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IS MY CHRISTIANITY CULTURALLY RELEVANT?

In our discipleship journeys with Jesus Christ, we must be willing to ask difficult questions. Christianity is languishing in many parts of the world—perhaps because the church just isn’t making a difference in people’s daily lives.

As disciples of Christ, we apprentice ourselves to Him. We learn His methods of relating to people. In this issue of OUTLOOK we share stories about modeling what God is really like in cultures that don’t “get” Him, creative ways to meet people’s felt needs, and finding opportunities to connect and build friendships. As real-life disciple Abner Campos points out on page 7, the church cannot expect the gospel to spread without developing meaningful relationships.

Our foundation for success as disciple makers must be built by following Jesus’ example of accepting others with unconditional love and journeying beside them through life. Easy? Not so. Yet a focus on discipleship is the best way to fix what’s ailing the church.

—BRENDA DICKERSON, editor
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**When I Left the Church**

Neither the church nor God left me

Serving with our spiritual gifts may begin within the church, but it certainly shouldn't stop there. Jesus calls us to transcend the boundaries of His body in our ministry to Him: “You are the salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13)—not just salt within the saltshaker.

Back in Christ's day, salt was sufficiently valuable that ancient Romans often paid soldiers with it; hence the term “salary.” So, in a sense, Jesus wants to provide a salary to the world's inhabitants through the men and women of His church, young and old.

The church is God's apostle to the world. Jesus told His disciples: “As the Father sent Me, I am sending you” (John 20:21). It is the witness of a church united in love that will persuade our neighbors that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world (see John 17:21).

You may know that the word “church” means a people gathered, or called out. But this is not all there is to the church. As blood is drawn to the heart only to disperse again throughout the body, so the church gathers for worship and fellowship only to scatter into the world as God's representative.

While being gathered, the blood in our bodies is cleansed and oxygenated. Sent out, it fights diseases and energizes. So is the church in the community. In fact, the marketplace is an extension of the kingdom of God. “Your job is not just a place to earn a paycheck. It is a place God wants to use you to influence people for the kingdom's sake.”

To achieve this mission from God, church members must be educated, equipped, empowered and encouraged in the discipling process. Thus we may share Jesus' love in the offices, classrooms, stores and factories where we spend our daily lives.

This is not a call to evangelize the workplace in the traditional sense by confronting colleagues, with courage yet discomfort: “Are you saved?” Instead, members “walk in wisdom toward those who are outside” (Col. 4:5) as ambassadors of God's peace and love in the dog-eat-dog corporate kennel. We exhibit unselfishness, compassion, integrity and humility, so that we bless whomever God brings our way. We become alert opportunists of grace. We love lost people, meeting the emotional and spiritual needs they confide to us, and ultimately assisting their rescue from the kingdom of this world into the body of Christ.

The apostle Paul exemplified such missionality in the marketplace. While working his tent-making trade, he met the Jews Aquila and Priscilla and proceeded to evangelize them, after which he discipled them (Acts 18:2-3, 18). They in turn reached out to Apollos (verse 26), and so the kingdom of God rippled throughout Asia Minor, drawing adherents ultimately throughout the Roman Empire.

God's plan hasn't changed.

Discipling in the marketplace requires not only wisdom and compassion but intercessory prayer and relational skills—none of which comes naturally or easily, particularly when we are already overworked.

Union president Tom Lemon exemplifies this aptitude. At a recent church ministries convention for North America, he was involved in many meetings—and yet found time to help at one of the ministry booths in the exhibit hall. I observed him patiently answering questions when he could have been enjoying dinner with his fellow presidents.

Why? Because Tom is a servant leader, with a heart to connect with people in meaningful ways. May we all likewise be culturally relevant in our own marketplaces.

Martin Weber, recently retired communication director of the Mid-America Union, is now SDA product manager for Logos Bible Software, the world's largest creator of digitized Christian content. To see the latest SDA resources, visit www.Logos.com/SDA.

At the beginning of the Sabbath we sit on a mat on the floor around a simple supper with a missionary family and one young lady from the local university. Usually there are more in attendance at this Friday evening fellowship, but it is holiday season and many people are away. Yet this one precious young Buddhist lady has come for a chance to practice her English, enjoy fellowship, and hear a story from the Bible.

On Sabbath morning there are three elderly ladies quietly sitting and waiting for the church services to start. When our friend Alicia joins them, how enthusiastically they respond. I can only catch the occasional word in Thai, but Alicia has worked diligently to learn Thai and now can speak with relative freedom. She is obviously inquiring as to their well being, and offering them encouragement in their developing walk with Jesus.

Several of us who are present for church today are just starting to learn Thai. Thus Ricardo speaks in English and one of the local university students translates for the congregation. This young medical student has only recently begun his walk as a Christian, but he is already being trained for leadership. Translating gives him the opportunity to practice his English comprehension (a highly desired skill) while struggling to interpret the biblical concepts in a manner meaningful to non-Christians. This is what Christ did with His disciples. He taught them and then gave them the privilege of teaching.

It is very difficult for Thai people to come to love and serve the God of the Bible. He is the antithesis of almost everything they have been taught as Buddhists. They believe that all desires are evil. Therefore, a God who loves is not a very good God because love is viewed as a desire. If God is the creator of this earth, He couldn't be a very good God because He must have created all this evil. Thus learning to love the God of the Bible and to walk with Him continually is a long process that incorporates someone modeling what God is really like. Hearts can be touched and focus changed in an instant, but learning to live as a follower of Jesus Christ is the work of a lifetime.

God calls each of us to not only be His disciples but to become daily more like Him. This means giving up much of who we have been in the past and becoming who God wants us to be.

He also calls us to make disciples of all people. To live incarnationally is the goal of a disciple maker. In Southeast Asia, that often means sitting on the floor sharing a meal. It means frequent trips to the market in order to meet people and establish relationships. It means seeking creative ways to meet the felt needs of people so that we can increase our opportunities for connecting with them. All disciples have the privilege of using their unique gifts along with the learning they have acquired to find the key for reaching the heart of another individual.

Above all, this means accepting others with unconditional love and walking alongside them as they begin their journey with Christ. In many cultures this requires a tremendous investment of time in each individual so that you become part of their inner circle. It means having persevering patience as they struggle to understand how to follow Christ and yet not abandon their culture and family. This is a challenge all disciple makers must meet.

Former Mid-America residents Janella and Don Abbey serve as Asia Field Directors for Adventist Frontier Missions. Learn more at www.afmonline.org.
What’s the difference?
by Marty Thurber

Does Scripture tell me I’m supposed to be a disciple, an evangelist and an outreach coordinator? That seems like too much!

In reality, Scripture only has one title for you—disciple of Christ. When Jesus walked around the Sea of Galilee, He was looking for and commissioning disciples, not evangelists or outreach specialists. When Jesus spoke His last earthly words, He reminded us to go and make disciples, nothing else.

A disciple is who you are when you apprentice yourself to Jesus. He is your teacher; you are His learner. He guides you so you can guide others. You grow in discipleship as you live with the Master.

Evangelism is your speech. Paul told Timothy to do the work of evangelism. His work was to proclaim the good tidings—the good news. He was a walking newspaper, a signboard of hope and passion about Jesus and His love for us. Evangelism is our spoken and written language. We speak the good news. We write the good news. We proclaim the good news.

Outreach is service. It is the blessing of Jesus on the loaves and fish as He multiplied food to share with the hungry. It is the healing of the lame man, or the blind man or the woman with a health problem that plagued her for years. It is the storytelling ministry that captured people’s hearts and made them want to live better lives. Outreach is what a disciple who speaks the good news does with his or her time.

Outreach is on your calendar, evangelism is on your tongue and discipleship is in your heart.

I admit that sometimes we don’t understand the differences and things get mixed up. Yet Scripture clearly shows that a true disciple of Christ will always be passionate about learning from Christ, telling the good news of Jesus and helping others.

Pastor Marty Thurber is an apprentice of Jesus Christ who is passionate about sharing the good news in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference and beyond.

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Resources for Discipleship from AdventSource.org

Roundabout Faith
Roundabout Faith moves through 28 Christian teachings that are anchored in Jesus. As we mature, the decisions and commitments we make about faith are usually not like an intersection where we turn left or right at a fork in the road but a roundabout that flows around a central point—Jesus.

Contagious Adventist
Being a disciple is more than learning; it’s about sharing. Contagious Adventist will introduce Seventh-day Adventist church members to the art of being contagious Adventists. Participants will learn how to convert routine, everyday experiences into spiritual conversations that will attract others in winsome and friendly ways and create in them a desire to learn more about the message and mission of Jesus as they study the Bible (Leader’s Guide, Participant Guide and DVD series available).
Real-life disciple: Abner Campos

by Brenda Dickerson

Many young people grow up in Adventist communities, surrounded by loving people who have great intentions but may not act accordingly. Abner Campos was one of those kids. Throughout his childhood and adolescence he was not attracted to the gospel message. He admits that during his middle school years in Minnesota he developed a nasty character. However, during a high school student-led Week of Prayer Abner decided to “give Jesus a chance.” After reading the Gospel of John and Steps to Christ Abner realized his need for a Savior and was baptized.

Deepening friendships

That summer a friend invited him to participate in the Magabook program in Philadelphia. “If I could narrow my transformation to any single event, it would be to that summer of literature evangelism,” Abner says. “The constant rejection toughened my skin, while witnessing people’s hurt and need caused my heart to soften. It was the spark that lit my fire and now fans the hot coals in my life.”

The summer before his senior year Abner worked at a local aromatherapy business called Wyndmere Naturals. “Working there was something else,” Abner recalls. “The people are extremely kind and welcoming. Also, the lifestyles and beliefs represented opened my heart.” His coworkers were non-practicing Catholics, eastern religionists, lesbians, divorced parents and married parents. “This should not cause any negative thinking,” Abner states. “They are some of the nicest folks I know. And I love them.”

In this environment Abner realized that discipleship would not mean slipping GLOW tracts into coworker’s purses. Neither would discipleship mean screaming Adventism into the workplace. He believes that discipleship looks a lot like friendship and trust and casual conversations. “As a church, we cannot expect the gospel to spread across the world without meaningful relationships. Before I started college, my friendships with two coworkers became so close that I was able to give them The Great Controversy.”

Allowing relevancy

Abner claims that if he has learned anything about discipleship it is that the gospel is more often painted in flesh and blood and clothes and food than preached with words. “The simplest way to consistently have a missionary mindset is to allow Christianity to be relevant and practical to those near you who need it.”

Abner suggests that if you are a businessman, be generous to the stressed interns in your office. If you are a student, go out of your way to help your struggling classmate. If you are a stay-at-home mom, consider reaching out to the elderly person nearby living on social security. If you are a bored teenager, donate blood. If you are a pastor, get your hands dirty while serving your community. “Sharing the gospel is all about going out of one’s way to help another person,” Abner concludes. “Jesus needs to be spoken in the language of your culture. We do not need to make Adventism relevant, because it’s already relevant—both to those inside and outside our doors.”

Brenda Dickerson is editor of OUTLOOK.


Jesus said you are to love one another as I have loved you. This is the standard of discipleship in the New Israel of God.

—Brennan Manning, The Furious Longing of God
For the past year and a half the Gibson family has been on a unique journey. After sensing the call of God to full-time ministry, they left their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Gary enrolled in the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism training program. There he learned the importance of befriending people to reach them for Christ. As the training concluded, they prayerfully filled out an application to serve with Adventist Frontier Missions, and when the fund raising is complete their family will be discipling the Celtic people of the British Isles.

Understanding cultural perspectives

The British Isles are steeped in moral relativism, secularism and humanism. Among the 10 million people living in Scotland and Ireland, alcohol and drug use are widespread. Even children are promiscuous and morality in the media is non-existent. Between 1966 and 2006 numbers of churchgoers dropped from over 1,230,000 to 504,000, illustrating how Christianity has lost its practical relevance. Many have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by religious leaders. There is apathy toward established religion, yet interest in the idea of Jesus.

Through the centuries, Satan has used the animosity between the two Christian factions in the British Isles to make people suspicious of God. Coupled with the recent religious scandals, the Celtic people question how the followers of a God of love could do such heinous acts.

How can we hope to share Jesus with people who have been hurt by religious organizations and feel no need for God? That’s a good question! We think you’ll find the approach we’re planning relevant to your interactions with friends and neighbors as well.

Our first task will be to study cultural perspectives. We need to learn the British ways of transacting business, conducting ourselves in public and socializing with others. By learning these things, we’ll be able to build friendships and establish trusting relationships.

Building many friendships

How will we meet these friends? By becoming involved in our community. We will attend concerts and performances and play organized games at the park. We will join interest groups—perhaps a book club, a gym, a choir, a playgroup for our children. We will seek out these opportunities by reading the local newspaper or looking online.

Through time, when asked or when it is appropriate, we will share small pieces of information. For instance, if a friend mentions struggles with diabetes we can guide the conversation into healthful living ideas, like eating more vegetables and fewer sweets and processed foods. When someone is going through a hard time, we can bring over a loaf of bread or a pot of vegetarian soup and offer to pray for them. These gestures will cultivate trust and, we believe, open doors for more opportunities. Eventually we’d like to offer vegetarian cooking classes, addiction or depression recovery programs, parenting classes and more. We also plan to set up a lending library.

Above all, we aim to communicate God’s love to the Celtic people through our interactions with each other and with the friends we will make.

For more information go to www.afmonline.org and click “Missionaries” then click “In Training.”

Can we believe Jesus is who He says He is enough to give up everything else to follow Him and trust that we will still have everything we need?

—Leah Jordache
How did you become involved with Prison Ministries?
In late spring 2012 two visitors from Alaska attended our Denver West Church. One of the ladies was in town to see her son Isaac, an inmate at the Hudson Correctional Center. I offered to visit with Isaac on a regular basis. And so began a friendship that continues to this day.

How do you build the necessary trust levels to be an effective spiritual mentor?
Showing up consistently is the biggest factor. And being willing to listen. Jesus is a wonderful example of the power of listening. We also set up clear expectations for conduct. We respect others and we expect them to respect us. We pray that our Lord sends His angels to crowd out the enemy.

What do inmates need most?
They need a personal Jesus—someone who is real. They also need to know someone is willing to spend time with them, that someone has hope and faith that they can return successfully to society. They need biblical support—the full armor of God—to be prepared. When they leave prison/jail, Jesus is to go with them as their best friend. We must model how Jesus can be the center of a person’s life.

What is the most rewarding part of this ministry?
Every time we visit we are richly blessed. There is no place I’d rather be on Sabbath evenings. The changes we are seeing in these men spiritually, physically and emotionally are beyond words.

What are the greatest challenges?
The doors are open for this ministry. What we lack is adequate people power—enough people to show up faithfully to make a difference. We are planning a meeting in early summer to bring together those who are interested in this ministry to develop strategies as a conference [Rocky Mountain] and eventually as a world wide church to expand and provide a format and support systems to meet the needs of our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Craig Hamilton is a member at Denver West Church.


Prayer is an important part of Prison Ministries. Every Christian can petition God to meet the needs of prisoners around the world through fair and humane treatment, competent legal counsel, support of family members, adequate preparation to re-enter society, and hope for the future through Jesus Christ.
Boston Street Welcomes New Pastor
by Philip Baptiste

Pastor Mark Paris and his wife, Kelli, are looking forward to expanding their ministry roles.

Pastor Mark Paris has been chosen to minister to the Boston Street Church in Aurora, Colorado. Pastor Paris, currently senior pastor of the New Community Church in Denver, will now be providing pastoral leadership to both congregations.

Pastor Paris has served as a minister in Central States Conference for over 20 years. He is known for his melodious singing and inspiring preaching.

Conference president Maurice Valentine shared that Pastor Paris is excited to be taking on this new responsibly.

The Boston Street Church and Aurora South Spanish Church started looking for new pastoral leadership when Pastor Eduardo Jacobo accepted a call to the Central California Conference after ministering for over 16 years in Central States.

The conference administration is asking for prayer as they continue to prayerfully search for a qualified candidate to serve the Aurora South Spanish Church and lead the conference’s Multicultural Ministry.

Philip Baptiste is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Emmanuel’s Children’s Ministry Impacts Community
by Ranece Butt

The Emmanuel Church in St. Joseph, Missouri is reaching out to its community through the bi-monthly Train-Up a Child ministry outreach program recently launched for children of a low income housing apartment community near the church. Brittney Adams, Ranece Butt and Lindsay Woods created a program designed to inspire hope in the children through learning about the Bible in a relevant and fun way. The group enjoys arts and crafts, science experiments, story time, snacks and singing about God’s love.

Train-Up a Child empowers children to be good examples and witnesses in their homes and community.

Ranece Butt is a member of the Emmanuel Church in St. Joseph, Missouri.
Conference Names New Associate Youth Director

by Philip Baptiste

Pastor Darriel Hoy has been appointed to serve as the associate youth director of Central States Conference. Donald Rolle, conference youth director, said he is delighted to have assistance in covering the nine-state region.

Pastor Hoy, who previously served as the conference’s Community Services director, is excited to be making this transition. President Maurice Valentine said, “We know she will be a great asset to the Youth Ministry Department.”

Pastor Hoy will continue to provide pastoral leadership to the Highland Crest Church in Topeka, Kansas while also holding this new post. The conference is prayerfully searching for the right person to fill the position vacated by Pastor Hoy.

President Hosts Appreciation Dinner

by Philip Baptiste

President Maurice Valentine and his administrative team recently hosted an appreciation dinner for conference departmental directors and the Central States Conference Executive Committee. It was the first such event of what Elder Valentine hopes will become a yearly tradition.

Sharon Valentine and Ivona Bernard worked together to transform the Seminary Chapel into a banquet hall of elegance and beauty. Frost-covered cranberries helped create a colorful centerpiece for each table. Human Resources director Lori Baynum enlisted her family members to cook and serve a delicious meal, made with love and care.

Attendees dressed in formal attire and a photographer took pictures of each couple as they entered. The children had their own special banquet in the cafeteria and were entertained by a creative team of children’s ministry leaders.

Communication director Pastor Philip Baptiste shared a special multimedia “Year in Review” video presentation. President Valentine showed a portion of “The Blue Print” highlighting Adventist education and shared his appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the entire Central States team.

Vice presidents Roger Bernard and Tonya Anderson echoed their admiration for the hard work of all the pastors, teachers and staff who serve the Central States Conference.

Gift bags filled with ministry books and a video were passed out to each attendee.

Elder Valentine looks forward to bringing all the pastors and staff together for a conference wide celebration later this year.

Attendees at the dinner included (l-r) vice president Roger Bernard and his wife Ivona, vice president Tonya Anderson and her husband Michael, and Elder Charles Osborne, assistant to the president.

The culinary ministry team prepared and served a delicious meal.
REGULAR QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Session of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, North Dakota, on June 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Executive Committee members, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, officers, departmental directors, review recommended constitutional changes and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this session will be appointed one for each church and one additional delegate for each twenty (20) members or major fraction thereof.

- Neil Biloff, President
- Loren Nelson III, VP of Administration
- Arlo Heinrich, VP of Finance

REGULAR QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF DAKOTA ADVENTIST® ACADEMY

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Session of the Dakota Adventist Academy is called to convene at Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, North Dakota, on June 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports and to care for such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this session are the same as those who serve for the regular conference session.

- Neil Biloff, President
- Loren Nelson III, VP of Administration
- Arlo Heinrich, VP of Finance

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Membership Meeting of the South Dakota Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of South Dakota, will meet in connection with the Regular Quinquennial Session of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, North Dakota, on June 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the call is to elect a Board of Trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the conference session are delegates of the corporation.

- Neil Biloff, President
- Loren Nelson III, VP of Administration
- Arlo Heinrich, VP of Finance

The purpose of the call is to elect a Board of Trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. All delegates to the conference session are delegates of the association.

- Neil Biloff, President
- Loren Nelson III, VP of Administration
- Arlo Heinrich, VP of Finance
Church Plant Purchases Building

by Jacque Biloff

On December 7, 2013, the Red River church plant enjoyed their first Sabbath services in their own building located at 3000 Elm Street in Fargo, North Dakota. A dwindling Methodist congregation sold the property at a reasonable price because they desired the church to remain on the 2.5-acre parcel instead of it being demolished and the area turned into a subdivision.

The Methodist congregation graciously left everything in the church—from the pastor’s desk to the dishes in the kitchen. They even left a nearly new riding lawn mower and a weed eater for maintaining the grounds.

Pastor Jordan Peck, with his wife Natalie, started the church plant in the northern area of Fargo in 2010 with a “membership” of three meeting in a storefront. Within a year attendance had grown to 12. By 2012, with a group of 31 attending, they rented a small Lutheran church located in a residential area. Many Sabbath afternoons were spent visiting neighbors around the church and inviting them to Bible studies, meetings and worship services.

In May 2013 Pastor Christian and Angela Ronalds replaced Pastor Jordan and Natalie Peck. As the pews continued filling to an attendance approaching 50, the search for a permanent church began.

“We were so excited the first thing we did was clean the building,” said one member. “We were a little over eager—we cleaned it before the workers came in.” Heating units had to be installed, old ductwork removed and vents blocked. “We had to clean it again,” the member said with a smile. “I think we cleaned it three times.”

The heat wasn’t turned on until the afternoon of Dec. 3. The group was beginning to worry that they might not be ready for Sabbath, but the Lord worked many miracles and everything happened as needed.

During their first worship service Cherie Williams led the singing, Eden Sang called for the offering, Jacque Biloff told the children’s story and Scott Nelson offered prayer. Courtney Simpson and Casey Knudson sang “Labor of Love” and Elder Neil Biloff, Dakota Conference president, presented the message “Welcome Home.”

The fellowship meal was followed by an evening concert of celebration.

Jacque Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

The Red River church plant recently purchased a building in Fargo to meet the needs of their growing congregation.
Owensville Church Closes
A congregation bids farewell
by Jane Nowack Thayer

After 70 years of housing a small congregation, the Owensville (MO) Church closed its doors for the last time. Due to the deaths of the generation that founded it and to the fact that most of their children moved away, the congregation had become too small to sustain the functions of a church. Last November a commemorative service was held to reflect on the history of the church and to celebrate the faithfulness of those who worshipped, served and supported its ministries through the years.

The founding members came from small groups of Adventists in Woolham, Bland and Rosebud, Missouri. In 1943 they built a charming brick church that served the congregation until 1996 when various structural problems required a new sanctuary to be built next door. The new building was constructed by members and friends from Owensville, Bourbon and Sullivan.

At the commemorative service, district pastor Roy Weeden said, “We do not want to see a church come to an end any more than we want to attend funerals of those we love. While this is a sad occasion in one respect, in a different way we can rejoice that for 70 years this church served its members and was a witness to this community.”

Jane Nowack Thayer, a resident of Berrien Springs, Michigan is a former Owensville Church member.
West Plains Church Supports Local Clinic  
by Donna Bridges

Members of the West Plains (MO) Church raised over $1,000 for the West Plains Christian Clinic, which offers free medical and dental care to qualified individuals. Attendees of Next Step, one of the church’s Bible study groups, wanted to reach out to the community in some way, so they contacted the clinic offering assistance. Clinic administrators expressed their appreciation and said that the average cost to treat a patient, excluding additional fees for lab work, is $60. The project was announced to our congregation and some felt compelled to support this project along with members of the Bible study group.

Donna Bridges is a West Plains member. Excerpts from the West Plains Daily Quill are printed with permission.

Renewal Center Opens in Bedford  
by Michelle Hansen

A place of protection and healing for victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct has recently been established in Bedford, Iowa. Samantha Nelson, vice president and CEO of The Hope of Survivors (THOS), a nonprofit organization providing support for victims and educational materials for pastors and churches worldwide, said that the home was gifted to THOS late last year by an anonymous donor.

"After years of praying for a place of respite for victims, we see this home as an answer to those prayers,” Nelson said.

At one time the property functioned as an inn. A previous owner, Cindy Cox, said, “We prayed that the home would be a sanctuary for people needing a peaceful, comfortable place to stay and that God would bring those needing respite. So I feel as though the property was being prepared, if you will, for The Hope of Survivors.”

Before the Renewal Center could be opened, modifications were necessary. Volunteers from Maranatha International, a service-focused nonprofit organization, added bathrooms and customized existing spaces to meet the needs of clients.

“We look forward to putting the programs together for victims who come to renew and heal from the devastating abuse they’ve endured,” said Nelson. “We feel very blessed that God has answered this prayer in such a remarkable way.”

Samantha and her husband Steve Nelson, pastor of the Council Bluffs, Iowa district, founded the ministry in 2002. The Renewal Center currently also serves as THOS’s headquarters.

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

The Hope of Survivors Headquarters and Renewal Center serves victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct. THOS organization also provides educational seminars for pastors and churches.
From Alaska to Nebraska
A pastor’s sojourn
by John Treolo

Serving in the Alaska Conference for a year provided Fred Grant, pastor of the Valentine, Nebraska district, the opportunity to experience a different culture, help grow a church and meet some really neat people.

Fred recalled. “Then in the summer it was just the opposite. The coldest it got was -36 degrees. Groceries and supplies would only come every couple months, unless you wanted to pay the exorbitant costs at a local Quick Shop.”

Weather and supplies notwithstanding, Fred said he enjoyed his experience in Alaska. Beginning with four members, the church grew to nearly 30 members before he left. “It was just about personal visitation,” Fred said. “The Eskimo people are very welcoming. It takes a while for them to trust you, but once you have that, they are receptive.”

Ministry hasn’t always been in the forefront of Fred’s calling. He spent seven years in the Army as a military policeman, then 28 years as a cross-country truck driver. A blood clot in his leg forced him to change careers. He believes the Lord called him to be a pastor.

Less than a year ago, Fred accepted an invitation to serve the churches in Valentine, Springview, Gordon and Hyannis. His wife, Kellie, is his partner in ministry.

“We love it here,” Fred said. “We could live here the rest of our lives. You walk around and people wave at you and say hello. They’re small towns, but they’re our kind of towns.”

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.
CVA Teacher Receives Award
by Brian Carlson

College View Academy (CVA) English teacher Kerrie Schnell was recognized as the Teacher of the Month for December 2013 by the Lincoln East Rotary Club. Each month the club selects an outstanding teacher from the city of Lincoln and honors them.

In addition to being a great teacher, Mrs. Schnell has also been influential in organizing the Senior Survival and Peer Mentoring programs at CVA, as well as leading community interaction opportunities for our students, including the recent Student Hunger Drive. She is an excellent example of the great teachers we have at CVA!

Brian Carlson is principal of College View Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska.

savedate

Spiritual Emphasis Weekend

Speaker:
Dan Jackson
NAD president

Apr. 4-5
Omaha Memorial Church
840 N 72nd St | Omaha

More Info:
jerrygConnell@gmail.com

KS-NE CONFERENCE CALENDAR
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.KS-NE.ORG

Mar 6-16
Conference Mission Trip
Honduras
info: tsager@ks-ne.org

Mar 29
Children’s Ministries Workshop
Wichita South Church
info: scarlson@ks-ne.org

Apr 3-6
Union College Alumni Weekend
Lincoln, Nebraska
info: alumni@ucollege.edu

MARCH/APRIL 2014  OUTLOOKMAG.ORG  17
Pastor Extends Social Media Ministry  
Believes it enhances face-to-face communication  
by Joellyn Sheehy

Anna Romuald, assistant pastor at the Southview Church in Minneapolis and assistant young adult ministries director for the Minnesota Conference, doesn’t think that one hour on Sabbath morning is enough time to disciple the youth with whom she works. So she’s turned to social media for connecting one-on-one during the week to provide spiritual mentoring.

“Using social media, I can spend quality time communicating with them,” Romuald said. “Since I use it consistently, they know it’s a way to get a hold of me. So a lot of youth will call, text or Facebook seeking help or counsel in an emergency situation.”

Initially, Romuald struggled to answer God’s call into ministry. But now she says she loves her job. “If God asked me to do something else, it would be very difficult. I know I could have been happy on another career path, but I could never have been as happy as I am now, following what He intended from the beginning.”

Primarily a youth pastor, Romuald strives to build relationships with young adults and involve them with the church. Interacting with a generation that has grown up with social media, she quickly realized the importance of connecting with the youth on their terms. “I caught them off guard at first, but now they think it is so cool to have a pastor who can connect in the avenues they normally use.”

Utilizing social media, Romuald and her youth group plan events and interact throughout the week. “I have a video app to send video messages about upcoming events, a group app to send mass texts, Instagram and many more tools,” she said. The youth can update prayer requests, text one another, pray for each other and take part in weekly challenges.

“We have very high participation,” she added. However, their connection doesn’t exist only on screens. “Social media has only enhanced our face-to-face communications,” said Romuald. “Since we’re connected all week, when we come to that hour on Sabbath we’ve already heard what’s happening in each other’s lives and can follow up on it. We can pray more urgently or just pick up where we left off.”

The new interactions have also opened up leadership positions for youth. “We have several who maintain, manage and administrate some of our pages,” explained Romauld. “We actually put their technical skills to work.”

When people question her on the connection between social media and the church, Romuald draws from her own journey. “Whenever God tells me to use something in a way I haven’t thought of, I try to be open,” she said. “I don’t want to limit avenues for Him to reach others, especially youth. As a church, if we continue to turn our backs on social media, we’ll lose a lot of adults. Knowing how to use it isn’t conforming to the world; it’s following Christ’s example to be in the world and use its resources for Him.”

Joellyn Sheehy is a student writer.
Cambridge Church Plants and Harvests
by Liz Rodriguez

Weeks before the recent evangelistic series hosted by the Cambridge Church, Pastor Carlos Rodriguez began conducting training classes and equipping the members to participate. Their hearts and minds were ready when the series began, and night after night they willingly worked to help arrange the stage and equipment and welcome guests. Members truly displayed a sense of unity and took ownership of their responsibilities.

We observed the Holy Spirit working in each person attending the seminar. Small groups were praying every night in various corners of the facility. Visitors invited friends and marketed the event for us. One newly-baptized member brought five to eight visitors every night. She was truly a Christian soldier experiencing her “first love” for Christ and her fellow men.

One day during the series our conference ministerial director, Elder Sherman McCormick, was visiting Pastor Rodriguez to see how the meetings were going. When they arrived at a local restaurant to eat that evening, they encountered several visitors who were attending the seminars. The visitors greeted them and complimented the pastor on the way he delivered the messages and stated how the Lord was using him to strengthen their personal relationship with God. Later, when Elder McCormick and Pastor Rodriguez were ready to pay for their meal, the waitress informed them that the bill was already taken care of by the visitors—a deed that spoke louder than words.

The Lord blessed and we witnessed the baptism of four of our guests, for which we praise God! However, five people had planned to be baptized that day. Sadly, the fifth visitor passed away on the day the baptisms took place. Each evening after the meetings she had been sharing the messages with her children and loved ones. Her fiancé, who was also attending the seminars, was baptized on the last evening and brought her whole family to witness the event.

Even though her passing was a time of sadness, it was another opportunity for our church to come together and be a pillar of strength and hope for this family. We planted seeds that evening by giving each of them a Bible and just being there to show our support.

I can personally testify to the power of evangelistic seminars. When I was 13 years old my family was invited to a series being held in white tents. There were hundreds of people and the church worked together to bring as many people as possible to the Lord. Members were neither ashamed nor embarrassed to pass out flyers or sell Adventist books door-to-door. The clear truths of the second coming and the Sabbath were delivered without fear. The message of God’s love was presented in an amazing way that changed my life forever. Today I am proudly married to a pastor who plans and conducts many seminars, as did his father before him.

During this recent seminar, the Cambridge church members planted numerous seeds—especially that last evening—and we can’t wait to see what the harvest will be!

Liz Rodriguez is the wife of Pastor Carlos Rodriguez.
Casper Church Shares Moving Experiences
by Rachel Ashworth

On any given Sunday in Casper, Wyoming, you may find a group of men and women from the Casper Church in the midst of hard labor. Whenever they’re needed—sometimes several times a month—they gather to help people move. They don’t rent a U-Haul or even ask for gas money. Often the recipient of the good deed simply provides breakfast or lunch.

Although this may be an unusual ministry, it has been going on for quite a while. Eight years ago Pastor Weldon Treat purchased a 24-foot, fully enclosed trailer for his move to the area. He decided to keep his trailer in case it would be a blessing to others. Treat believes that no one should have to move alone. “Moving is the loneliest thing a person can do,” he often says.

Having recently relocated to Casper from Southeast Missouri, I can personally agree with his statement. When Pastor Treat offered to drive to Missouri with his trailer to help us move, we weren’t sure he was serious. Now after moving twice with the help of the church, and helping with several other moves, we know this church is serious. Not only was the temperature -8 degrees on the day our family moved 16 miles into town, but the group also moved another family immediately afterward.

That’s two households moved in four hours in subzero weather!

Although the moving usually happens on Sundays, following a men’s Bible study, the group has been known to show up after dark to move someone out of an apartment on short notice after an eviction or similar situation. Members of this group have even let families stay in their home for a few days or weeks while they find a place to live.

This church understands what goes into moving, renting, buying and selling. Things come up, and families need help. What better way to minister to your church family than meeting their immediate needs?

As a fairly new addition to the Casper Church, I am pleased to be part of this ministry, and hope to continue being involved in this “moving experience.”

Rachel Ashworth is a member of the Casper Church.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE 2014 TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

Please join us at one of the seven regional town hall meetings. Our conference leadership team will be introducing the new RMC president, Ed Barnett. They look forward to answering your questions.

This year, we are including a Hispanic town hall at Denver South. Choose the location nearest you, and plan to join us for an inspiring evening of sharing!

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<td>March 8</td>
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Rocky Mountain Conference Names New President
by Mark Bond

Ed Barnett has accepted a call by the Executive Committee of the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) to be the new conference president. Barnett replaces Gary Thurber, who recently accepted a call to be the executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

For nearly five years, Barnett has served as president of the Minnesota Conference. Previously he served as ministerial and evangelism director for the Illinois Conference.

Elder Barnett is no stranger to the RMC, having served as senior pastor for the Denver South Church from 1999 to 2006. “We are excited about coming back to the Rocky Mountain Conference,” said Barnett. “We enjoyed our time in Denver and look forward to working with the Rocky Mountain family again.”

Barnett has a passion for evangelism. “My goal is to see every church in our territory involved in some form of evangelistic outreach every year,” said Barnett. “I want our churches to be creative in finding ways to engage their communities. But we should all be providing opportunities for reaping every year.”

Tom Lemon, Mid-America Union president, said, “We are happy to welcome Elder Barnett to his new post. His experience and vision will undoubtedly go a long way toward furthering the advance of the gospel in our mountain region.”

Barnett has been married for 39 years to Shirley (Anderson) Barnett, who works as an obstetrics nurse. They have two sons: Andrew works in information technology and is married to Lauren, who is an RN. Ryan and Kay both work for the Adventist Health System in Orlando, Florida.

Barnett officially begins serving the RMC March 1.

Bill Hay Transitions from RMC to Amazing Facts
by Carol Bolden

For nearly 17 years Bill Hay has been the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) associate director of Planned Giving and Trust Services, traveling by car to the near and far reaches of our conferences as field representative. A lover of people, Hay enjoyed assisting our members in preparing their wills and trusts. For a number of years he also served as the stewardship director.

Hay is leaving the RMC to conduct the same type of work for Amazing Facts, a Christian media ministry based in Roseville, California. His road travel will be traded in for air travel as he covers the entire United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, as well as Guam.

“Bill has been a tremendous asset to our Planned Giving and Trust Services program over the past 16 years,” said Gary Chapman, director of Planned Giving and Trust Services. “We have deeply appreciated his competence, his friendship, and most of all, his deep and obvious relationship with God. We will greatly miss him!”

Hay will continue living in Colorado, working from his home base in Berthoud.

Carol Bolden is assistant to the communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.
IRR Training Culminates in Nicaragua
by Michael Rohm

“Glue the pipe together here,” he indicates with one hand, “and angle the 90-degree elbow up, like so.” He tweaks the joint, steps back to admire his work, and proclaims, “That’s a finished product.”

Posed over a jumble of PVC pipes, brackets, angles, elbows and drills, Carl Ladd resembles more of a mad scientist than an International Rescue and Relief (IRR) contract instructor. The contraption at his feet seems like a prop from some fantasy film instead of a water pump.

Ladd and the four students who assisted in assembly crowd around the pump and discuss the project—how it is both affordable and sustainable; how it connects to a filtration system to provide fresh, clean water; how it shapes the future of community development.

They soon join the other four students inside who have completed the frame for a Biosand filter, the second half of the water system. Constructed from a blue 55-gallon drum and PVC pipe, the filter is also inexpensive and easy to build. Connected to the pump, this system can channel water from a natural source and purify it through the sand and gravel inside the drum, which contains natural microorganisms capable of consuming pathogens and, after one year of maturity, viruses too.

If this technology is shaping the future of water sustainability, then these eight IRR students are shaping the future of relief work. Alongside instructors Aaron and Lauren Kent, this team will spend 89 days in Nicaragua, living, learning and lending the expertise they have spent years cultivating in Union College’s unique Bachelor of Science program.

Over the course of the semester abroad, students will learn survival skills, participate in rural clinics, and volunteer with local EMS (Emergency Medical Services) crews, all while adapting to a foreign culture and language and taking course work in Emergency Care, Global Health, Travel and Tropical Medicine, and Expeditionary Leadership.

“This semester in Nicaragua is the seminal experience of IRR,” says trip leader, instructor and Union alum Aaron Kent. “Everything they have learned over the years leads to this.”

Kent has led the trip to Nicaragua five times and says each one is different. This unpredictability is often due to the varying number of students in attendance. Compared to the 16 from last year, this is the smallest group yet.

“There are unique challenges with so few people,” observes Kent. “This is your social group. This is your family. If one loses patience with another, it has to be resolved, because we will be together nearly every day for three months.”

He assesses the group and smiles. “Social dynamics are always unpredictable.”

These students, however, usually present solidarity in their interactions. Juniors Zack Leyda and Josh Wahl joke about coastal survival, which they claim is less survival and more relaxation. “Sipping coconuts, getting a tan, catching some fish,” says Leyda. “It doesn’t get much better than that.”

“It’s gonna be a dream,” laughs Wahl.

“Survival is all about locating food and water,” Kent agrees, his hand straying toward the communal bag of M&M’s. “It’s nothing but foraging. But on the coast, everything you need is right here. Food, water, shelter— it’s nice.” He pauses then chuckles, “Ocean survival, however, is the worst experience known to man.”

The ocean survival experience includes the 24 hours students spend together on a life raft in...
open water. “It’s nothing but rocking and seasickness,” Kent says, grimacing at the prospect.

Once the eight days of survival training are finished, students shift into the medical phase of their semester. This year, the group will be exploring a new region along the Caribbean Coast in the most northwestern part of Nicaragua. The North Atlantic Autonomous Region is one of the poorest and most undeveloped in the country. For two weeks the group will travel by boat through the dense mangrove swamps, delivering medical aid to indigenous groups living in that territory.

Senior Joellyn Sheehy, who will graduate this year with an emphasis in pre-medicine, is eager for the opportunities and exposure this experience will present. "I want a better understanding of what development work looks like," says Sheehy, pausing from her drill work on the biosand filter. "And I want to learn the strategies for implementing it."

Other students express more interest in the opportunities following the medical excursion. Newlyweds Dillon and Erica Whittaker are both eager to work with the EMS crews based out of Managua and Grenada. “The experience will be unlike anything in Nebraska,” says Erica, who recently quit her job as a paramedic for Midwest Medical. “There will be such a diverse range of patients and cases that one never sees in developed countries.”

For Dillon, this is the opportunity of a lifetime. “I’m just excited to travel,” he says. “I’ve never done anything like this.” Not only will Dillon be on foreign soil for the first time in his life, he will also be learning and practicing valuable career skills there. “I’ll get the experience I need by working with the fire crews in Managua,” he adds. “That will give me an edge when I graduate.”

Gaining an edge is an important aspect for IRR students. Graduates of the program are offered such a diverse range of experiences that they are able to pursue careers in many fields. One recent graduate is a crisis counselor for an outdoor program. Another is an investigator of accident claims for an insurance company. Still another works for ADRA. Many pursue graduate degrees and join non-government organizations working in development.

Ladd, for example, has participated in or led sponsored water-based development projects in 15 nations, including Sudan, China and Romania. It is because of his passion and experience that Union College brought him back to help prepare the students for their semester abroad.

Even though these students may not build a water system in Nicaragua, Ladd believes it is important for them to learn appropriate technology for sustainable development. Their careers may depend on it.

But even greater than the technology, says Ladd, is the mentality of those implementing the technology. “I help students recognize that what most Americans view as ‘problems’ abroad are opportunities to build a relationship and lend our unique expertise.”

Michael Rohm is a senior at Union College.

For more information on the IRR program check out www.ucollege.edu/irr.

On March 5, Union College will celebrate opening day for the Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics—the first day of classes in the new building. Here are some ways you can help celebrate this milestone in the history of Union College.

April 4, 2014 – Homecoming Weekend

Cornerstone event—Join us as Union College alumni celebrate the completion of the new building with the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone followed by building tours.

To register for Homecoming Weekend, visit www.ucollege.edu/homecoming. This year we will honor graduates from 1944, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 2004. We will also recognize all alumni who served in the military or Medical Cadet Corps.

May 8, 2014 – Grand Opening

Join us for the official opening ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Krueger Center of Science and Mathematics on Thursday morning of graduation weekend.

For more information about the Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics, please visit www.ucollege.edu/ourpromisingfuture.
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All schools operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church admit students of any race to all the privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, gender or country of origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.
SMMC Improves Medical Testing in Nigeria
by Jackie Woods

When Shawnee Mission Medical Center (SMMC) associate and sonographer Innocent Ndubuisi visited his hometown of Owerri, Imo-State, Nigeria, he was disheartened to learn about the outdated ultrasound equipment being used by local hospitals.

Eager to help improve healthcare in the region, Ndubuisi began a personal mission to identify and secure a newer ultrasound machine that could be donated to St. David’s Hospital, a healthcare facility in Owerri.

SMMC agreed to help Ndubuisi not only fulfill his mission, but exceed his goal. The hospital donated two ultrasound units, covered costs to ship the machines to Nigeria and also sponsored Ndubuisi’s trip to Nigeria in order to train physicians how to properly use the equipment.

The donated ultrasound machines will directly benefit communities within a 300-kilometer radius of Owerri. One of the units is a hybrid unit, which allows physicians to perform both general and vascular ultrasounds as well as echocardiograms.

“It is the only unit of its kind in this part of Eastern Nigeria,” said Ndubuisi. “This is huge. Healthcare professionals can now locally perform certain tests which, in the past, people had to travel several hundred kilometers to receive.”

During Ndubuisi’s time in Nigeria, he worked with physicians to offer free cardiovascular testing to a small portion of the population. This type of testing is imperative in order to identify and diagnose cardiovascular disease.

“When testing patients, I was able to make life saving diagnoses of some cardiovascular conditions that would not have been identified without these ultrasound machines,” said Ndubuisi. “It also feels good to know that when physicians perform obstetric ultrasounds they can now obtain more accurate fetal biometry measurements with the training provided.”

With plans to return to Nigeria to conduct more training and testing for a larger population, Ndubuisi hopes to secure additional medical equipment needed for this region.

“Shawnee Mission Medical Center has set the pace,” said Ndubuisi. “My hope is that other healthcare organizations are willing to assist in my quest to bring proper diagnostic tools to people in this part of the world.”

Healthcare professionals from Owerri share Ndubuisi’s excitement about the improved healthcare capabilities the equipment has already provided and will continue to offer to their community.

“These machines have strengthened our hands in the provision of free and quality medical treatment to the elderly and destitute,” said St. David’s Hospital medical director Davidson O.N. Anyanwu. “We would like to thank Shawnee Mission Medical Center for this immense contribution toward saving lives in our environment. You are truly much more than medicine.”

Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Erickson, Anna, b. Sept. 2, 1916 in Minneapolis, MN. d. Oct. 19, 2013 in Centennial, CO. Member of Denver South Church. Preceded in death by husband Melvin; son Robert; 1 sister. Survivors include daughter Karen Stover; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Freeman, Ellen, b. July 10, 1935 in Parkersburg, WV. d May 29, 2013 in Joplin, MO. Member of Joplin Church. Preceded in death by 1 grandson. Survivors include daughters Rebecca Hutchinson and Janet Holosombach; 2 nieces Nicholas and Rodney DeLong; 2 sisters; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.


Hedger, Robert “Bob”, b. June 10, 1940 in ND. d. Nov. 29, 2013 in Greeley, CO. Member of Greeley Church. Preceded in death by wife Trula; 1 brother. Survivors include stepdaughter Tanya Liesse-Larson; 4 siblings.

Hill, Luther “Andy” A., b. Sept. 9, 1968 in Shreveport, LA. d. April 7, 2013 in Fargo, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Ellen; parents; 1 sister.

Horstman, Elva “June”, d. Nov. 9, 2013 in Mason City, IA. Member of Mason City Church.


Kahler, Myrna L., b. Aug. 21, 1938 in Brainerd, MN. d. Dec. 21, 2013 in Branson, MO. Member of Kimberling City Church. Survivors include husband Emil; sons Emil and Michale; 4 siblings; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren.

Kraft, Jannie J., b. Aug. 13, 1935 in Era, TX. d. Aug. 11, 2013 in Otis Orchards, WA. Member of Spokane Valley Church. Survivors include husband Duane; daughters Judy Weir and Deanna Kraft; 5 grandchildren.


Lee, Betty, b. Dec. 23, 1947 in Rock Island, IL. d. Dec. 29, 2013 in Muscatine, IA. Member of Muscatine First Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings. Survivors include husband Chuck; 1 brother.

Lottes-Saravia, Karin, b. July 21, 1936 in Koblenz, Germany. d. Dec. 21, 2013 in West Liberty, IA. Member of Muscatine (IA) Church. Preceded in death by son Andreas Wolfmueller; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Esther Knockel, Miriam Ingalls and Julia Stolvie; 1 brother; 5 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Lyman, Harvey D., b. Oct. 26, 1924 in Williston, ND. d. May 25, 2013 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include wife Marjorie.

Massie, Ella, b. Apr. 3, 1920 in Pocatello, ID. d. July 12, 2012 in Twin Falls, ID. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by first husband Johnnie Quast; second husband Claude Massie; daughter Luella Brandl; son Larry Quast; 7 siblings; 1 grandchild; 1 great-grandchild. Survivors include daughters Darlene Kungel and Geraldine Galvan; 1 sister; 14 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren.


Myers, George J., b. Sept. 6, 1931 in Shelton, NE. d. Oct. 31, 2013 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Piedmont Park Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Virginia; 1 sister.

Neuharth-Meier, Dorothy L., b. June 16, 1926 in Minatare, NE. d. Sept. 23, 2013 in Scottsbluff, NE. Charter member of Scottsbluff Church. Preceded in death by husband Dave; 1 brother. Survivors include daughters Kristal John and Deborah Russell; son Steven; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

Pajari, Peter D., b. Aug. 13, 1920 in Velva, ND. d. July 10, 2013 in Joplin, MO. Member of Galena Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Frances; daughter Kathy Huffaker; son Bruce; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Smith, Debra, b. Nov. 10, 1953 in Fort Dodge, IA. d. July 19, 2013 in Spencer, IA. Member of Spencer Church. Survivors include daughters Carrie McAlpine, Kelly Stoffel and Cortney Pous-Ojeda; 8 grandchildren.

Stephan, James R., b. Nov. 11, 1933 in Grand Rapids, MI. d. Nov. 13, 2013 in Lincoln, NE. Member of College View Church. Served in education at Helen Hyatt Elementary School (now College View Academy) and as superintendent for KS-NE Conference. Preceded in death by wife Pat. Survivors include daughter Melody; sons James and William; 1 brother; 6 grandchildren; 2 great-granddaughters.

Wasson, Cloa A., b. Apr. 12, 1920 in Velva, ND. d. July 10, 2013 in Minot, ND. Member of Minot Church. Preceded in death by husband Ray Orrin; 4 brothers. Survivors include daughter Wanda Schestler; second husband Claude Wasson; 2 sisters; 5 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; nephews/niece she raised Edward, Richard and Marie Gross.


Schlitter, Tamra, b. Jan. 2, 1940 in Tomah, WI. d. Dec. 15, 2013 in Cedar Falls, IA. Member of the Waterloo (IA) Church. Preceded in death by husband Edward; son Eric Green; 1 brother. Survivors include daughter Colette Doss; son Kent Green; 1 sister; 10 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild.

Schmidt, Lyle F., b. May 7, 1925 in Fairmont, MN. d. Dec 2, 2013, Fargo, ND. Member of Detroit Lakes Church. Preceded in death by wife Ruby. Survivors include sons Gerald and Barry; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren; 1 great-grandson.

Secrist, Larry “Bub” N., b. Sept. 24, 1937 in Galena, KS. d. Dec. 17, 2013 in Joplin, MO. Member of Galena Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Frances; daughter Kathy Huffaker; son Bruce; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact. Questions? Contact Raschelle Casebeer at 402.484.3012 or rascbelle@outlookmag.org.
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Don’t miss Wellness Secrets’ Spiritual Health Retreat in beautiful NW AR, March 23-30. Our theme is the Gift of the Holy Spirit; our goal is spiritual renewal. Activities: Bible study; interactive discussions, cooking classes, nature walks etc. “Come away and rest a while” recharging your spiritual batteries. Contact: 479.752.8555, WellnessSecrets4u.com

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Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural Oklahoma setting close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you’ll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Call Bill Norman 405.208.1289.

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La Sierra University is seeking candidates for the position of Dean of the H. M. S. Richards Divinity School to continue advancing its growth and vision of service. A qualified candidate will hold an earned doctorate in a relevant discipline, be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, and provide evidence of effectiveness as a pastor, teacher, and administrator. Apply online at: https://lasierrarecruiters.silroad.com/lasieract/ EmploymentListings.html.

Minnesota’s North Star Camp Seeks Caretaker: Must have commitment to Adventism, be able to work with people, understand camping ministry and have a passion to bring young people to Christ. Must also have knowledge in maintenance, construction and grounds management. For more info or to submit resume, contact Jeff Wines: jowines@msnsda.com, 763.424.8923.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Kinesiology Department seeks full-time physical education professor beginning July 1, 2014. Master’s degree required; doctoral degree preferred, must have college teaching experience. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources at www.swa.edu. For further information, contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarien at 817.202.6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

TRAVEL/RENTALS Steamboat Springs, CO: Exhilarating year-round vacation spot. World-class skiing, summer fishing, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, rafting. Kids under 12 ski free. Large condo, sleeps 9-11. Two bedroom loft/two bath. Fully furnished, fireplace, hot tubs, pool. Call 763.506.0436. E-mail: rdleach@aol.com.


EVENTS 50th Anniversary Celebration of Adventists in Mesa Arizona the weekend of March 1, 2014 hosted by Mesa Palms SDA Church.

Jefferson Academy 100th Anniversary Celebration Homecoming Weekend, April 18-20. Speaker will be Steve Darmody. Jefferson Academy Alumni, P.O. Box 187, Jefferson, TX 75657. jeffersonacademylumni@gmail.com.
Dr. Neil Nedley will present a seminar on how to improve memory and enhance intelligence, how to combat diseases, depression, and achieve optimal health. Location: Omaha Memorial Church, 840 N. 72nd St, Omaha, NE (402.397.4813) Dates: Friday, March 14 at 7 pm; Saturday, March 15 at 11 am and 2 pm.


NOTICES

Mission opportunity for Sabbath School groups, families or individuals! ACI (Adventist Child India) coordinates sponsors for Adventist children in India to attend school. $360 will provide tuition, lodging, food, books, clothing and medical for a child for one year. Visit www.acichild.com for more info or contact Charlene Binder at rdbinder@inebraska.com.
Annual Day of Giving
Sabbath
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Ask your church to show the DVD!

“Give the Blind a Chance”
Day of Giving presentation
with Pastor Dexter Thomas

“Miracles of the Master” sermon
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as The Man Born Blind from John 9
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May 16 - 25, 2014