2013 HOLIDAY SPECIAL: RECOUNTING GOD’S GIFTS
At this time of year we often focus on giving as a way to express our appreciation for God’s blessings during the past year. And He has blessed us abundantly in 2013. Take a look at our year-end wrap up, starting on p. 6, of the exciting things that have happened around our union, many of which we did not have space to feature in OUTLOOK magazine when they occurred (visit our Flickr page at http://bit.ly/MAUCFlkr to view more photos). So is everything perfect in our churches and institutions? No. But we can still choose to rejoice. Have we counted every gift here—or even the most important ones? No. Some things cannot be quantified (see p. 5). Yet the grace of God that leads us to fullness of life in Christ is poured out on each of us in immeasurable ways everyday. That gift alone gives us ample reason to celebrate!

—BRENDA DICKERSON
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**Blog:** Searching for the Perfect Gift
Clues from the wise men

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**Blog:** The Day After Christmas
Milky, white light shimmers everywhere

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**Blog:** The Rough Stuff
I remember the day my life changed

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**Article:** Winter Gardening
Five practical steps to year-round beauty
Previously we have considered the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the Adventist Church. In this final installment, we will explore the opportunities.

Last week I chaired a phone conference for a ministry located in rural Minnesota. With the full support of that conference, this group of laypersons has grown a radio outreach ministry that far exceeds the original dream. They now have five stations, with applications pending for several more. Managed largely through donations from listeners and supporters (with some help from ASI, the conference and the union), the team carefully oversees its day-to-day operations, makes sure the equipment works 24/7 in all types of weather, responds to listeners, and looks for chances to grow.

As with the manna in the wilderness, they have sufficient income to operate but no surplus set aside. Having heard and understood the call of God to make disciples, this group has seen the opportunity in front of them—the opportunity of pushing back against the kingdom of darkness with the marvelous light of God's grace.

A month ago I met a long-time friend at a restaurant in Colorado at his invitation. He wanted to discuss his burden for a niche in God's great harvest field that will require specialization and use of target marketing. In Mid-America we have a large number of ranchers and farmers whose lives are driven by a round-the-clock work life that would put many of us straight into the ground. Our nation—and indeed the world—depends on their productivity. What have we done to nurture them and provide them with the wonderful security of knowing and trusting in the Jesus we represent?

I told my friend he didn't need my permission to undertake this ministry, but added, “Please don't hesitate to let people know that I am in full support of what you are doing.” I want that message to shine forth in abundance: If you are led by a clear mandate from Scripture and motivated by your love for the Lord, you too will find opportunities to advance this cause. And while the blessing of church leadership is good, and sometimes necessary, usually if the motive, mandate and materials are right, you should just go for it.

The Adventist Church organization also engages with real life, spot-on ministry. One phase of an ongoing direct evangelistic ministry to St. Louis, Missouri has just wrapped up. The collaborative efforts of our Iowa-Missouri and Central States conferences have been wonderful. I have been privileged to attend some of their major events, and clearly the Holy Spirit is on the ground there.

Among those responding to the message and choosing baptism is a successful pastor of a small non-denominational church and his wife. This pastor's congregation is currently unwilling to accept his stand for the Sabbath and other biblical truths (story on p. 19). The St. Louis Central Church is working with Pastor Otis to see if they can help him reach out to his former members, or perhaps use this opportunity to hold an evangelistic meeting in the church building and raise up a Sabbath-keeping congregation.

Along with the privilege of membership comes the responsibility to recognize and embrace the opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus every day. I say this not to laden you with guilt or burden you with wishful thinking, but rather to lift our eyes to the joys of joining with Jesus in His harvest.

2013 is fading into the archives. What a year it has been! But in reality it is merely a forecast of 2014. Thanks to each of you for everything you have done to move us forward, and for what you will do in seizing next year's opportunities.

Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.
What do you do when the really important things can’t be counted?

You count the things that can be counted and pretend that they are really important.

This might seem cynical, but there is perhaps more than a grain of truth to it. As human beings, we like to measure progress. However, the fact is that sometimes we are making progress on very important things in ways that cannot be counted.

How do you tabulate an afternoon spent with a grieving family? What is there to count? It may be the most important thing you do the entire week, but there is no way to measure the blessings that come to them through your ministry. How can you assess your reassurances of God’s love to a broken-hearted divorcee? What is the real value of a student who was able to stay in Adventist schools through your generosity? These things may shine more brightly in heaven than anything else you do, even though you aren’t keeping a record of your actions.

None of this is intended as criticism of careful record keeping. There are many things that can and should be counted. We must keep track of finances in our homes and in our churches. We should have accurate records of membership. I would never suggest that we ignore these things. I am simply calling attention to the fact that there are other important things that neither can nor need to be counted.

For biblical support of this position, notice that the apostle Paul was not obsessed with counting. When the Corinthian church got into a squabble, he put the matter in proper perspective: “I thank God that I didn’t baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius. . . Oops, wait a minute; now that I think of it, I did baptize Stephanus and his family. I can’t remember if there were others” (1 Cor. 1:14-16, paraphrased).

My grandparents were baptized in 1932 at the height of the Great Depression. My grandmother’s siblings thought it was madness for a man supporting four children (five, when my mother was born) to accept a doctrine that kept him from working on Saturdays when any kind of work was so desperately hard to get. They made their feelings known, and relations were strained for several years as they watched my grandfather pass up work opportunities in order to keep the Sabbath holy. But as the doubters saw that over the years God was faithful and none of the children missed a meal, attitudes began to thaw. And as my grandparents were able to afford it, they sent Signs of the Times magazine to family members.

Wilbur was one of my grandmother’s brothers and Nellie was one of her sisters. In the late 1970s, after both their spouses had passed away, Wilbur and Nellie attended Adventist meetings together and were baptized. When the evangelist remarked to them that it was unusual for people to change religious convictions in their later years of life, they replied, “We’ve been watching our sister and her husband for over 50 years. We want what they have.”

For half a century, a quiet witness was going on in a thousand small ways, none of which could be measured. There was no sign that there would ever be any result. But witnessing is not about counting things. It is just a simple reliance on the words, “Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).

Doug Inglish is Personal Ministries director for the Minnesota Conference. He credits his father, Elder Don Inglish, for inspiring him with these thoughts early in his ministry, and helping with this editorial.
It is for our own benefit to keep every gift of God fresh in our memory. By this means faith is strengthened...

—Ministry of Healing, p. 100
By the Numbers

1,631 K-8 students enrolled in Adventist schools—fall semester
231 summer camp staff
9 conference supported camps
[God] makes man the medium through which to distribute His blessings on earth.

—Testimonies to the Church, vol. 9, p. 255
ARE LEARNING

BY THE NUMBERS

169 students graduated from Adventist senior academies

911 students enrolled at Union College—fall semester

3 MAU Pathfinders clubs in the NAD-level Bible Experience
Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God.

—Job 37:14
ARE COMMITTED

BY THE NUMBERS

400 attended the 2nd annual Hispanic Youth Congress

11 sites hosted area camp meetings

6 conferences sponsored one or more mission trips
AREA ORGANIZATIONS

Every good and perfect gift is from above.

—James 1:17
A R E  E X P A N D I N G

AdventSource:
- 17,200 square feet in new building
- 2,000 braille/audio resources in lending library
- 6 mid-west hospitals
- 21 full time employees
- 50 participated in first 5K4Vision Run/Walk
- 9 medical mission trips to developing countries

Christian Record Services:

Adventist Health:
What is your vision for the Central States Conference (CSC) in the next five years?

We are actually working on a seven-year plan called the 2020 Vision. The first part of that vision is to help our workers become Highly Aligned with God’s personal calling for their lives. We want our team to reach the point where they sense they’re working in the center of God’s will. He will instruct us and teach us what to do, and when to do it.

The second thing we want is to develop Highly Engaged members who can’t imagine life without their church because it’s a fulfilling experience that connects with every area of their lives. At one point as a youth I was so engaged that I was at church six nights a week, and it was a thrilling experience. I taught primary and youth Sabbath school and was president of the Linwood Christian Action Coalition. I sang in the youth choir and spoke around the conference and beyond in the Voice of Youth.

But the greatest privilege came later when I shared my faith on my job and a coworker was baptized. There is a natural high that the world can’t touch when you feel God has taken your life and used it for His glory.

This leads to my next point. By 2020 I want to see our youth and young adults Highly Energized for mission. Young people around the world are leading thousands to Christ and they are learning that it’s an adventure that can’t be exhausted.

Right now, God is finishing His work with an army of Spirit-filled youth who have been rightly trained. They are coming up with creative ways to share their faith through hands-on mission projects and using technology and social media. Never before has a person with a keyboard or smart phone had such an opportunity to impact the world for good.

I also want to Empower an Educational Renaissance in CSC. God has richly blessed so that as we speak Google Fiber is being installed free of charge in our conference office. This will enhance our ability to communicate and share educational instruction around our field. I want every child, parent and teacher to be able to leverage the latest technology to access lesson plans, homework aids, coursework instruction and much more.

Finally, I want CSC to become Financially Strong to Keep Mission Moving. Currently, we have 30 cost-savings measures in place to keep our ministry moving in Central States. If we satisfy all our debts over the course of the next seven years, we will save $650,000 in interest. If only 75 percent of our members in each church would be faithful in tithes and offerings, we as a conference family could
completely pay off our debt. Then innovations in witnessing wouldn’t just be a dream—they would become reality as fast as we could put them on paper! We are making additional payments on the principle of our loan, and it’s my hope that each year between now and 2020 we will be able to increase that payment amount substantially.

**What means do you plan to use to spread the gospel?**

Every means at our disposal. In the late 1990s I was privileged to recreate the images of Daniel and Revelation in 3D to engage a younger audience. We saw about 40 community people attending a weekly meeting. Of the nearly 30 who were baptized, many were young adults.

I want to equip our members who are tech savvy to create new ways to reach the world for Christ. I hope to see our conference give awards every year to the worker and member with the most compelling evangelistic innovation. Currently, I’m making my first inroads into digital witnessing by using Google+ to share my weekly travel adventures around the conference.

Finally, I want Central States to become the standard of what it means to not only win people to Christ but help them become committed disciples who are empowered to lead this great movement through their God-given gifts.

**What do you think is the single most important trait of a thriving congregation?**

Being missional! I have seen outward focused congregations in action. It’s a mindset that has little to do with leadership and much to do with ownership. When people say, “This is my church and I want to get off the bleachers and out onto the field of play” it changes the whole dynamic of a church. A church bent toward engaging their community is a joy to the pastor because members are going to the nursing home, housing projects, community events to run health fair booths, or to the homeless shelter—and the activity isn’t dependent on the leadership. It’s just in the church’s DNA.

We need to get our instructions from Jesus as to what type of churches we will become. Inwardly focused congregations are fraught with infighting and politics. They make little impact for good because their focus is not on the Word of God, which is Jesus.

**What else is on your heart to say to members and leaders?**

In concert with the world church’s initiative of Revival and Reformation, it’s my desire to lead our conference in a Spirit-led revival and reformation. Revival by itself is short lived, but when our hearts and minds are reformed in the image of God we won’t hesitate to lay aside those things that distract us from God’s Word, prevent us from praying, and weaken our witness.

As this year we Seventh-day Adventists celebrate 150 years of existence, it’s time to get up and get back to what we do best. It’s time for all our churches to become forces for good rather than mere fortresses against evil. Let’s be world changers one person at a time. We were called to set the trends, not follow them, to be the head, not the tail. We are called to warn the world, not cozy up to it. Let’s put the past behind and reach toward the mark of our high calling in Jesus Christ. In a word, let’s fall in love with Him all over again!
Students Help Neighbors After Storm

Service integral to Adventist education

by Debra Darnall

Students at Rapid City Adventist Elementary School were recently given an opportunity to serve their community in a great time of need.

On October 4, winter storm Atlas pounded Rapid City and the Black Hills with 2 to 3 feet of heavy, wet snow. The snow, combined with 70 mph winds, shut the city down for three days and broke many trees around town. In response, students helped the community by clearing away broken branches from their neighbors’ yards. This was really appreciated by neighbors, and it was a great learning experience for students because they were able to see that doing service for others is highly fulfilling.

One neighbor publicly thanked the school on October 14 by sending to the Rapid City Journal the following note:

Today we had a most wonderful surprise from the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School kids who came—along with grown ups—and picked up a large amount of storm-damaged tree limbs from our yard. We can’t possibly thank them enough for such a generous way to help, except to publicly thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Debra Darnall is head teacher for the Rapid City Adventist Elementary School.

19TH ANNUAL

DAKOTA MEN’S RETREAT

March 7 - 9, 2014

BAD LANDS BIBLE CAMP

Medora, North Dakota
**Children Collect Offerings Creatively**

**by Connie Heinrich**

Children of the Bowdle Church in South Dakota collected offerings throughout the third quarter for the 13th Sabbath children’s project, Gypsy Children in Bulgaria. Using coins and paper money, they created and covered replicas of the Eiffel Tower, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and a Prague bridge. Altogether they collected $319.22.

*Note of interest: An article in the September 1992 OUTLOOK featured Bowdle children undertaking a similar project. At that time they collected only dimes for a total of $40.00.*

Connie Heinrich is a Sabbath school leader and treasurer for the Bowdle Church.

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**Family Establishes Education Fund**

**History of the Saunders Scholarship**

**by Jeanne Wiesseman**

The John Rhoads and William Saunders families lived on farms less than two miles apart near Leonard, North Dakota in the early 1900s. Bessie Saunders was a teenager keeping house for her bachelor brothers, Roy and Frank. Lulu Rhoads, also a teenager, persuaded Bessie to join her at Elk Point Academy in South Dakota for their high school education.

Wanting to look her best, Bessie arrived at the academy decked out in an abundance of jewelry and makeup. The faculty wanted to ship her back home immediately but school principal Bert Rhoads, Lulu’s uncle, intervened. Rhoads was a long-time educator for that union and through his influence Bessie was soon enjoying the simple lifestyle promoted by the Adventist Church. Eventually, she led both Frank and Roy to dedicate their lives to the Lord. Bessie later became a nurse, and Lulu taught school.

Roy Saunders attended Sheyenne River Academy and later married Florence Rhoads, Lulu’s younger sister. They went as missionaries to South America. Frank Saunders married Lulu in 1909, and they settled on the Saunders farm about five miles from Leonard in Cass County, North Dakota.

Frank and Lulu raised four children: Eldon, Francis (Bud to family, Red to college friends), Faith and Jeanne. They lost a toddler during the flu epidemic in 1918. Determined to have their children receive a Christian education, Frank and Lulu sent them to Sheyenne River Academy after they graduated from the little country school. All of the children had some post-secondary education.

Things were tough during the depression years. Lulu made soap from tallow and lye for use at the academy to help pay the $21 monthly tuition, room and board. The children remember their mom wearing the same coat for 20 years, and one of the girls wore overshoes to class because her shoes had a hole in the sole.

Many people left the Dakotas during those years, but Frank and Lulu were loyal to North Dakota and determined to stay. They would be pleased to know that their efforts have helped establish a scholarship fund to assist post-secondary students from the Dakota Conference. Donations to this fund may be made to the Dakota Conference, marked Saunders Scholarship.

Jeanne Wiesseman is the daughter of Frank and Lulu Saunders.
New Magabook Program Funds Elementary Tuition
by Michelle Hansen

The Des Moines Magabook team rallies before an afternoon of canvassing.

When new Winterset (IA) district pastor Jared Miller and his wife, Katie, noticed a need for tuition assistance for member families, they teamed with Gail Coridan, conference Health, Prayer and Women's Ministries director and a Winterset member, to form a local Magabook literature evangelism program.

The leadership team put the word out to the greater Des Moines area churches that a Magabook program was starting to help students raised money for their tuition at the Des Moines Adventist School. A dozen students in grades 1-8 signed up to go door-to-door for a few hours on Friday afternoons selling books, including The Great Controversy, Bible stories and a vegetarian cookbook.

In their first eight weeks of canvassing Des Moines and surrounding neighborhoods, the students sold over 140 books and raised close to $2,000. The group will take a break during the winter and resume their efforts in the spring and summer months.

The Des Moines Magabook team is planning a hands-on training workshop for next spring. When available, details will be posted at www.imsda.org/calendar.

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

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The Combined Youth Ministries offering wish list:

**CAMP HERITAGE**
- add housing
- revitalize the campfire bowl area
- add to and enhance camp activities
- new boats

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**
- open new schools
- increase worthy student funds
- enhance school curriculum
- strengthen professional development

**SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY**
- an iPad 1:1 program for the students (electronic text books)
- add a resource/reading specialist

The Combined Youth Ministries offering is called for once a month in the churches of the Iowa-Missouri Conference. These vital ministries need your help to grow and reach more young people with the Good News of Jesus’ love for them.

Last year we received nearly $10 million in tithe and $366,000 for CYM. Based on the Personal Giving Plan suggestion, 1% would have given us $1 million for conference elementary and secondary education, and Camp Heritage.

This means that if every family set aside $1.94 a day, they would be able to give $700* to CYM annually. Contributions may be made via the tithe envelope.

*Based on $70,000 annual income
Pastor and his Wife Join the Adventist Church
by Ron Clouzet

Frank Otis Sr., and his wife, Catherine, were pastors of the House of Healing and Restoration Church in St. Louis, Missouri. A spiritual man, faithful to Jesus, Pastor Otis was deeply impressed that he needed to study and preach end-time events. When he received a flyer in the mail for the Prophecies Decoded seminar (held at St. Louis Central Adventist Church and live streamed to surrounding Adventist churches and online) he saw this as an answer to prayer.

Night after night Frank and Catherine came, along with their daughter, Catherine. They listened gladly to the “new” teachings mostly forgotten by mainstream Christianity. When they heard about the Sabbath truth they were convinced this was of the Lord and determined in their hearts to be faithful to Him.

The following Sunday, Pastor Otis shared the Bible Sabbath with his congregation. To his surprise he learned that many of his people had come across this concept on their own. The church voted that in two weeks they would become a Sabbath-keeping congregation.

As you can imagine, the devil was not going to sit idly in view of such a moving of the Holy Spirit. During the week after the vote, some lay leaders began to have second thoughts. Soon all the members had changed their minds about supporting their pastor and keeping the Sabbath holy. Some even discouraged the Otis’ daughter about making this decision. However, Pastor Otis and his wife remained firm in their decision to follow truth. As they humbly shared some of their struggles, many members of the St. Louis Central Church began to pray earnestly for the Otis family.

The Otises were unable to attend the meeting that focused on the remnant church. Central Church pastor Vic Van Schaik and I met with them later to watch that message and a film that had been shown on faithfulness to the Word in the time of radical reformation. The next day Frank and Catherine told me, “We are ready to become Seventh-day Adventists. We want to stay faithful to Jesus. He will give us strength to endure.”

For all practical purposes the Otis’ church disbanded. At a meeting three days before the couple’s baptisms I played a video of a former Baptist preacher who had become an Adventist (http://bit.ly/BptPrSab). This further encouraged them to trust in the Lord, come what may. On Sabbath, October 12, after having accepted every teaching from the Scriptures, Frank and Catherine Otis were baptized together into the Adventist Church.

One week later Frank’s brother was killed in a car accident. His brother had pastored a Baptist church in Sparta, Mississippi. Frank was asked to conduct the funeral service.

“We pray that God will give the Otises the strength and courage to endure the trials that have come since they made the decision to be part of God’s remnant church,” said Pastor Van Schaik.

Dr. Ron Clouzet is director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute.
New Ministerial Director Selected
by Ron Carlson

Virgil Covel began his work as the new ministerial director for Kansas-Nebraska in mid-November. The Conference Executive Committee received the formal recommendation from a search committee of six pastors, chosen by

their peers. After looking at many qualified individuals, followed by much prayer and open discussion, they agreed that Virgil Covel was the right person to serve the nearly 50 pastors of our conference.

Virgil and his wife, Pati, have four children. He is a veteran pastor of 18 years with his Doctor of Ministry in spiritual leadership training. “Mentoring young pastors has become my leading passion,” said Covel. “As young pastors come into the fullness of a living prayer life with Jesus, they become a vital force in their churches.”

Covel comes to us from the Alberta Conference, where he has served the past four years as a pastor and the conference prayer coordinator. Pastor Covel said, “Ministry emerges from and finds its actuating power in prayer. I seek to be used, filled, guided and continually changed by seeking the Holy Spirit in daily prayer.” His previous 14 years of pastoral service were in the United States. He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University, as well as the Adventist Seminary at Andrews University.

We look forward to the ministry of Pastor Covel and believe he will make a positive and significant impact for good on the pastors of our field.

Ron Carlson is president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

Youth’s Recitation Inspires Others
by Roxie Graham-Marski

It all started when then 11-year-old Sierra Susens, a member of the Crawford Church in the Panhandle of Nebraska, accepted the challenge of her Sabbath school teacher to learn all 13 memory verses that quarter and recite them at church.

After much practice, Sierra successfully recited her memorized texts to the adult Sabbath school class. As her confidence grew, she began to deliver her texts from the pulpit during introductory remarks in Sabbath school.

Now Sierra makes a regular quarterly appearance up front to share her memorized verses. Other children’s Sabbath school classes have also taken up the idea of sharing Scripture from memory. Many Crawford Church members have embraced the importance of memorization and have gotten involved in learning texts and sharing them quarterly during a special time with their church family.

Roxie Graham-Marski is a Sabbath school teacher and communication director for the Crawford Church.

Crawford Church members, including (l-r) Keri Wyatt, Roxie Graham-Marski and Sierra Susens, regularly share memorized Scripture verses with their church family.
Young Adults Serve the Homeless

by John Treolo

A group of Kansas City-area young adults join forces nearly every month to shop, prepare and serve a meal at reStart, an interfaith ministry committed to providing shelter and supportive services to homeless persons.

Coordinated by Matt and Mayda Teller, members of the New Haven Church in Overland Park, this program started with their sister church, Chapel Oaks in Shawnee. The Tellers credit their Sabbath school class, known as Acts 2:46, with lending encouragement, support and financial assistance. Chapel Oaks members continue to assist.

“A personal blessing is my reward,” said Matt, who teaches math at Midland Adventist Academy. “Thanks to our Sabbath school class we always have more than enough money to cover the meal every time.”

Sam Batchelor, a reStart employee, oversees the kitchen and supervises the church groups who volunteer. He says more than 300 homeless are served three meals daily. “I feel like I’m really helping people. If people are getting good, clean and safe food, then they have time to focus on other things,” Sam said.

Beyond helping with the meals, Chanda Nunes, associate pastor at New Haven, makes sure the serving room is adorned with tablecloths and seasonal decorations. Nunes and the Tellers share a goal of someday doing an extreme makeover in the dining area and obtaining better equipment in the kitchen.

“I can’t imagine my life without service. Service is where it’s at,” Chanda believes. “Just to see the smiles on people’s faces and the joy they show is reward enough for me.”

While dining on taco salad prepared by the young adults, a 28-year-old man stated, “Coming to reStart means actually restarting my life—getting back on my feet.” A mother eating with her 4-year-old daughter added, “I’ve had some bad luck and seem to be at a fork in the road. I appreciate the meal being served today.”

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

(l-r) Sam Batchelor, David Kerr, Jason Donovan, Ethan Deckert, Chanda Nunes, Melanie Donovan, and Mayda and Matt Teller serve taco salad to diners at reStart.
Leaders Share Plans for Large City Evangelism

*Minnesota Conference communication/youth director Jeff Wines interviews president/evangelism coordinator Ed Barnett, pictured left, and personal ministries director Doug Inglish.*

**What is your vision for evangelism in the Twin Cities?**

**EB:** We are planning a massive outreach to the 3.5 million people living within a 30-mile radius of the Twin Cities. This is the largest metropolitan area in the Mid-America Union Conference [MAUC]. We have 30–40 churches that will be engaged in this evangelistic push.

**DI:** This is a cooperative effort between the MAUC, the Central States Conference and the Minnesota Conference.

**EB:** We are very excited to have Shawn Boonstra and Robert Costa each holding meetings. Shawn is from the Voice of Prophecy and Robert, formerly an evangelist from It Is Written, is currently the associate ministerial secretary for the General Conference. They are going to be speaking in March 2015 to wrap up the evangelism campaigns. However, all the churches are part of this evangelistic series.

**DI:** Yes, every church in the Twin Cities will be having at least one evangelism series from the fall of 2014 to the spring of 2015. Elder Barnett will be doing a series in one of our churches as well as MAUC president Tom Lemon.

**EB:** We are trying to fulfill the General Conference’s challenge to reach every major city in the world. This is also in keeping with the mission and vision of the Minnesota Conference.¹

**DI:** Our efforts are broader than the Twin Cities-wide evangelism campaign. We also have a plan to reach every mailing address across Minnesota with information about how to know Jesus. Sherman McCormick, our ministerial director, is coordinating that program.

**Which leaders are involved in these efforts?**

**EB:** I am coordinating the evangelism meetings and Elder Inglish is planning the training seminars.

**DI:** Karen Lewis is training Bible workers for the next two years in the conference and Pastor Rob Lechner is assisting part time in the personal ministries department to help facilitate the programs.

**What financial commitment is the conference making?**

**EB:** The Minnesota Conference has already guaranteed $300,000 for this effort. Part of this money will be used to rent the Conference Center in downtown Minneapolis.

**DI:** The conference is also supporting each of the individual meetings of the local churches, helping to provide some promotional materials.

¹ Church will need to know how to engage the new members joining through evangelism so they too can have a role in ministry.
Inmates Appreciate Heaven-sent Music

Kathy Lang, a Prison Ministries volunteer correspondent, shared the following letter she recently received from an inmate named Charles.

I was singing the song “Jesus Loves Me” last week over and over and the guys asked me if I knew any others. So I pulled out all the ones you sent me and we had a wonderful time praising the Lord and lifting everybody's spirits around here. We dedicated “Shall We Gather at the River” to you. You should have been here to hear it! It was truly music made for heaven—180 guys singing their hearts out and loving every minute of it.

I read a few of the letters and Bible verses that you sent me out loud to the guys at our little Sunday church meeting. They think you’re heaven sent, just like I told them you were.

I asked them if they would like to write to you. They said as long as I get letters that inspire and give hope, and I’m willing to share with the rest of them, we should keep it like that until I get ready to leave. Then I can pass on your info to one of the other guys.

It’s unanimous. You’re truly an earth angel; we all love you around here. Take care of yourself and may God bless everything that you are a part of.

Stone Ridge School Develops its Mission

As the seasons change in Duluth, Stone Ridge Christian School is also changing. In October the Indian Village was completed. Teacher Rudy Carlson set up a teepee and a wigwam, and also crafted an authentic looking fire pit. The village sits on a rock outcropping and has become a favorite play area for the students. With Native American blankets, baskets and imitation food items found by Mrs. Carlson at local garage sales, the village has everything it needs for active imaginations.

Recently the school’s garden was harvested for the final time this season. The produce has been used for lunches and at times sent home with visitors to the school. The garden beds have been weeded and hoed and are ready for next year’s growing season.

During the winter months the school plans to offer community classes. So far a camera class, sewing class and parenting seminar are under consideration. Also, Stone Ridge Christian School now has its own website.

In support of its mission mindedness, the school is taking steps to begin production of its own one-hour educational show titled For Kids By Kids in conjunction with the local public television station. The program will feature cooking, storytelling and art segments done by the students, as well as tips from Mr. Carlson on how to complete homework more effectively.


What type of follow-up is happening after the meetings?

DI: Several months after the meetings in 2015 we are planning a major rally. This may very well be the largest gathering of Seventh-day Adventists in the Cities. We are anticipating Shawn Boonstra and Robert Costa returning for this event. Additionally, we hope to have a collaborative youth rally happening on the same day and at the same location.

In my role as youth director, I want to say that we want the youth to be involved in evangelism! We will be having several 2014 youth rallies, all of which will be pointing to this culminating event in 2015.

EB: Jeff, that is exciting! We will be doing everything we know how to do to further the kingdom of God through these evangelism efforts. Our prayer is that God’s Spirit will lead in people’s lives, guiding them to make decisions to be baptized and be a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are hoping to realize at least 1,000 new members from these meetings.

'1Mission: To help people realize they are accepted in Jesus Christ, and come to know, love, serve, and share Him.

Vision: Recognizing that Jesus will return soon, we will all actively engage in ministry.

'2For more information on the seminars go to www.mnsda.com. Students at Stone Ridge Christian School benefit from lunches that include produce grown in the school’s garden.
The Rocky Mountain Conference Women’s Ministries team held two Seaside Escape retreats this year, one for the women of the southwest in Farmington, New Mexico, and one for the northeast at Glacier View Ranch. Seaside Escape, based on the experiences of Sarah and Hagar recorded in Genesis, is an interactive retreat in which participants sit around tables in groups of four. With the interactive program women get to know each other and form new friendships.

This year’s retreat was facilitated by DeeAnn Bragaw, and directed by the conference Women’s Ministries leader, Ginger Bell. On Sunday there were three Women’s Ministries leadership seminars led by Nancy Buxton from the Mid-America Union, Ardis Stenbakken and DeeAnn Bragaw.

But while the women were escaping from the stress and pressures of their busy lives, they were not forgetting others who are less fortunate. At both sites women brought toiletries, lotions and sanitizer, nutrition bars, religious reading material, and other goodies to place in gallon-size plastic bags.

At the close of the retreat each woman took several bags home to give to needy persons with whom they come in contact. Many of the women loved the idea so much that they plan to continue making gift bags to have on hand in their cars.

Ardis Stenbakken is a member of the Campion Church.
**Thurber Accepts Call to Lake Union**

*by Mark Bond*

Gary Thurber, president of the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) since July 2009, announced Oct. 14 that he accepted a call to serve as executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Thurber replaces Rodney Grove who recently retired.

Gary’s wife, Diane, is associate communication director for the Lake Union, and has been serving as managing editor of the *Lake Union Herald* since 2004. She has functioned in these roles from her home office for nearly 10 years. With this move, Diane will be able to physically work at the Lake Union headquarters for the first time.

“Although it ultimately didn’t affect my final decision, it will be a bonus to work and serve in the same office and territory as Diane,” said Thurber. “Our schedules and meetings have often conflicted, and now we will share the same conference calendar.”

During his tenure, Thurber saw the conference grow to more than 17,000 members. He was instrumental in building a strong sense of unity and mission throughout the territory. Diane blessed the RMC pastoral spouses through her care and leadership in the Ministerial Spouses Association.

“These have been some of our happiest and most fulfilling years in ministry,” Thurber shared. “Diane and I have been so blessed to serve in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and we truly will miss each and every one of you!”

“Gary has been a huge blessing to the RMC family,” stated Tom Lemon, president of the Mid-America Union. “He will be sorely missed, and we wish him only the very best as he transitions to serve in the Lake Union.” Before coming to the RMC, Gary served as president for both Indiana and Northern New England conferences. Prior to that, he served the Michigan Conference as senior pastor of the Lansing Church, director of youth, camp and family ministries, and assistant to the president. He also pastored in the Florida, Kansas-Nebraska and Washington conferences, and taught in the Northern California conference.

Gary and Diane Thurber are now serving together in the Lake Union Conference.
Bollinger Retires, Leeper New Financial VP
by Public Relations staff

Gary Bollinger (l) retired in October after serving as Union College’s vice president for Financial Administration since 1991. His successor, Jeff Leeper (r), was formerly assistant dean for Financial Affairs at Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

After nearly 25 years of service to Union College, Gary Bollinger, Union’s vice president for Financial Administration, retired in October and turned the financial reigns of the college over to Jeff Leeper, who for the past 13 years has been the assistant dean for Financial Affairs at Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

Bollinger first joined Union College in 1989 as a business manager, and has held the position of financial VP since 1991. His diligent work helped lead the college out of financial difficulty in the early 1990s, and he oversaw an array of financially challenging projects, such as the construction of the Ortner Center, renovation of the physician assistant studies and international rescue and relief program spaces, and construction of the new science and mathematics center.

While Leeper took over as vice president in October, Bollinger has agreed to stay on as construction manager for the next few months to oversee the completion of the new science and mathematics complex.

Bollinger’s legacy of service

A 1971 Union College graduate, Bollinger earned an undergraduate degree in business education and obtained a master’s in school business administration from Seattle University. He worked in academy business administration for several years before returning to his alma mater in 1989 as business manager. At that time Union was experiencing severe financial difficulties. Through the budgeting efforts of Bollinger and the administrative team, the college’s debt reduction plan was fully realized in 2001, and Union has since remained in the black.

“Gary worked tirelessly then as he has throughout his tenure to ensure college goals could be accomplished while maintaining fiscally sound and sustainable trajectories,” said John Wagner, president of Union College both now and through the late 1980s and early 1990s. “All those who have worked with him have developed deep respect for his financial counsel, his wisdom and his ability to verbalize issues with clarity and conviction.”

LuAnn Davis, vice president for Advancement, said, “I have been fortunate to work in partnership with Gary Bollinger for more than 20 years. We have collaborated on identifying priority funding needs, establishing campaign structures and stewarding the philanthropic resources provided by generous donors. He will be missed.”

Leeper joins administrative team

Leeper brings to Union College a wealth of business and educational experience. In his most recent role as assistant dean for Loma Linda University School of Nursing, he led out in the financial management of the school as well as managing the human resources, informational technology and physical plant.

The School of Nursing faced a loss of $1 million over four years before Leeper took over. But during his tenure, the school not only posted a profit every year, but also added several graduate programs including a PhD in nursing and a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program.

But more than those accomplishments, Leeper remembers the people. “Making students comfortable, helping faculty with personal issues and making their jobs easier—that, to me, was better than profitably running the school,” he said.

A native of Southern California, Leeper graduated with a degree in accounting from La Sierra University, at that time a branch of Loma Linda University. He began his career as a corporate accountant, then worked as an auditor and CPA. In the 1980s, he earned a master’s in accounting from Auburn University and spent several years teaching accounting before joining the School of Nursing at Loma Linda.

“We are thankful that Jeff and his family have chosen to join the Union College family,” said Wagner. “I believe his unique combination of experience and his passion for Adventist higher education will serve Union well in the years to come.”

Leeper and his wife, Julie, have two children: Stefani, who will attend Union College in the spring, and Jeffrey James, a junior in high school.

Even though Leeper left behind a close-knit family at Loma Linda, he is excited to become part of the Union family. “The success of the school is dependent on the whole family working together as best we can,” he said.
Official Name Announced for New Science and Mathematics Complex
by Ryan Teller

For Sue Krueger, Union College runs in the family. “It seems like we’ve had family attending there forever,” said the 1954 alumna who now has two grandchildren enrolled. “I got my husband, Calvin, at Union. My son, Rick, found his wife, Valeree, there. All my children attended. We have a long history at Union.”

Now, thanks to her lead gift to the Our Promising Future campaign, the new science and mathematics facility will be named the Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics. “We have built churches all over the world through Maranatha,” said Krueger, who has worked in the land development business in Lincoln for nearly 30 years. “But we wanted to do something for Lincoln because Lincoln has been very good to us.”

But more than that, Krueger feels this investment will be one with exponential returns. “We wanted to create a facility that could help educate more students who could in turn go out and make a difference in the world. And besides,” she chuckled, “we are now into great-grandchildren and they will be coming to Union soon.”

The $14.5 million Our Promising Future campaign helped fund the construction of the new 57,000 square-foot building that will house the Division of Science and Mathematics. The campaign will be completed in December and plans call for the building to be done in early 2014.

Several rooms and other areas of the building have been named for the pace-setting donors who gave $1 million or more to the building campaign.

- The Mid-America Union Classroom—one of the flexible classroom spaces in the Krueger Center—is named in honor of the Mid-America Union Conference.
- The Lang Amphitheater, a 126-seat high-tech lecture space, is named for Jerome ’65 and Ramona Larsen (’65) Lang, longtime Lincoln business owners.
- The Union Bank Classroom, another flexible classroom and lecture space, will be named for the bank right across the street owned by the Dunlap family.
- The DeCamp Reception Commons, which includes a welcoming lobby as well as offices for the division chair, office assistant, faculty/staff lounge and workroom in the Krueger Center, is named for Cary ’85 and Pam Gilbert ’86 DeCamp, Kansas City business owners.

Leadership donors of $500,000 have also been instrumental to the realization of these new facilities.

- A second lab within the Chemistry Suite will recognize Dr. Rene Evard, professor of chemistry from 1958 to 1971. A group of his students have contributed collectively to leave a legacy in his memory.
- The Periodic Table in memory of Beverly Troyer Gifford will be a feature wall just outside the main doors of the Lang Amphitheater.

Steve Gifford ’62 offered a challenge gift of $500,000 to complete the Our Promising Future campaign and establish a memorial tribute for his late wife, Beverly (’63), in the Krueger Center. “Union College is deeply humbled by the transformational gifts provided by these donors,” said John Wagner, president of Union College. “We set forth an ambitious vision for the future of science and mathematics on our campus, and these individuals and organizations helped us launch and complete a very successful capital campaign. I share my deepest gratitude to every donor who has chosen to help write this newest chapter in Union College’s 123-year history.”

To learn more about the Krueger Center and the Our Promising Future campaign, please visit www.ucollege.edu/ourpromisingfuture.

Ryan Teller is director of public relations for Union College.
Christmas Store Gives, Gives Back

As a single mother and her two young children carried an armload of freshly wrapped presents across the Parker Adventist Hospital parking lot, her eyes welled with tears of joy. She had thought there would be no gifts again this year and had been summoning the courage to tell her children. For her, and many American families, the nation’s economic hardships had ruled out the gifting part of Christmas—and the holiday had become a painful reminder of what she could not afford.

She was just one more example of someone who had lost hope—until she received the invitation to the Christmas store.

**A different kind of holiday shopping**

Pastor Dave Kennedy of Newday Christian Church and Morre Dean, chief executive officer of Parker Adventist Hospital, had thought long and hard how they might find ways to partner for the community’s benefit. They realized that the holidays were a prime time to make it happen.

Backed by a $5,000 donation from Parker Adventist Hospital, Kennedy and organizer Kim Miller drew up plans for a “Christmas store,” a replica of the shopping experience many struggling families could not afford. Here, shoppers could “purchase” brand new toys, jackets, appliances, jewelry, sports memorabilia and games as they might at any store—except for one big difference: they’d be free.

With the help of volunteers, Kennedy and Miller turned a plain conference room at Parker into their own version of a Target store—lights, tinsel, Christmas music, a tree, and rows of presents just waiting to be wrapped.

Families were chosen with help from local public school social workers. When the guests arrived, they were assigned personal assistants to help find gifts for their sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. Seventy-five families participated.

“We wanted to replicate the entire giving experience, not just hand toys over saying, ‘Merry Christmas.’ Half the fun is finding the right gift for a loved one,” said Miller.

While children shopped, adults had a chance to eat cookies, drink coffee, and write cards to Armed Service members. It was a day of giving for everyone involved.

**The gift of giving**

The Christmas store had the desired effect, and then some. Those who volunteered were touched deeply—a diverse crew ranging in ages from 5-93, some from the hospital, some from the church.

“It was a powerful thing to see the community come together to do this,” reflected Dean.

Plans for next year are already underway, with goals to increase both the number of families invited and the amount of gifts. “All it takes is one idea,” said Dean. “There are hundreds of ways of reaching out to those in need. This was just one that echoed throughout our hospital and community. It proved to be a blessing all the way around.”

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.
Andersen, Dale, b. Oct. 6, 1923 in Greenfield, IA. d. Aug. 14, 2013 in Oelwein, IA. Member of Hawkeye Church. Served as Army medic in WWII. Preceded in death by wife Ruby; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Darlene Goss; son Gary; 4 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Armijo, Janet L., b. Oct. 1, 1947 in Garden City, KS. d. July 21, 2013 in Rye, CO. Member of Pueblo First Church. Survivors include husband John; daughters Donna Armijo, Bonnie Ramos and Robyn McMahon; sons Scotty and James; 5 siblings; 19 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Behrens, Viola, b. Oct. 2, 1933 in Davenport, IA. d. Oct. 4, 2013 in Davenport, IA. Member of Davenport Church. Preceded in death by son Phillip; 3 siblings. Survivors include husband Rolo; sons Michael Ward, Paul Ward and Vincent Behrens; 5 siblings; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Beltz, Joy V., b. Mar. 17, 1919 in Staples, MN. d. Oct. 6, 2013 in Millicen, CO. Member of Brighton Church. Survivors include daughters Judy Bieber, Cecile Whillock, Stephanie Reed and Melanie Altenhofen; son Stan; 2 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.


Horn, Ervin, b. Feb. 16, 1928. d. May 22, 2013 in Des Moines, IA. Member of Winterset (IA) Church. Served in US Army during Korean War. Survivors include daughter Peggy Sue Rice; son Paul; 8 siblings; 3 grandchildren.


Juhl, Ralph C., b. Mar. 4, 1918 in Bowesmont, ND. d. Oct. 1, 2013 in Bowesmont, ND. Member of Grand Forks Church. Preceded in death by 5 brothers. Survivors include wife Betty; daughters Caren Davis and Charlene Hansen; son Jerry; 5 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.


Kibble, Donna, b. Aug. 1, 1932 in Pocatello, ID. d. Sept. 27, 2013 in Albany, MO. Member of Albany Church. Preceded in death by husband Harvey Jr.; son Harvey III. Survivors include daughters Rachel Kibble and Donna Seaman; son Gerald Kibble; 2 sisters; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Lyon, Sharon K., b. Nov. 26, 1946 in MO. d. Oct. 6, 2013 in CO. Member of Delta Church. Preceded in death by husband. Survivors include 2 sons; 5 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.


Moon, Judy, b. Mar. 11, 1954 in Redfield, IA. d. Sept. 14, 2013 in Knoxville, IA. Member of Knoxville Church. Preceded in death by father. Survivors include daughter Stacey Goben; sons James Potter and Brian Mcholovich; mother; 4 siblings; 7 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Pierce, Dan, b. Dec. 18, 1938 in Mio, MI. d. Aug. 31, 2013. Member of Montrose Church. Survivors include wife Anna; daughter Jeri Bronson; sons Eric and L. D.; 2 sisters; 4 grandchildren.


Renken, Eldrin C., b. Apr. 10, 1927 in Hamburg, MN. d. Mar. 31, 2013 in Edwardsville, KS. Member of Arlington (MN) Church. Survivors include wife Marvelle; daughter Vivian Neuharth; sons Virgil and Verle; 3 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.


Torres Barrientos, Manuel, b. Feb. 4, 1939 in Camargo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. d. Oct. 8, 2013 in Kennett, MO. Member of Campbell (MO) Church. Survivors include wife Olga; daughter Migdalia Ramos; sons Esau, Hector and Jorge; 10 siblings; 13 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.


Weikum, Phyllis M., b. Mar. 17, 1927 in Gravity, IA. d. Oct. 6, 2013 in Harvey, ND. Member of Manford Church. Preceded in death by husband Ray. Survivors include daughters Roberta Evans and Dessa Kreiter; son Marlin; 3 siblings; 4 grandchildren.

To submit an obituary to OUTLOOK, visit outlookmag.org/submit-obituary. Please contact Randy Harmdiers with questions: 402 484 3012 randy@outlookmag.org
A foundering church and membership at Southwestern Adventist University, an institution of higher education, seeks an experienced librarian with an expressed commitment to excellence in library/information services, a bachelor’s degree in library science, or related area. The reference has a Master’s degree or higher in library science or related field and will have an expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing. Must be comfortable with instructional technology. Prior library and/or teaching experience preferred. Send résumé and cover letter to dmaxwell@southern.edu. Southern Adventist University seeks dynamic professional for position of Research Services Librarian who is committed to providing excellent public service, reference, and information literacy instruction. Successful candidate will have a Master’s degree or higher in library science or related science or related field and will have an expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular standing. Must be comfortable with instructional technology. Prior library and/or teaching experience preferred. Send résumé and cover letter to dmaxwell@southern.edu. Walla Walla University seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Business, Computer Science and Nursing. For more information and application process, please visit http://jobs. wallawalla.edu. All positions will remain open until filled.
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EVENTS

La Sierra Academy Alumni ’14 Weekend, on campus May 2-3. Honor classes: ’54, ’64, ’74, ’84, ’89, ’94 and ’04. Friday evening reception, LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni services; afternoon potluck; campus tours and class reunions. Info: 951.351.1445 x244; JNelson@lsak12.com; LSA website: www.lsak12.com.

NOTICES

If you are a fan of Sam Campbell’s nature books, you’ll be glad to know that his last and only narrated film “Come to the North Country” is now available at your local ABC Bookstore or at samcampbell.com.

OUTLOOK’S 2014 THEMES AND DEADLINES

January: The Discipling Process (11/18)
February: UC Student-Produced (12/23)
March/April: Missionary Discipling (1/27)
May: Discipling Through Ministries (3/24)
June: Discipling Through Education (4/28)
July/August: Discipling New Members (5/27)
September: Discipling with Health Ministries (7/28)
October: Disciples Upholding Their Leaders (8/25)
November: Union College Focus (9/22)
December: Responsibilities of Disciples (10/27)
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