We live in a society suffering extreme health dysfunction. Obesity has become a distressing epidemic (see page 6). Multiple studies show that eight of the leading 10 causes of death in North America are lifestyle related. Adventists, however, are one of the longest living people groups ever studied. Programs such as CREATION Health and CHIP, in combination with the Adventist Health Studies being conducted by Loma Linda University’s School of Public Health, are all helping to raise awareness of our health message. We are perfectly poised to enter America’s consciousness and positively impact people’s lives both physically and spiritually.

Our purpose in this issue is to inspire individuals to take charge of their own health and work together with their communities to promote whole-person health through gently educating, resourcing and encouraging. Please share what you’re doing on facebook.com/OutlookMag or tweet us @myoutlookmag.

—BRENDA DICKERSON
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**CREATION Health #1: Choice**
First in an eight part series exploring CREATION Health
The goal of discussions on health often determines our definition of “health.” A healthy body is different than a healthy family, or healthy church or school or garden. Yet there is commonality among them. In this editorial, and in the next several issues of OUTLOOK, I want to share with you my convictions regarding healthy churches.

Scripture describes the church through various metaphors: a temple, a body, a bride, a nation, the priesthood and more. These are a diverse set of verbal pictures. Yet together they all help us better understand what Jesus meant when He said, “… I will build my church.” A temple is something you enter into for worship purposes; a body is something you are; a bride is someone a groom relates to with exclusive love and commitment; a nation is a human group in some level of commonality; priesthood gets at the spiritual/missional function of the church.

So what is a church?

Let’s try a rather formal definition, recognizing that words are themselves limiting. The church is a collectivity of people called by Jesus Christ who have banded together voluntarily in a common set of beliefs, values, commitments, vision and mission. Their shared mission is to reflect the character of the head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, so that those not of the church will be attracted to and join it, causing its growth until the whole world is enabled with them to know and worship, serve and obey, that same Lord. They will use every appropriate means to advance that mission, including preaching, teaching, serving, providing for healing, offering fellowship and a sense of family and community.

So what is a healthy church?

A healthy church provides spiritual sustenance to its members and guests; expects accountability of both leaders and the rank and file; admonishes and exhorts those inside and out when necessary; focuses always on mission in its undertakings; speaks boldly the word of God in love and respect, yet with confidence and intelligence; allows for growth in knowledge and grace in both members and attendees; seeks true disciples of Jesus, not contenting itself with mere numbers of members; recognizes Jesus alone as worthy; and more.

Some years ago the ads of an American finance company used the line “membership has its privileges” to sell itself on the basis of some self-perceived prestige. The corporation’s name isn’t important, but I use this example to call attention to the benefits of membership and belonging.

As a lifelong member of the Adventist Church, let me list a few of the privileges it provides:

- A Biblical message that is hermeneutically sound and consistent
- A system of truth holistically comprehensive in nature
- A commitment to the wonderful Gospel of Grace that permeates (or should permeate) all we do and who we are
- A world-wide mission free of caste and aimed at all populations that has persisted in the face of real persecution in some locales
- A movement that provides for the education of its youth not only in spiritual matters but in leadership, resulting in an annual burst of new graduates who are eager to transform their communities
- Global missional opportunities for all types of volunteers and career missionaries, each working for the good of the community yet receiving equal benefit. Missional symbiosis is nothing short of the Holy Spirit of God at work.

And I could go on.

But I will make just one more point. Each of these benefits or privileges is meaningless unless you and I are willing to engage in them. Next time we will discuss the fact that membership also has its responsibilities.

Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.
Historically our church has been very interested in health. It started as an emphasis in personal health practices and has grown into a ministry of helping others through the scores of health institutions, clinics and various health ministries we operate today.

Yet I believe the fulfillment of the statement that the health work is the right arm of the gospel is not dependent on the number of hospitals and clinics we operate, the number of cooking schools or stop smoking programs we offer, or even how often our evangelistic presentations are preceded by a health nugget (though there is value in each of these). To rise to the level of importance indicated, there must be something more.

Instead of more or better programs, we need to radically change the way we run them. Most of our health programs today are mostly information—we teach health principles and hand out recipes. However, most people already know what they should do to experience a healthier lifestyle; actually doing it on a regular basis is another matter. Many fail in that endeavor because they do not know how to change. What they need is “wellness coaching”—a modern term that closely resembles how Jesus ministered. He listened to people’s needs and wants. He asked important questions, drawing on their background and experience. He gave them insight that brought hope and a new way to look at things. This type of biblical coaching is a way to build supportive relationships so people are empowered to experience sustainable lifestyle change.

We must look for and design opportunities to move our interactions into the personal realm, the one-on-one, where people live and work. This may change many of our programs into small home groups where we spend time talking (and, most of all, listening) to those who come with needs, goals and desires. Wellness coaches learn to see people’s potential, help them establish their own goals, and continue to provide support for a set period of time after “the program” is over. As little as 20 minutes per week on the phone offering support can change a life, perhaps for eternity.

People today need the same revelation of God’s character as was needed over 2,000 years ago. Back then God did not just give the world information, a presentation, a book. He came in person. Character is seldom seen in a lecture, a video or a presentation. Not until we begin to interact with people on the most personal level is character truly revealed.

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of the Savior shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim His own” (Ellen White, Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 69).

This statement is so powerful because in it we see that Christ desires to reveal His character to the world through us. Do we care enough to learn some coaching skills that reflect His character of listening, asking questions, sharing insights and providing ongoing, personal support?

I believe that one of the most transforming moves we could make to strengthen our ministries and hasten Christ’s coming is to learn the simple, personal coaching skills Jesus employed and then use these skills to connect with participants of our health programs, members of our church and our own family.

So please, no more health programs—unless you add coaching during and after. I challenge you to transform your health programs by adding the ongoing personal touch, learning Christ’s coaching skills and finding the joy of His fellowship in this ministry. 

Rick Mautz is director of Health Ministries for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

*Wellness coaching training videos and materials are available at http://rmcsda.org/health.
Adventists InStep for Life
Meeting a need and making it fun!
by Katia Reinert

A frightening epidemic

In every form of news media these days you will hear about a pressing need that is gaining much attention: the epidemic of obesity. According to a recent report, obesity rates have reached 36 percent in the US population\(^1\), with 70 percent of adolescents being overweight or obese.

Why is this so alarming? Because obesity is related to more than 30 illnesses, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and some forms of cancer. Obesity is also associated with stigma and reduced psychological wellbeing. Current evidence further suggests that people who are obese have a greater risk of premature death than those in the normal weight and overweight ranges.

The Adventist response through partnerships

As Christians we have opportunities to follow Jesus’ method of ministry\(^2\) as we respond to the health needs in our communities. Reversing obesity and other chronic diseases is a major need, and opportunities for partnerships abound.

In 2010 the Adventist church was invited by White House officials to pledge support to First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative aimed at reversing childhood obesity. In response, the North American Division (NAD) launched the Adventists InStep for Life (AISFL) initiative with the goal of engaging kids, youth, parents, schools and the community in working together to reduce the risk for chronic diseases—especially obesity—and improve the health of our communities by motivating adults and children to increase physical activity and healthier food intake.

Schools, churches and hospitals have been promoting physical activity and healthy nutrition in innovative ways. Every NAD ministry is participating and we have pledged to increase youth involvement. NAD Pathfinders have a goal of one million miles, and the top clubs in percentage participation and miles will receive up to $2,000 in awards at Oshkosh in 2014.

Opportunities for involvement—today

As part of the AISFL, the NAD has set aside Sunday, Sept. 22, as the 2013 Let’s Move Day and Sept. 22-28 as Let’s Move Week. Churches, schools and healthcare institutions are encouraged to host 5K runs/walks or other fun, active events for kids, youth and community families. If everyone reading this article registers online and reports their activities on www.AdventistsInStepforLife.org we will meet the entire country's goal of two million miles in no time.

Remember that physical activity is not just about having fun as you improve your physical health, but your moral and spiritual strength, and your character, also depend on exercise.\(^3\) We are called to extend Jesus’ healing ministry in our communities. May God help us to “choose full life, and tell the world.”\(^4\)

Katia Reinert is director of Health Ministries for the North American Division.

Quick Fact:
Lack of sleep imbalances hormones that trigger hunger.

Web Extra:
The Health Message in a Changing Church
http://bit.ly/chngChurch

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Hubert Cisneros (center), MAUC Health Ministries director, accepted an award on behalf of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference at the 2013 NAD Health Summit in New York.

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1Glickman D, Parker, D, Sim, LJ, Cook, HDV , Miller, EA. Editors; Committee on Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention; Food and Nutrition Board; Institute of Medicine. 2012. National Academies Press, Washington, DC
2White, E.G., Ministry of Healing, p. 143
3White, E.G., Education, p. 177
4NAD Health Ministries motto
Getting Active for a Purpose

by Aileen Profir

According to RunningUSA, almost 14 million Americans completed some type of road race in 2011, representing a 170 percent increase since 1991. Road races of all distances and challenges are quickly becoming the rage. This fact hasn’t escaped the notice of the youth of the Sioux Falls Adventist Church, who wanted to find an innovative way to reach out to their community while benefiting those in need around the world. Thus, the idea for the Beyond the 5–Walk for Water event was born.

On the move

Walk for Water challenged participants to walk a 5K course (just over three miles) while carrying one gallon of water. By collecting sponsorship pledges, participants could raise funds for ADRA International to help install a water well in the country of East Timor. In this region of the world, women and children spend as much as two hours each day fetching dirty water from the river for their families. This event would allow participants to experience the challenge of carrying even a small amount of the five gallons of water considered necessary for each day.

Walk for water

Last June, over 50 people gathered at Pasley Park in Sioux Falls to participate in the walk. The Beyond the 5 team provided backpacks and gallon containers, and then the first walkers were off. Four church members (Mark Blackburn, Pastor Dragos Profir, Chad Spanos and Trent Weber) took the challenge to a whole new level by each carrying five gallons of water, with Trent hauling an amazing 10 gallons for the entire distance!

To date the Walk has raised over $1,400 and pledges are still being received. Community members were excited to see what was happening—some even offered donations to walkers on the course. Many people said they would love to participate in this event next year. Walking for a purpose was a huge success and met all our goals of promoting a healthy lifestyle, connecting with our community and helping those in need.

Aileen Profir, wife of Sioux Falls, South Dakota pastor Dragos Profir, is currently training for her second half-marathon.

Quick Fact:
Flowing water releases negative ions that boost the immune system.

Web Extra:
Five Things You Don’t Know About Water
http://bit.ly/5-Water

In some regions of the world, women and children spend as much as two hours each day fetching dirty water from the river.

(left) Walk for Water participants each carried one gallon of water to raise funds for ADRA’s East Timor well project.

(below) Trent Weber carried 10 gallons the entire 5K (3.1 mile) distance.

Photos: Karen Roe
I love our health message and I like gardening, but my dream for the Valentine Community Garden sat on the back burner until I realized that even though my small church does not have the energy and resources to sponsor a garden on our own, we could make it a community project.

**How it began**

We took our carefully prepared request to the city council, and they agreed to donate a piece of land, pay the monthly water bill, and allow us to fence the garden. Then I contacted local agricultural organizations, children’s groups and merchants for sponsorship. We created a board and developed a mission statement. We organized under the Cherry County 4-H Club so we could have 501c3 status and insurance for all participants. After a wealthy family offered a better piece of land right in the middle of town at no cost, we realized God was blessing our efforts and this project was going to become a reality!

Next we advertised on the radio, Facebook, and through newspapers and posters around town. Local companies donated most of our supplies, including 10 semi-truck loads of good soil, lumber for the plant boxes, fencing, wood chips, hand tools, seeds and plants. Other needs were covered by three grants we received of $1,000 each.

**How it’s managed**

Local master gardeners are using eight of the garden boxes to run a weekly program that teaches kids about agriculture and personal health choices. The other 22 boxes are available to adults and families for a “charge” of donating 25 percent of the produce they raise to the Community Garden Farmers Market for us to sell. Proceeds will fund future garden expenses. We are also growing a large patch of pumpkins to sell in the fall.

**How to start your own community garden**

Make the right connections with like-minded people from the beginning. Invite your city, local companies and youth groups to be involved. And start planning as early as possible—a year in advance is best. This will give you enough time to develop friendships, apply for grants and do the necessary
Selected Resources for Health Ministries

**PROGRAMS**
- Adventists In Step for Life: adventistsinstepforlife.org
- CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program): chiphealth.com
- CREATION Health: creationhealth.com
- CREATION Health Kids
- Kids Health Expo

**WEBSITES**
- adventisthealthstudy.com
- www.llu.edu/health
- livingwelllifestyleprogram.com
- nadhealthministries.org

**PRINT**
- AdventSource’s Quick Start Guide for Health Ministries Leaders
- The China Study by T. Colin Campbell
- Blue Zones by Dan Buettner

**DVDs**
- “Forks Over Knives” produced by Lee Fulkerson
- “The Adventists” produced by Martin Doblmeier

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
- Free Online Webinar Sept. 16 at 8pm EDT. Register at www.AdventistsInStepforLife.org.
- NAD 2014 Health Summit featuring over 40 tracks of training, including AISFL, ministerial, community services, healthcare professionals, and women’s, youth and children’s ministries. Visit www.NADHealthSummit.com for more information.

**HEALTH CENTERS**
- Black Hills Health & Education Center: mylifestylehaven.com
- Eden Valley Institute: eden-valley.org

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
- NAD Health Summit: Jan. 24–Feb 2, 2014 in Orlando, FL
- GC Global Health and Lifestyle Conference: July 8-12, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland

**BULK DISCOUNT**
- Buy Veggie Cutlets produced by Canaan Foods, LCC, through Sunbelt Natural Food Distributors. Orders must come through an Adventist institution. Visit sunbeltnatural.com for more information.

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**Quick Fact:**
Recent studies show that lifestyle factors can turn epigenomes on or off—meaning you are not “stuck with” inherited diseases.

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Joseph Carty pastors the Valentine, Gordon, Hyannis and Springview churches in western Nebraska.

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**Web Extra:**
Read this amazing story in its entirety at [http://bit.ly/MrTrnGdn](http://bit.ly/MrTrnGdn)
Helping Create the Healthiest Community in America

Todd Foksenberg, CEO of Castle Rock Adventist Health Campus, is coordinating a bold, ambitious plan that promotes nutrition and exercise.

Everyone wants to live a healthy life. But according to Todd Foksenberg, CEO of the newly opened Castle Rock Adventist Health Campus, many just don’t know how to take the first step. That’s why he and his team are partnering with their community—schools, churches, leaders and the city—to rally the resources to help Castle Rock top the list of the nation’s healthiest communities.

For the hospital, it will mean stepping outside its traditional roles and helping people on their journey to a healthier life, says Foksenberg. As a starting place, they’ve devised a self-guided tour with signs and pictures that introduce people to CREATION Health* principles ranging from outlook and nutrition to trust in God.

It will also mean launching programs that promote health, many of which happen outside the hospital walls. For example, a free cycle program, the first of its kind in Colorado, is jointly sponsored by the hospital and local businesses to help residents get more exercise. People can simply access an unlock code from their cell phone, then borrow a bike from one of four locations in the community, including in front of Town Hall.

Practicing what they preach

“The Garden of Eatin,” their on-campus community garden, allows people to plant their own gardens, and a nearby exhibition education and cooking center pavilion—complete with outdoor grill—stages classes by local chefs and master gardeners.

In place of the traditional hospital cafeteria is a full-service restaurant that serves fresh, locally sourced and healthy food. Their award-winning executive chef, Dan Skay, was recognized in 2009 by Wall Street Journal as having the best hospital food program in the country.

“There’s an odd disconnect between the message hospitals send when they preach healthy diets, then turn around and serve burgers and fries in their cafeteria,” says Foksenberg.

Foksenberg acknowledges that he has a head start in building the healthiest community since Castle Rock is located in Douglas County, one of the healthiest counties in Colorado, which is already one of healthiest states in the country. The Adventist tradition of promoting prevention and wellness since their earliest days gives them a head start, too.

To Foksenberg, these steps are just the beginning; the hospital will find more ways to live into this mission in the years ahead. And for residents of the Castle Rock community, the Aug. 1 opening of the 50-bed hospital marked the beginning of a place defined by a fresh philosophy about health that’s not driven by shareholders or motivated by profits, but by an idea of what God says about human flourishing.

“When people are hospitalized it’s often a wake up call. It’s a perfect opportunity to create a more whole life going forward,” says Foksenberg.

“We want folks to know that what inspires us to provide world class healthcare is living into the tradition of Jesus as healer and supporting each member of our community in living a more abundant life.”

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for mission and ministry for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health System/Centura Health, where he serves the five Adventist hospital campuses in Colorado. It was written by CMBell Company.

*For more on CREATION Health, visit http://castlerockhospital.org/creation-health
SMMC Expands Spiritual Ambassadors Program
by Lauren Kassien

Shawnee Mission Medical Center (SMMC) ICU nurse Michelle Foss is thrilled to have put the finishing touches on her most recent project, the “Get to Know You” board in the ICU. Thanks to her efforts, employees now have a place to turn when they need information—about jobs, baby showers, social events or prayer requests.

“I noticed there were a lot of new people on our staff,” Foss said. “I was looking for ways for everybody to connect as a unit.”

Such stories of associate involvement are becoming more common in SMMC after the hospital recently revamped its Spiritual Ambassadors program.

A Florida Hospital nurse who wanted his spirituality to have an impact in his job founded the original Spiritual Ambassadors organization in 2004. SMMC debuted its improved ambassadors program in early 2013, welcoming more than 80 new members, including Foss. Guided by their faith, these ambassadors are working to promote a helpful, friendly environment for hospital patients and associates.

**Training, supporting, sharing**

“The goal of the Spiritual Ambassador is to create an atmosphere of trust to ensure that hope is felt in the hearts of all our fellow associates and in the hearts of patients,” said Mark Stoddart, SMMC’s administrative director of Spiritual Wellness. “The program provides training, it provides support, and it provides a community of caring believers who carry out the mission.”

The newest Spiritual Ambassadors have hit the ground running, working on ways to expand the growing program. This past summer, SMMC ambassadors tackled one of their biggest missions yet—a food pantry for fellow associates.

“It doesn’t take much—a short illness, a spouse may lose a job, or children may get sick and someone has to take time off work,” Stoddart said. “To preserve the dignity of our colleagues, they can discreetly come to a member of our team and receive food supplies.”

SMMC’s ambassadors are extending Christ-centered care to patients as well as associates. One maintenance team ambassador prays with hospital patients before he starts his morning rounds. “We want to make sure that when they are discharged, patients have been touched in some way spiritually,” Stoddart added.

Recently, a group of ambassadors began reaching out beyond hospital walls. With the goal of ministering to the poor and homeless, these associates visited City Union Mission, a homeless shelter in Kansas City, Missouri. Together, they cooked and served dinner for more than 50 men and fellowshipped with them following the meal. Stoddart said the group has plans to return each month through October.

**Engaging proactively**

Associates such as Foss are grateful for the outlet the program provides. She credits Spiritual Ambassadors with her new ability to use her faith in an effort to support and engage her fellow associates.

“I like the idea of being able to invest in your peers,” Foss said. “I’ve learned that there are so many things you can do, but you have to instigate them. With the Spiritual Ambassadors, I can be proactive and spark people’s thinking about getting involved to provide encouragement and support for others.”

Lauren Kassien is a student at Drake University and a writer for Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Members of the Behavioral Health team cook and serve meals at the City Union Mission, a homeless shelter in Kansas City, Missouri. Pictured (l-r) are Tammy Newberry, Linda Batsch (Spiritual Ambassador), Jean Goedken, Kellie Strube and Claudia Calderon.
Young Adults Develop Action Plan
by Brittany Winkfield

Twenty young adults attended the CSC Mission Possible Wilderness Retreat near Canon City, Colorado.

Twenty young adults from the Denver Metro area came together for a Mission Possible Young Adults Wilderness Retreat in Canon City in May to look at various ways young people become disconnected in their spiritual journey. During the “You Lost Me” workshop based on the book by David Kinnaman, the group identified three distinct categories of missing young adults: prodigals, nomads and exiles. Church leaders and parents cannot effectively help the next generation in their spiritual development without understanding these three primary groups. The conclusion from the research is that most young people with a Christian background are dropping out of conventional church involvement, not losing their faith.

Led by Pastor Donald Rolle, youth director of the Central States Conference and Tabernacle of Praise Church, along with Pastor K. Paul Douglas of Grand Avenue Church and New Life Fellowship Church, the group developed a plan of action for young adults to focus on participatory worship, fellowship and service.

Through Building, Engaging, Energizing, discovering Passion, sharing Ideas and being Creative (BEEPIC), retreat attendees made the commitment to be a generation who will yield to God, as described in John 14:12: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (NKJV). One of the main messages from the retreat was that God isn’t holding out on us. He wants us to do mighty things in the earth.

“The Mission Possible Young Adult Retreat was amazing, to say the least. Some powerful things are in store for the Denver area!” said Pastor Rolle.

Brittany Winkfield is an event planner by day and the founder and publisher of Back2Basics, a Christian magazine.

If you are interested in joining the movement, visit Young Adults Ministry of Colorado on Facebook: facebook.com/YAMsDenver.

Grand Avenue Offers Tutoring and Mentoring
“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller
by Audrey Johnson

ASPIRE is an after school program offering students help with homework, fun activities, reading, journaling and more.

In August 2011 I shared with Pastor Claval Hunter my idea to develop an after school program at our church to help students become proficient readers and excel academically. He instructed me to put a plan on paper and go for it. A year later, the program began registering students in grades K-6.

As the program developed we named it ASPIRE (Always Seeking, Persevering, Inspiring, Reclaiming and Educating). During the school year the program offers students help with homework, fun physical activities, reading, journaling and good, healthy snacks. Students learn about God, participate in prayer and read daily devotionals.

Our mission is to engage students in an enriching after school program that will help them reach their highest potential and become well-rounded, productive citizens in our society. Our ultimate goal is to bring young children and their families to Christ. Many of our participants are not members of any church. Only God knows what will be born out of this program—maybe an Adventist school in southeast Missouri?

Audrey Johnson, a social worker, is ASPIRE program director.
Camp Meeting Brings Unexpected Blessings
by Philip Baptiste

The Central States Conference hosted its annual camp meeting in five different locations this summer. Each area of the conference built upon the theme “We Unite” to plan an inspiring weekend of worship, prayer and service. Conference president Maurice Valentine II was present at each event. President Valentine shared that he was very pleased with how the ATPs (Assistants to the President) and area pastors pulled together to make each weekend a success.

At each location, conference officers and at least one departmental director shared workshops that encouraged members to unite to finish the work. Practical training on personal finances, youth ministry and community service left members energized and equipped for greater ministry. Pastor Darriel Hoy, Outreach Ministries director, organized one of the highlights in the Kansas City area, with over 70 individuals joining in impactful service in their local community.

Dynamic speakers like Dr. Norman Miles, Pastor Timothy Nixon, Pastor Roger Bernard and Dr. James Doggett took members to a “mountain top experience” through their preaching. Each camp meeting site hosted over 600 participants and featured programs for youth, children and Hispanic ministries.

The growing Korean population in the Denver area sponsored a program there, while members in the Minnesota area joined the Minnesota Conference’s African Ministries Department with over 1,500 participants present.

Conference administration has begun making plans for an old-fashioned camp meeting next summer in the Kansas City area.

Philip Baptiste is communication director for the Central States Conference.
Bowman Member Befriends Carnival Workers

Lessons from a pot of chili and a panda bear

by Linda Mae Johnson

A carnival recently rolled into our town of Bowman, North Dakota. Living across the street from the fairgrounds, my mother and I watched the setup begin. Rides of all descriptions were quickly assembled, along with the usual food wagons of funnel cakes, corn dogs and cotton candy.

But behind all the glitzy lights and loud music I saw the people and imagined that this lifestyle must be very lonely. I wondered about the stories behind the faces. “A real opportunity lies right across the street,” I told Mom.

That afternoon I stopped at the thrift store where I volunteer, and several men from the carnival were there looking for clothing. One older man seemed to be the spokesman. When I asked if he was the boss he said he was an assistant and wondered what he might do for me. I said I didn’t want anything but was thinking about bringing over some food for their workers. He seemed surprised and said that would be nice.

Friday was a cool and overcast day. I made a large pot of my favorite veggie chili and took it to the fairgrounds a few minutes before the carnival started. I opened the back of my van and they came from every direction, gratefully accepting the big cups of hot chili. I ran out as two more men were coming. Assuring them I would return with something for them to eat, I went home and made grilled cheese sandwiches and grabbed some banana bread.

When I returned to the fairgrounds, the boss offered me anything I wanted from the hanging toys. I hadn’t done this for a gift, but I remember looking up at the prizes and thinking, the panda bear. At that moment he said over my shoulder, “If I were you, I would choose the panda bear. It’s the oldest carnival prize.”

The panda was nice, but the greatest gift I received was the smiles and comments from these people. My heart was touched. Several of the gentlemen called out from their post of duty, and when I walked over to them they would say, “God bless you.” One man told me he had not eaten a home cooked meal for a long time. Another older gentleman mentioned how lots of people are prejudiced against them. I asked one man how long he had been thus employed, and he said 25 years. I replied, “This must be a lonely life. Don’t you want to go home?” He said, “Ma’am, if I had a home that is where I would be.”

But the story continues. On Saturday night a friend came to visit from South Dakota, and we decided to walk over and ride the Ferris wheel. We bought our tickets and were in line when the operator noticed us. He motioned us to come forward and would not accept our tickets. He just said, “Enjoy the ride.” When we went to the merry-go-round, the same kindness was offered. People were still thanking me for the chili.

Sunday would be their last day in town and I wanted to do something more. I decided to make chocolate chip cookies and egg salad sandwiches. With my sister and a friend helping, we made sack lunches, placing pretty napkins and red-striped bags of cookies in the sacks along with the sandwiches. About 6 pm we arrived with our goodies. Again they came, even more than before. One lady offered words and hugs of appreciation before handing us each armbands as gifts.

I awoke very early the next morning, thinking about this entire experience. As I listened to the diesel engines and realized that the workers had been packing all night and would soon be traveling down the road to their next destination, I thought about Jesus and how He mingled with people, sympathizing with them and meeting their needs.

I believe we had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and I thank Him for the blessing He shared with us through a pot of chili and a panda bear.

Linda Mae Johnson, a retired florist, is involved in numerous ministries in her community of Bowman, North Dakota.
Anne Wham Retires from the Dakota Conference

by Jacquie Biloff

Anne Wham Retires from the Dakota Conference

After 47 years of ministry (25 for the Dakota Conference) Anne Wham is retiring. She has worn many hats over the years and was most recently director of Women’s Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Sabbath School and Pathfinders. Although officially retired, she has organized and will attend the 25th Annual Women’s Retreat, Sept. 13–15 in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Born Annabelle Lee Lucero in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Wham was introduced to Pathfinders in 5th grade and attended the first Pathfinder Camporee in the Colorado Conference.

After graduating from Campion Academy she attended Union College, where she earned her MRS degree by marrying Ron Wham in 1966. They pastored churches in Missouri, Wyoming, Colorado, California, the Texico Conference and finally in the Dakota Conference. They also served as singing evangelists and later as an evangelistic team, living in a fifth-wheel camper with their two children, Brian and Lisa, and moving to a new location every six weeks.

Wham has directed many children and youth choirs and taught music at church schools in Greeley, Colorado and Bismarck, North Dakota. “In churches where there was no Pathfinder club, I made sure to start one,” Wham remarked. She also provided retreats for teenage girls at Flag Mountain Camp in South Dakota for 10 years.

In 1989 three ladies, Marla Weidell, Melita Holland and Wham, met to form a plan for Women’s Ministry in the Dakota Conference. The first retreat was held that year. In 1992 Wham added Children’s Ministries, providing training for Vacation Bible Schools and organizing the children’s meetings at camp meeting every year. In 1999 the Dakota Conference asked Wham to take the Pathfinders to Oshkosh for the International Pathfinder Camporee. She continued to lead Pathfinders for 14 years.

Her service has also extended beyond the United States. She led children’s evangelism in Rovno, Ukraine and conducted meetings for the pastors’ wives; helped build a “Her” center for Masai women in Kenya and conducted Women’s Ministries leadership training in Nairobi, Kenya; and helped deliver clothing, supplies and Bibles to Mexico. Anne said, "Now I go to Botswana to do ministry in an orphanage for AIDS children.”

During a time of special recognition at the annual conference-sponsored supper during camp meeting, the Dakota Conference thanked Anne for her many years of service and gifted her with an iPad. Wham continues to minister from her home in Kansas where she has moved to be closer to her grandchildren.
Prophecy Series Stirs Couple 14 Years Post Production

by Craig Wiles

Before heading to California for the winter, Lloyd and Evelyn Crouchman, members of the Next Step Church in West Plains, Missouri, asked neighbors to watch their house. While Evelyn was showing neighbor Bonnie Poe around, Bonnie noticed a bookcase containing a row of old VHS tapes. Bonnie asked what the tapes were about, and Evelyn replied that they were a series of programs about Bible prophecy called Millennium of Prophecy, filmed in 1999 and led by Amazing Facts speaker Doug Batchelor.

“Our TV signal quit yesterday,” said Bonnie. “But we can still watch videos. Would you mind if we watched these?” Evelyn told Bonnie that she and her husband, Calvin, could help themselves to the tapes. And that’s exactly what the Poes did. They watched the entire prophecy series and showed up at the Next Step Church one Sabbath a couple of months later to see if our congregation believed the things they learned from Batchelor. I talked with them and they began attending regularly.

It was my privilege to baptize Calvin and Bonnie on June 22. Praise God that He can even use outdated technology to spread His Word and bring people into Christian fellowship!

Craig Wiles pastors the West Plains, Missouri district.

New Technology Brings God’s Message to TV

by Michelle Hansen

An Iowa-based ministry is utilizing Internet to television streaming to further the gospel message. UnlockingTruth.org features videos, Bible studies and devotionals on basic Bible truths. In a non-intrusive way, people can learn more about Jesus and His love for them.

Earlier this year Unlocking Truth launched a free channel on the video streaming service Roku. Roku makes web-based videos viewable on your television. Once you purchase a Roku device you can access their video library (largely free) that includes 144 Christian channels.

Elder Steve Nelson, pastor of the Council Bluffs, Iowa district, and his wife, Samantha, started the Unlocking Truth outreach ministry seven years ago. “It came into existence out of a desire to reach people who would never darken the door of a church with the eternal message of God’s transforming love,” said Elder Nelson. “People are searching, perhaps unknowingly, for something more, and we want to introduce them to the Source of Life and Truth. Our evangelism approach follows Biblical truth as taught and revealed through the life and ministry of Jesus and seeks to prepare others for His soon return.”

Within one month of the activation of the ministry’s free Roku channel, and with no advertising, it had been installed on 4,000 devices. “It’s really amazing,” said Samantha. “Just think of all the seekers who could learn Bible truth through an otherwise secular means! We see it as a terrific opportunity to reach a large amount of people.”

To learn more about Unlocking Truth, visit UnlockingTruth.org. Other Adventist channels on Roku include The Adventist Channel, Hope TV, Amazing Facts and 3ABN.
Preparing to Lead
SAA students serve at Mexico Church
by Michelle Hansen

Students from Sunnydale Adventist Academy’s School of Evangelism (SOE) are learning spiritual leadership through preaching, witnessing and hands-on church work classes.

SOE director Scott Haakenson says the goal of the program is “to train young people to be soul winners and to make a difference in people’s lives through service and witnessing.” Since its inception four years ago, the program has included a two-pronged approach to evangelism; first, evangelism training classes incorporated into the academy’s curriculum, and second, using this training to participate in local and overseas evangelism and outreach.

This past school year Haakenson took his student workers and students from his SOE classes to the Mexico (MO) Adventist Church on a regular basis to participate in various church leadership roles. During the week, the group would travel the 20 miles to the church and clean up the grounds and the inside of the church, as well as sit in on board meetings, attend Wednesday prayer meetings and more. About once a month the students took responsibility for leading out in all aspects of the Sabbath services, from teaching Sabbath school classes, to song service, to presenting the sermon.

After junior Jean Butoyi, a preaching class student, gave his first sermon he said, “Preparing for this sermon led me to a better understanding of what it means to help my brother and to be a true Christian. I found what I like to call true religion during my studies. Many of my teachers have shown me what it means to be like Christ by going the extra mile for me and other students. To me that is true religion—serving others.”

Michelle Hansen is communication/Sabbath school director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Four pastors were ordained during this year’s camp meeting at Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Pictured (l-r) are Tammie and Abel Hagan from the Nevada, MO district; Samantha and Steve Nelson from the Council Bluffs, IA district; Deanna and Craig Wiles from the West Plains, MO district; and Rob Alfalah from the Ames, IA district.
Students Exhibit Unconditional Love

by Brian Carlson

I’ve sometimes wondered if high school students really “get” unconditional love. When they graduate and walk away, can they truly understand that concept? At the end of last school year, I received an answer.

Dayton joined College View Academy (CVA) during his junior year. He had struggled in school for many years and was currently living with a foster family. Early in his senior year, Dayton made some serious, life-changing mistakes and found himself in jail facing numerous charges. He spent the next seven months in a small-town prison about two hours away. After getting probation for some of the charges, he was moved to a jail in Lincoln. That’s when his classmates started planning. Having spent all year writing letters and sometimes visiting their friend in jail, Dayton’s classmates were eager to include him in the memories of graduation weekend even though he couldn’t receive his diploma.

The biggest problem was that his family couldn’t afford money for bail. I pointed out that I really couldn’t run an official school fundraiser to get someone out of jail, but I would support the students if they ran it independently. A few weeks later the seniors brought me some money, but it wasn’t enough. That’s when the junior class stepped in and asked me if they could finish raising the money and surprise the seniors by getting Dayton to graduation. It would be their gift to the seniors. I told them to go for it, and a week later they brought the rest of the money, which I passed on to Dayton’s foster dad.

On the Friday of graduation weekend the seniors showed up for practice, unaware that their classmate was hiding in a room nearby. When we called him out, the response was immediate and incredible. All 23 seniors rushed forward and engulfed their friend in a group hug. Later that afternoon, one of the seniors took Dayton shopping and helped him buy nice clothes for the weekend, which he proudly wore to each service.

On Sunday, as the seniors stood together at the front of the gym to sing their class song, one of the seniors went to Dayton and brought him up to the front to sing with them. There was not a dry eye in the house.

I don’t know where life will take Dayton and his classmates in years to come. But this I do know—for one weekend they taught their principal a huge lesson about unconditional love. Jesus calls us to love each other no matter the circumstances. And the kids of CVA “got” it.

Brian Carlson is the principal of College View Academy.
Francis Ordained at Kearney Church
by John Treolo

Lawrence Francis, a native of Malaysia, came to the United States to pursue dual aspirations: ministry and medicine. His call to ministry was recently confirmed as he humbly accepted ordination in Kearney, Nebraska with members in attendance from all four of his congregations. Also present were fellow pastors, staff from the Union College religion department and the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, members of the local Methodist Church, and many other friends.

Edward Allen, professor of religion at Union College, delivered the ordination message. “Lawrence, Jesus has called you to be a shepherd, to do the work of a shepherd,” Allen noted. Before leading the ordination prayer, Ron Carlson, president, added: “This is not a sacrament as we define it. Nothing is being given today that he doesn’t already have. This is a recognition by the church. So the calling of this pastor was given by God. Lawrence has been responding to that for years now.”

Other participants included Don Stricker, vice president for finance, Merlin Wehling, head elder of the Kearney Church, Ron Halvorsen, lead pastor at College View Church in Lincoln and Pauline Morse, head elder of the Holdrege Church.

The ordination service was live streamed to relatives and friends in Malaysia. Francis Yebmalai, Lawrence’s father, flew over from Malaysia to participate in the service. He and Lawrence sang a special song in their native tongue.

Before coming to the U.S., Francis received a degree from Spicer Memorial College in India. He then pastored in Malaysia for eight years.

After earning a master’s of divinity degree at Andrews University, Francis attended Union College to pursue the medical part of his life goals. Yet God had other plans, calling him into full time ministry.

Francis has served the churches in Beaver City, Broken Bow, Holdrege and Kearney for the past three years. Although medicine isn’t part of his immediate plans, pointing to Jesus’ ministry Francis acknowledged that his pastoral role may often involve healing. “Jesus protects us, unites us and takes us to the finish line. It’s all about Jesus. It is my humble desire that I will decrease and He will increase.” He added, “It is my lifelong passion that I will continue to be God’s extension of His love, mercy and grace. I have been touched by His message. I have been touched by His love. That compels me to share these things with others.”
Five Youth Become Daniels in Today’s Babylon
*He called...they answered*
by Anna Romuald

I felt impressed by the Spirit to ask him to preach. **Japheth** has a unique gift of leadership—the quiet, humble, servant-like kind—as well as an intense desire to understand the relevancy of the Scriptures more intimately in order to be able to share with others. I saw in him a potential for something great. So, for the next few months I kept asking him to preach for our next youth Sabbath. Time and again he would decline my offers, slyly change the subject, or outright reject my gentle encouragement.

Then, one day he made a statement I couldn’t ignore. “Pastor Anna, to be honest I’ve continued to reject your offers to preach because I don’t feel it would be right since I’m not yet baptized.” I felt the Spirit urging the words out of me before I could think. “Is that something you’d like to change? Would you like to be baptized?” I asked him.

The words that came next were as sweet as if I had just received a marriage proposal.

“Yes. And after I’ve come up from the waters a new person, I will preach!” he said.

I asked the Spirit to permeate our Bible studies in the weeks to come, to captivate us, to inspire us, to enlighten us, and to work miracles not only on behalf of this eager young man, but for our whole youth group. And instantly those prayers were answered. The week after Japheth and I began studying, **Griffin** came and asked to be baptized. Two weeks later, **Bridgit** came and asked as well. In two more weeks, **Hannah** and **Becca** came desiring baptism. It wasn’t the number that surprised me; it was the condition of their hearts—their yearning for a deeper relationship with Christ. I was humbled by the affirmation that it wasn’t my job to convict and convert. It was the work of the One whom the Father had sent to draw us closer to Him.

What started as a short Bible study series lasted many months because of their passion to know the Scriptures better. And frankly, we were having so much fun! At times their tough questions motivated me to dig for answers, and cultivated lengthy Spirit-filled conversations as we wrestled together in becoming more authentic Christians in today’s culture.

Overwhelmed by the vision of what I saw God calling this/our generation of youth and young adults to become, I heard an audible voice declare these youth to be the Daniels in today’s Babylon. With unique talents and gifts, and an urgent testimony, they will be called to places we once deemed too evil to break into with the gospel—places like Hollywood and corrupt billion-dollar corporations, politics and media. God is equipping this generation with truth and calling them to live in the world without being of the world.

On May 18 and June 1 these five youth went into the waters of baptism and came up as new creations, transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit, ready to discover and fulfill the calling God is working out to completion. I can’t wait to see how God will use them to bring about His soon coming!

Anna Romuald is assistant pastor of the Southview Church in Minneapolis.
On Sabbath, March 30, Jacob Mast was baptized in Jesus and became a member of the Park Rapids Church. Ninety-six people, including members from Park Rapids, Wadena and other friends, were present to witness the event. Jacob’s baptism was the culmination of a search for answers to life’s questions that began in his Amish home. It was also the beginning of a life of sharing with people around him the happiness and peace he has found. Just before his baptism Jacob gave the following testimony:

I want to share a little bit of how I met Jesus and also why I accepted Him into my life. During my teenage years, I had a lot of questions about God and why we did things the way we did in the Amish church. Every time I would ask the elders of the church or my parents, they treated me like I was rebelling against God for asking. So I was confused and often became very angry at God.

And as I got older, I blocked God out of my life because I didn’t want to serve a god that I had to fear or that confused me. So, I left my family and church and looked at what the world had to offer. I started drinking, partying and using tobacco; I even did drugs a few times.

Still, I lacked something and did not find answers. I was unhappy and tried to bury myself with work and being busy. After a few years I felt sick of everything and started getting depressed. I wondered why I was even alive and considered taking my own life.

At this point I ran into some people who had experienced similar situations and could relate well with what I was going through. They strongly encouraged me to try reading the Bible.

When I eventually started studying the Bible, I found out that God is real, and that He is love. I also realized that the Bible is written for us as a guideline of how to live happy lives.

The more I read, the more I felt convicted that what I was doing was wrong. But I felt like I wasn’t good enough for God and could never follow what He wanted me to do. As I studied the Bible more, I realized that salvation is a gift—that Jesus gave His life for everyone, even for me. I learned that sin is death and by choosing to follow and accept Jesus, I would be given everlasting life. All I had to do was reach out and accept it.

Once I made up my mind to accept Christ, everything started turning out better for me. I was able to quit a lot of my bad habits and addictions. And I know I am forgiven according to the Bible.

That’s when I found true happiness and finally found what I was searching for. I feel like I matter to God, and I know He has a plan for me.

Every day I see people around me who are searching for something, just like I was at one time. I pray that God will help me to share with them what He has done in my life that they might find happiness and peace also.

Finally, I ask that all of you would please keep me in your prayers, that I can resist temptations and stay strong in times of trial, and that I may grow stronger in my walk with Jesus.

Jacob Mast, raised Amish, is now a member of the Park Rapids Church.
Rocky Mountain Conference Welcomes New Faces
by Mark Bond and Carol Bolden

Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) is blessed to welcome two new staff members to the team. Craig Carr will replace ministerial director Al Williams who retired, and Jodi Coulter will replace Jim Jenson, associate treasurer, who recently took a call to the Alaska Conference.

Craig Carr

Pastor Craig Carr is no stranger to the Rocky Mountain Conference, having served the Boulder Church as senior pastor since 2008. Craig graduated from Union College with a major in business administration. He started his career in healthcare, but in 1997 he felt God calling him to pastoral ministry. Craig attended the Theological Seminary at Andrews University to obtain his Master of Divinity. He then pastored churches in Tennessee and Georgia before accepting the call to Boulder. His ministry there has been a rich experience and he will be greatly missed by the Boulder congregation.

Craig is completing a doctor of ministry degree from Denver Seminary in Littleton, Colorado. He expects to finish in January and graduate next spring. The focus of his research has been on bringing balance to the life of the pastor.

Craig said, “My goal as the ministerial director is to help each pastor to grow personally and professionally. As we grow together, I want to help each pastor develop their own gifts and talents as we seek to see our churches grow.”

RMC president Gary Thurber said, “Craig has the respect of his fellow pastors for his pastoral leadership abilities. He will truly bless our office team as well as the pastors around the conference.”

Craig has been married to his wife, Carisa, for 17 years. She teaches 1st and 2nd grades at Vista Ridge Academy. They have two children, Cassie, 14, and Christian, 12, both students at Vista Ridge.

Jodi Coulter

A graduate of Southern Adventist University, Joellen “Jodi” Coulter received her BBA in management in 1998. She earned a master’s in accounting from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, in 2001. Although her original plan did not include working for the Church, Coulter responded when God clearly called her. Coulter worked for the Indiana Conference for nearly 10 years, first as an assistant treasurer, then as an associate. Still, she had a desire to be closer to her family, and God opened that door when she received a call from the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Being here is “a little like coming home” said Coulter, who grew up on a farm in the panhandle of Texas. She spent time in New Mexico and Colorado during her growing up years. Homeschooled through Home Study International (now Griggs University), she didn’t see a classroom until her academy days at Oklahoma Academy, a seven-hour drive from home. Her family still lives on the farm in Texas.

As a single woman, Coulter enjoys spending time photographing animals and scenery, as well as playing the piano.

RMC treasurer George Crumley said, “Having worked with Jodi at the Indiana Conference, I already know the level of integrity, competency and commitment she brings to the Lord’s work.” He added, “As you get to know her, you’ll realize that she is always helpful and trustworthy. We are elated to have her join our RMC treasury team.”
Campion Church Member Receives National Award
by Ardis Stenbakken

Mary Ann Romans, a member of the Campion Church in Loveland, Colorado, was awarded the 2013 Augusta Award, the national employee-of-the-year award given by the Good Samaritan Society. The Good Samaritan Society is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of senior care and services, employing 27,000 people in 240 locations in 23 states.

Mary Ann received 21 separate nominations from her fellow staff members, as well as a nomination from a resident's family. After winning the local award, her nomination went on to capture the state and national awards. She was honored at a banquet at the corporate headquarters in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in June of this year.

"Mary Ann is an amazing woman. She has an energy about her that is infectious," said Lisa Melby, executive director at the Loveland center. "Her kind spirit and cheerful disposition make her fun to be around."

Co-workers say that Mary Ann exemplifies Jesus as she works, and that she works with lightning speed yet always has time to talk with residents and brighten their day. "She anticipates the needs of our residents and always meets them with a smile and great attitude. I don't think I've ever seen her without a smile on her face," another co-worker said.

One person who nominated Mary Ann wrote that she "keeps her watchful eye on the residents for their safety, gives a needed hug to someone, makes others laugh, encourages her co-workers and accommodates requests from family members." Others noted that Mary Ann is often heard singing with residents.

Mary Ann's co-workers say she is the best thing that ever happened to the Good Samaritan Society and is a blessing to every person she meets. One staff member commented that she lives a life of faith and is loving to both staff and residents. "If ever I have seen Jesus, it is in her unending kindness."

Mary Ann fixes meals for staff members who are sick, raises money for charities, and went on a mission trip a few years ago to an orphanage in Mexico and called it her favorite vacation.

In the Campion Church, Mary Ann serves as social committee leader, where her cheerful attitude and energy is a blessing and inspiration for everyone.

Ardis Stenbakken is communication director for the Campion Church.
Two Programs Find a New Home
by Joellyn Sheehy

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (PA) and International Rescue and Relief (IRR) programs have moved into their recently renovated home in the south end of the Don Love building, the section formerly occupied by AdventSource for more than 30 years.

The new space will provide significant benefits for both programs, including technology-equipped classrooms and conference rooms, student lounges and a clinical skills lab with a hospital-like setting for the PA students.

“We needed growing space,” said Michelle Buller, director of the PA program. “We recently increased our class size to 30 students per year and the classrooms barely held that many.”

Previously housed in the upper level of the Larson Lifestyle Center, the PA program shared the majority of their classrooms with the Division of Nursing and held some lectures in the library. “Being in PA school is daunting and the students form quite a cohesive group,” said Buller. “Being together in one building will be wonderful, and the improved technology will help them become better clinicians.”

The increased lab space will enable students to practice their skills in a more realistic setting. “We have five new clinical areas that can accommodate 10 students at a time,” said Buller. “In the past we had to share with the nursing program and it was cramped and hard to coordinate. Even though they were great to work with, I think this move will be good for all of us.”

The PA program hosts more than 110 doctors and other medical professionals as guest lecturers every year. “We have many professionals—from oncologists to cardiologists—who volunteer out of the kindness of their hearts,” said Buller. “The improved facilities will be a nicer environment for these presentations and perhaps encourage more local professionals to participate.”

The International Rescue and Relief program is also pleased to have larger, more accessible facilities. “One of the most important changes is that we can actually have all our classes in one location,” said Rick Young, director of the IRR program and chair of the Division of Emergency Management and Exercise Science. “This will bring us together as a division and place us closer to the rest of campus. The program has been around for nine years now and this facility symbolizes its proven viability.”

With a decommissioned ambulance set up in the classroom and technical rope equipment on hand, IRR students will now be able to practice their skills indoors during the winter months. “The old facilities were worn out and we had no place to store equipment,” said Young. “Our new offices and classrooms look more professional, and we’ll have everything in one place so we can be ready to deploy in the event of a crisis.”

The renovation also brings a visible cohesion to the campus. The tile exterior will be replaced by brick matching the rest of the Don Love Building, the Ortner Center and the new science and mathematics complex. Additionally, the entry to the facility features a smaller glass arch that matches the large glass arch over the atrium.

“This updated facility will help take two of our newest, yet strongest programs to the next level,” said John Wagner, president of Union College. “And that will lead to a better educational experience not only for students in those programs, but all of campus.”

Joellyn Sheehy is a senior International Rescue and Relief major at Union College.
Putting the “International” in IRR
by Joellyn Sheehy

“Before I went into the International Rescue and Relief (IRR) program I made a list of all the companies I wanted to work for and International SOS was number two,” said Jonathan Hoewing, now a paramedic with the company in Papua New Guinea. “Sometimes I wonder if they hired me just because I have the word ‘international’ in my bachelor’s degree.”

A 2009 Union College graduate, Hoewing has taken the ‘international’ part of his degree literally. Having worked as a paramedic in Haiti, Saudi Arabia and most recently Papua New Guinea, he credits the distinctiveness of his IRR major for opening up many opportunities.

While completing a paramedic internship in Portland, Oregon, Hoewing realized he did not want to work as a conventional emergency responder. Determined to avoid a nine-to-five position, he researched rescue programs online and came across Union College. He promptly embarked on a four-year adventure in the college’s unique International Rescue and Relief program—which combines a vigorous baccalaureate degree program in emergency management and medical skills with training in wilderness and jungle survival and rescue.

After graduation Hoewing settled into working as a paramedic in Montana and Lincoln, but when a devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010, he joined the second of four teams of Union College IRR student and alumni responders traveling to the decimated capital city of Port-au-Prince. The Union College team returned to Lincoln after a week, but Hoewing stayed on, working another six weeks as a paramedic with Acts World Relief.

After this experience Hoewing realized how much he enjoyed international work and began to research opportunities online. Eventually he landed a position as a paramedic in Saudi Arabia. “It was similar to working in the U.S., but extremely busy,” he recalled. “You could be called for anything and everything.”

Along with heightened demand for his medical expertise, as a foreign first responder Hoewing experienced many intercultural challenges in his 11-month stint working for the local government. “Our drivers were our translators and usually spoke fairly good English, but it was a bit hit and miss at times,” he said.

After five months Hoewing was asked to become the personal medical support for Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, son of reigning King Abdullah. “They told me I was the only one in the whole country who had a bachelor’s degree in that speciality and that it would look good for the prince to have someone with such qualifications.” Hoewing lived in the palace while on duty, remaining in his royal commission for the duration of his contract in Saudi Arabia.

Once back in the U.S., he landed a position with International SOS, an international healthcare, medical assistance and security services company that assists organizations in managing the health and security risks facing their international travelers and expatriates. Hoewing currently runs a one-man clinic in the middle of the Papua New Guinea jungle for ExxonMobile workers and other sub-contractors drilling for natural gas. He works a six-weeks on, six-weeks off rotation and comes home frequently to visit family.

In addition to gaining employment advantages, Hoewing recognizes he learned many important life lessons while pursuing his degree. “The IRR program trained me to be more patient with people,” he said. And that has helped him when working in developing countries where things often don’t go as planned. “There have been some trying times,” he said. “But this job has been a huge blessing and answer to prayer.”
Alarcon, Victorianna, b. June 8, 1941 in Chihuahua, Mexico. d. April 26, 2013 in Mason City, IA. Member of Mason City Church. Preceded in death by 3 siblings. Survivors include daughters Monica and Alicia Alarcon; sons Gabino and Fernando Delgado; 2 siblings; 12 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Bachman, Art, b. Dec. 15, 1928 in IA. d. Jan. 24, 2013 in Edwardsville, IL. Member of St. Louis Central Church. Survivors include wife Lorraine; husband Calvin; 8, 1910; d. May 9, 2013 in Chewning, Bertha, Muscatine, IA. Member of Winterset (IA) Church. Served in Korean War. Preceded in death by parents; 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Linda Lynch and Beverly Tasche; 1 sister; 1 granddaughter.


Bomar, Fred, b. Sept. 18, 1941 in Madison County, IA. d. Dec. 30, 2012 in Adel, IA. Member of Winterset (IA) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Myrtle; daughters Natalie Bomar and Rachel Backstrom; 4 siblings; 2 grandchildren.


Chapman, Ray C., b. Apr. 8, 1925 in Minatere, NE. d. May 25, 2013 in Scottsbluff, NE. Member of Scottsbluff Church. Served in Korean War. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Lorraine; sons Dwaine, Eddie, Stan and Ken; 1 sister; 9 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Chewing, Bertha, b. Nov. 8, 1910. d. May 9, 2013 in Muscatine, IA. Member of Muscatine Church. Preceded in death by husband Calvin; 9 siblings. Survivors include daughter Betty Lincoln; 5 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Clines, Betty, b. Oct. 20, 1941 in Ava, MO. d. June 18, 2013 in Rogersville, MO. Member of Oak Grove Heights Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include husband Denzil; daughter Carrie Johnson; sons Gary and Larry; 4 siblings; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Deemer, Jerine L., b. Dec. 16, 1932 in IA. d. July 7, 2013 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include husband George; daughter Suzette; son Gary; 6 grandchildren.

Dickhaut, Dennis N., b. July 4, 1947 in Zap, ND. d. July 4, 2013 in Redfield, SD. Member of Redfield Church. Preceded in death by parents; 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Janice; daughter Amy Justin; son Jason; stepchildren Daniel, Jeff and Marcy; 5 siblings; 4 grandchildren.


Freeman, Monica, b. Dec. 6, 1942 in Northfield, MN. d. May 14, 2013 in Dundas, MN. Member of Faribault Church. Survivors include husband Keith; daughters Susan Malecha and Julie Werner; son Dale; 2 siblings; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.


Hawkins, Arthur, b. Sept. 7, 1943; d. May 26, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. Member of St. Louis Central Church.


Katozian, Martha A., b. Apr. 5, 1947 in Anderson, IN. d. July 30, 2013 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Mandan Church. Preceded in death by parents; 3 siblings. Survivors include husband Douglas; daughters Melissa Burghart, Nicole Froelich, Georgiann Hersch and Elizabeth Gappert; sons Virgil, Michael and Matthew; 4 sisters; 16 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.


Koepplein, Willie E., b. Sept. 7, 1911 near Lehr, ND. d. July 25, 2013 in Wishek, ND. Member of Lehr Church. Preceded in death by wife Esther; 10 siblings. Survivors include sister Alma Gibbs.

Lamb, Bonnie J., b. Feb. 19, 1934 in Centerville, IA. d. May 24, 2013 in Columbus, NE. Member of Columbus Church. Survivors include children Janette Abbott, Lee Nickum and Sandy Lamb; 2 sisters; 9 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Littrell, Esther, b. Apr. 11, 1930 in Atchison County, MO. d. Jan. 20, 2011 in Norwood, MO. Member of Mt. Grove Church. Taught in several Adventist schools. Preceded in death by husband Jobs; son Louis; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughters Lois Maddox and Vera Hart; son David (now deceased); 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Meyer, Inez M., b. Sept. 26, 1913 in Chester, MT. d. Apr. 18, 2013 in Fargo, ND. Member of Fargo Church. Preceded in death by husband Frank; daughter Carolyn Korby; 3 siblings. Survivors include daughters Barbara Kimsey and Frances Sabbe; sons Richard and Raymond "Pete"; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Moad, Fern, b. Aug. 31, 1922 in Conception Junction, MO. d. June 1, 2013 in Albany, MO. Member of Albany Church. Preceded in death by husband Orven; sons Kenny, Scott and James; 4 siblings; 1 grandson; 2 great-grandsons. Survivors include children Leslie, Paul, Mickey, Denny, Janice, Jane, Patty, Cheryl and Eddie; 31 grandchildren; 62 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Morales, Ed, b. Mar. 9, 1936 in Natalia, TX. d. Feb. 1, 2013 in Fairdealing, MO. Member of Doniphan Church. Preceded in death by 1 sister; 1 grandson. Survivors include wife Bonnie; daughters Margie, April, Renee, Kandie and Jacqueline; sons Edward, Matthew, Randy and Wally; 3 siblings; 15 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Muir, Betty, d. Nov. 13, 1931 in Climax, MN. d. Apr. 30, 2013 in Grand Forks, ND. Member of Grand Forks Church. Preceded in death by husband Douglas; son Mark; 3 brothers. Survivors include stepdaughter Deanna McDonald; stepson Merle McDonald; 3 siblings; 2 grandchildren.

Openlander, Marie, b. Aug. 27, 1922. d. June 29, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. Member of St. Louis Central Church. Survivors include daughter Sherri; 2 grandchildren.

Pankratz, A. Lee, b. Feb.28, 1924 in Buffalo, OK. d. May 25, 2013 in Wichita, KS. Member of Wellington Church. Survivors include wife Zena; daughters Tisha and Georgia; 5 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Parker, Gerald “Moose”, b. Nov. 17, 1942 in Mt. Pleasant, IA. d. June, 24, 2013 in West Burlington, IA. Member of Burlington Church. Survivors include daughter Valerie Parker; son Gregory; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Ricketts, Raymond, b. Nov. 27, 1926 in Barney, IA. d. Feb. 7, 2011 in Winterset, IA. Member of Winterset Church. Preceded in death by 2 grandchildren. Survivors include wife Doris; daughters Rebecca Pugh and Sharon Figliolino; son Mark; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.

Risse, Lauretta A., b. June 23, 1927 in Verdigre, NE. d. June 19, 2013 in Alliance, NE. Member of Alliance Church. Survivors include husband Matt; daughters Connie Laing and Jeanne Ray; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Roper, Nancy, b. May 30, 1920 in Harleton, TX. d. May 14, 2013 in Independence, IA. Member of Waterloo Church. Preceded in death by husband Jesse; sons William and Rodger Smith and Randy Christ; 3 brothers; 3 grandchildren. Survivors include sons Raymond Smith and Jimmy Roper; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren.


Stenberger, David R., b. May 9, 1933 in Floodwood, MN. d. July 8, 2013 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Survivors include wife Verla; son Jon.


Warde, Donna M., b. May 8, 1934 in St. Paul, MN. d. Nov. 23, 2012 in Fargo, ND. Member of Detroit Lakes (MN) Church. Survivors include husband Marvin; son Bruce; 2 siblings; 2 granddaughters.

Warner, Philip, b. Jan. 11, 1919 near Regan, ND. d. Aug. 4, 2013 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Bismarck Church. Preceded in death by wife Velda; 3 siblings; 5 stepsiblings. Survivors include sons Ronald and Milo; 3 sisters; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Wasmiller, Martha E., b. Aug. 25, 1915 in Vassar, Manitoba, Canada. d. May 2, 2013 in Loma Linda, CA. Former member of College View (Lincoln, NE) Church. Current member of Loma Linda University Church. Preceded in death by husband Leroy; 4 sisters; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughters Shirley Field and Janet McKeenan; 1 sister; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Welch, Rose Mary, b. May 5, 1932 in Cotton Plant, AR. d. July 16, 2013 in Atlanta, GA. Member of Northside (St. Louis, MO) Church. Survivors include 11 children; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wells, Olivia, b. Dec. 21, 1922 in Woodward County, OK. d. July 10, 2013. Member of College View (Lincoln, NE) Church. Survivors include son Ryan; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren.


Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend—Oct. 3-6. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet. Career Day on Friday. Sabbath speaker is Elder Ron Scott, class of 1959. Sunday is the Alumni Golf Tournament and 5k walk/run. For more info call 573.862.2164 or visit www.sunnydale.org.

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