24).

“No other school in our system has such a valuable tool,” Allison explained. “Adventist schools from across the country and internationally seek to hire our graduates because they are well prepared to teach in both multi-grade and single grade classrooms.”

Because many states align teacher licensure requirements with the high standards set by NCATE, Union graduates find it easier to obtain a license in most states. “Union’s NCATE accreditation only solidified in my mind the fact that I would receive the best education possible and become the best teacher I can be,” said Elisa Wright, a junior elementary education major from Ohio. “NCATE is a national accreditation, which means that my education will prepare me to work in any teaching environment.”

To be accredited, an institution must meet the council’s six standards, most of which are focused on the performance of the teacher candidates, both in the classroom and on paper.

Extensive documentation by students, faculty and administrators identify areas of strength and weakness and help education professors continually improve the program. “Without the data and documentation coming from students we could not have done it,” said Moses. Always an ongoing process, collecting data for the next NCATE visit in 2017 has already begun.

Union College is also fully accredited by other accrediting agencies, both in subject areas and as a whole: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc.; North America Department of Education; and Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Department of Education.

To learn more about the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, visit www.ncate.org or check out Union College’s teacher education program at www.ucollege.edu/education.
IRR to Offer Firefighter Emphasis
By Theresa Trumbo

This fall, international rescue and relief (IRR) majors at Union College will be able to declare a new emphasis as part of the unique degree program. The existing paramedic emphasis will be renamed the public safety emphasis, and a firefighting program will be added.

Students can now become certified firefighters as part of their IRR degree—both the paramedic and firefighting programs fall under the public safety emphasis. Union won’t need to add any classes because the paramedic and firefighting programs have the same curriculum during the first three years. Students can then earn certification through classes at Southeast Community College in Lincoln during their final year in the program.

Rick Young, new director of the IRR program, is excited about what the new emphasis will bring to both the program and Union College. “My objective is to create career opportunities for students,” he said, noting a strong job market for firefighters in the U.S. “It’s a great resume tool to be able to say you’ve already been through the training. I’m really excited to see what [job opportunities] this brings for our graduates.”

While a four-year degree is often not required to be a firefighter, most cities require degrees for promotion to higher levels, such as fire chief. Young expects the addition of the firefighting emphasis will help add students to the IRR program at Union who are looking to further their careers.

The curriculum will be in the bulletin starting in the 2012-13 school year, although students will be able to declare the emphasis beginning this fall.

About international rescue and relief

Union College’s international rescue and relief degree program is designed for adventurous students who want to serve around the world through disaster and humanitarian relief. While all are certified as emergency medical technicians, each student must also complete training in wilderness survival, search and rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue and other emergency preparedness skills. Each student also spends a semester in Nicaragua learning jungle survival and working with a medical team to bring healthcare to isolated villages and towns.

This specialized training, combined with general education coursework, gives graduates a unique degree with an emphasis in one of four areas: public safety (paramedic or firefighter), project development, pre-professional and pre-physician assistant. Teams of IRR students and instructors have responded to a number of natural disasters, most recently in Birmingham, Alabama after April’s devastating tornado outbreak and in Haiti immediately following the January 2010 earthquake. For more information visit www.ucollege.edu/irr.
No Foot Too Small
by CM Bell Company

“There is no foot too small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world.” The author is unknown, but the feelings those words express ring true in the hearts of parents grieving the loss of an unborn child or newborn.

The tragic conclusion of any life, no matter how short, is devastating, and honoring tiny lives that end far too soon is a deeply personal mission for those providing Perinatal Bereavement Services at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

“In my career in obstetrics, I’ve been blessed to experience the incredible joy of birth,” says Cyndy Krening, a perinatal clinical nurse specialist. “But I’ve also seen how the intensity of emotion at a loss is even deeper.”

“As I work closely with families who are experiencing this kind of tragedy, they’ve been a witness to me,” adds Rose Danaher, neonatal nurse practitioner. “They show the truest love I’ve ever seen.”

A conversation with a young mother who had lost one of her twins in childbirth underscored for Glenda Skaggs, director of women’s services, the importance of bereavement support: “When I saw the good we were able to do for her, I realized Littleton could do even more to help families at this painful time,” she says. Employees hospital-wide quickly got on board by contributing more than $62,000 to the program through the Greatest Needs fund drive.

Among the most visible of the many ways Littleton now offers support for parents and family members are the twice-yearly memorial services that honor the loss and assist in healing. “Our goal is to create memories for a lifetime, in the midst of a heartbreaking event, says Krening. “We want to be that bright spot.”

The services are usually held in the hospital lobby or in its Hewit Foundation Healing Garden, and all who have experienced the loss of a child are invited to attend. The public is also welcome, and attendance has grown from five families in 2009 to more than 20 families at the most recent event.

Besides enjoying reflective music and the wisdom of a guest speaker skilled in grief recovery, families are encouraged to honor their baby in a tangible way. At a Christmas service, for instance, each parent lit a candle in memory. At a recent summer event, family members wrote personal messages on paper butterflies, then hung them on a tree in the Healing Garden.

For Scaggs, the power of these memorial services was movingly illustrated by a grandfather who was sobbing in the audience. “As he struggled with his emotions, one of our nurses helped him with the grief he had for his daughter and her loss,” she says. “I was very touched.”

“By memorializing and honoring these young lives,” believes lead Chaplain Jordana Solari, “we’re able to truly capture the essence of our hospital’s mission.”

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for Mission and Ministry for Colorado’s Adventist hospitals, and written by CM Bell Company.
Erickson, Kay Darlene (Lewis), b. June 11, 1936 in La Crosse, KS, d. July 10, 2011 in Redlands, CA. Member of the Loma Linda University Church. Predeceased by parents George and Hilda Lewis; and daughter Jodie Lynne Erickson. Survivors include daughters Cynthia Kay Erickson-Gilman and Lorie Jean Erickson Speegle; son Leonard Wayne Erickson; and 3 grandchildren.

Fortney, Anthony Clare, b. May 24, 1965 in Kalamazoo, MI, d. July 19, 2011 in Lincoln, NE. Member of the College View Church. Predeceased by mother Linda Lee Fortney and sister Cynthia Lee Fortney. Survivors include father Charles; brother Marty; uncle and aunt Kendall and Marylin Hill; nieces Savannah Fortney; and nephews Joseph Kissinger, Seth Kissinger and Garret Fortney.

Goodman, Betty, b. Dec. 25, 1932 in Boonesboro, MO, d. July 6, 2011 in Osage Beach, MO. Member of the Branch Memorial Church in Macks Creek, MO. Predeceased by husband Charles; and brothers J.B., John and Kenny. Survivors include son Everett Goodman III; and 3 grandchildren.

Hellman, Della Luella (Viertz), b. June 21, 1927 in Denhoff, ND, d. June 28, 2011 in Underwood, ND. Member of the Goodrich Church. Predeceased by 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Survivors include husband Frank; daughter Cheryl Jesz; sons Gene and Kelly; 8 grandchildren; sisters Loretta Halverson and Viola Schutz; 10 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.


Jones, Deanna, b. Feb. 22, 1939 in Sioux Falls, SD, d. June 7, 2011 in Sioux City, IA. Member of the Sioux City Church. Predeceased by son Shawn Jones and sister Judith Bendixen. Survivors include daughter Kim Jones; sisters Sylvia Bendixen, Barbara Bendixen and Jean Berg.

Luihart, Aubrey, b. Feb. 3, 1923 in Pickens, WV, d. May 13, 2010 in Rogersville, MO. Member of the Oak Grove Heights Church in Rogersville. Served in the Army during WWII and received two Bronze Stars. Predeceased by wife Pearl. Survivors include sisters Avah Holderbaum and Regina Henson; step-children Kenneth Conley Jr. and Violet Conley Todor; and many step-grandchildren.

Morford, Frances Jeanne, b. Sept. 8, 1928 in Hemingford, NE, d. June 27, 2011 in Denver, CO. Member of the Brighton Church. Served as a missionary for almost 30 years in Africa and Lebanon with husband Monroe, who preceded her in death. Survivors include children Linda and Melvin; 3 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.


Pittman, Annie, b. Oct. 27, 1931 in Lottery, TN, d. July 3, 2011. Member of the Golden Valley Church in Clinton, MO. Survivors include daughter Shirley Wiseman; 5 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Russell, Robert Edwin, b. Sept. 16, 1916, d. June 27, 2011 at home in Gering, NE. Member of the Scottsbluff Church. Predeceased by 2 brothers; 2 sisters; and son Roger. Survivors include wife Myrtle; son Ron; 6 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Scott, Lewis Eldon, b. Jan. 1, 1945 in Mercedes, TX, d. July 5, 2011 in Pueblo, CO. Member of the Pueblo First Church. Survivors include wife Karen; daughter Nicole; and 5 grandchildren.

Shaw, Edwin, b. Aug. 25, 1928 in Ottumwa, IA, d. July 8, 2011 in Marshalltown, IA. Longtime member of the Adventist church. Predeceased by two brothers. Survivors include wife Dorothy; sons James, Jeff and Gary; daughter Pamela Shaw-Watson; brother Don; sister Connie Rouse; 8 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.

Thompson, Gerry E., age 81, d. June 19, 2011 in Roseville, CA. Served as an Adventist educator for 52 years. Survivors include wife Eunice (Guptill); children Greg, Becky and Ron; and 3 grandchildren.

Tooke, Chandler F., b. July 30, 1906 in Cheyenne, WY, d. July 8, 2011 at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. Survivors include parents Ken and Gail; sister Chelsea Tooke-Berry; and grandmothers Thelma Tooke and Doris Giesen.

Zumwalt, Martha, b. April 16, 1918 in New Boston, IL, d. July 4, 2011 in Muscatine, IA. Member of the Muscatine Church. Predeceased by husband Wilmer; a son; brothers Phillip and Robert Wheeler; and sister Helen. Survivors include sister Margaret Goodwin; 2 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Zwieg, Beverly, b. March 28, 1929 in Harvey, ND, d. July 8, 2011 in New Rockford, ND. Member of the Harvey Church. Predeceased by husband Chester and 2 brothers. Survivors include daughters Ardyce Snyder and Margo Spear; sons Daryl and Myron; daughters Arlys Schmidt and Cheryl Snyder; 5 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

Huenergardt, LaVern O., b. July 5, 1919 in Rush County, KS, d. July 9, 2011 in Altamonte Springs, FL. Active member of the Denver South Church for many years. Served as a U.S. Army medic and an administrator for various Adventist healthcare institutions. Predeceased by brother Earl and sister Virginia Caviness. Survivors include wife Dorothy; son Darrel; daughter Cheryl; 5 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).
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One plot in College View Cemetery, Lincoln, NE. Block four. $800. Please call 928.301.9712.

EMPLOYMENT

CEO WANTED. If you are gifted by God as a leader, please contact Janet at Black Hills Health & Education Center in Hermosa South Dakota. Go to bhhec.org to see details of our ministry. 605.255.4101.

Chemistry professor sought by Union College, Lincoln, NE. PhD/ABD preferred; strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Several specialties acceptable; budget approved. Submit vita and cover letter to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science, cawolfe@ucollege.edu.

Generous salary with living quarters for the right couple or singles, committed to care for an elderly handicapped gentleman. Care-giving experience required. Valid driver license. Strong commitment to teachings of SDA church. For more information, please email csash@iw.net or call 507.215.1027.

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One plot in College View Cemetery, Lincoln, NE. Block four. $800. Please call 928.301.9712.
EVENTS

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 14-16. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Fri. evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are 1937, ’42, ’47, ’52, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, ’02 and 2007. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office at 269.471.6140, or e-mail acadalum@andrews.edu.

Greater Boston Alumni Weekend October 14-15, 2011
Stoneham Memorial Church, 29 Maple St Stoneham MA
Friday 6 pm Light supper, 7:30 Vespers
Sabbath: 10:45 Church Guest Speaker from the Class of 1961
Sabbath: 1pm Fellowship Luncheon at GBA followed by activity
Saturday Night: Class Reunions and Alumni Basketball games
For more information please contact Tom Giampa at 508.243.7458.


Yellowstone National Park Church Services – Worship services will be held in the Recreation Hall next to Old Faithful Lodge from 10am to 12pm on Sabbaths from May 28 through September 3, 2011. For more information, call the Rocky Mountain Conference at 800.254.9687.


SUNSET CALENDAR

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Let’s Move Day
Sunday, September 25, 2011

Help us reach our 1 million mile goal in one day!

Register at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org

Whether you host a 5K run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your team can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

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2 But her GPS couldn’t find the school’s address.

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