GC SESSION REPORT
Membership Shift From North to South Changes Adventist Church
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

The 2015 GC Session is now history. For 10 long days we watched, listened, sang, prayed, discussed, agreed and disagreed. We followed proper parliamentary procedures, shared ideas and took accurate notes for posterity. We produced podcasts, streamed interviews, took pictures, tweeted, texted and in many other ways shared information and reactions. We visited the booths in the Convention Center, strolled along the River Walk, and ate lots of rice and beans.

But amidst all the activity, did we actually achieve our goals? The answer to that question depends on our perceptions—and on what we were expecting.

Ultimately, we must answer these questions: Did we honor God before the universe? Did we represent His character accurately to residents of the city of San Antonio? What could we have done better?

My hope is that as we look ahead to 2020 when the GC Session is slated to convene in Indianapolis, Indiana, we will ponder how we can prepare to accomplish our true mission in the most effective manner.

—BRENDA DICKERSON, editor

OBSERVATIONS FROM MID-AMERICA’S DELEGATES

“As a delegate, I reveled in the richness of diversity among God’s people from every continent, and had the pleasure of kneeling for prayer during the business session, hands held in a circle, with brothers and sisters from the Inter-America Division as we prayed for the Holy Spirit to be present and for the Lord’s will to be done.”

—Vinita Sauder, president of Union College

“We certainly live in very fast changing times: society, values, priorities. We can only imagine how our predecessors after Jesus’ resurrection might have felt or thought; what is happening every which way we turn—as individuals, a family or as a church? God, our Father, will continue to guide and direct our ways, in His holy manner and time. Praise Him always for this certainty and hope that we can still only have in Him!”

—Edwin Galan, Iowa-Missouri Conference

“I think the key to continue working together as one body is accepting the principle of obedience to God and His voice through the delegates of each GC Session.”

—Pastor Yulian Tinoco, Minnesota Conference

“Waves of tension in crowds of diversity with unified focus.”

—DeAnna Bacon, Kansas-Nebraska Conference (more from DeAnna on p.8)
GC Session: How I See It
A first-time attendee shares her insights.
bit.ly/GC-howiseeit

Millennials in Conversation
Two Adventist young adults discuss the GC Session. bit.ly/Heretovote

The Real Issues in San Antonio
Lack of identity leads to lack of empathy.
bit.ly/therealissues

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE DAILY REPORTS
myOUTLOOK: MAUC newsletter archives
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Youth/Church Ministries Hubert Cisneros

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The difference with this passage, though, is significant. When we transitioned out of our first district our world was much more steady, more predictable, less violent, and values were more or less shared across large segments of society. Now, in a world far more chaotic, we find ourselves significantly closer to that “land that is fairer than day.” I, for one, can hardly wait. And I want to see all of you there.

In a dark, dirt parking lot behind a dark old church, the conversations were winding down at the end of a long but very enjoyable Sabbath. The wisp of autumn scented the air with a reminder that winter was not far away.

Elder Graham, the ministerial director, spoke to me: “Tom, where do you see your ministry going in 20 years?” My senior pastor, Elder Jim King, listened in. “I want to be the best pastor I can possibly be,” was my reply.

Being just a few months out of school, a few months married, no children and with seminary in view about a year out, I had no idea how to answer his question. Twenty years was just slightly less than my whole life up to that point.

Now the view forward is rather different. And the look back shows a pathway that neither I, nor anyone I know, could have scripted. Jan and I have turned down numerous invitations when it seemed to us that God was leading in a different direction. Whether we said yes or no, nearly always when those invitations came, we were prayerful, deliberate, methodical and as clinical as we could be in our decision-making process. After all, generally speaking, one does not lightly choose life-altering course corrections when one doesn’t think he needs to.

**Always pursuing mission**

I have, over the years, come to trust the processes of the church. No, not every decision is right, and not every result is what we wish for, but the process is generally good and the outcomes are often good as well.

We have experienced many passage points over the years. Saying no to several invitations early… and then finally saying yes to one. The fire that destroyed a large portion of one of my churches and its reconstruction process, followed by the advice of my union president to take a call out. The loss of my father and best friend. Leaving one of the best situations our family enjoyed for one that we had no idea what to expect. Working with leaders at a number of levels and then leaving to lead on our own. But always mindful of Whose mission we were pursuing.

So we are at one of those passage points again as I take up new roles, new responsibilities and new challenges. Jan, our grandson Aiden and I are blessed indeed to be able to remain for a time in Lincoln so we won’t have to rip apart those bonds we have made here, at least not immediately. At the same time, my view of the mission in which we are all engaged will almost instantly take on a more global scale that has been heretofore largely theoretical.

**Hope amidst chaos**

When I face life changes, I often seek out a dark sanctuary and a piano and just review some of the old hymns of the faith. I didn’t have a sanctuary to go to this time—not even a darkened study—but the hymns came back as they always do. One of them goes like this:

There’s a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For the father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.
In the sweet by-and-by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet by-and-by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

**Thomas Lemon has transitioned from president of the Mid-America Union to serving as a vice president of the General Conference.**
IT’S AN HONOR TO SERVE

AN INSIDE LOOK AT SESSION PROCESSES

Being selected as a delegate to the General Conference is truly an honor. To see the Seventh-day Adventist World Church in business session is always interesting because of the size and scope of the meetings. The other part that is interesting is the amount of translation that has to take place when you have a nearly 200 different countries around the globe represented. As you looked around the Alamodome you quickly realized that Anglos are a small minority of the delegates who represent the church.

For 2015 I was asked to be a platform chairman for the main auditorium as well as a delegate. So I must admit I was more nervous than I was five years ago as only a delegate. We met early Wednesday before the GC Session to discuss the role of a platform chairman. I was pleased I was not on duty the first day of the session.

Proper procedures

Thursday night our Mid-America Union delegates caucused to choose our representatives on the Nominating Committee for the General Conference Session. I was surprised to be selected as one of the two delegates for our union (along with Tom Lemon, then our president) and quickly asked if I could be replaced as a platform chairman. The answer was “Yes, serving on the Nominating Committee takes precedence.”

So the next day the Nominating Committee met at 8 am and a very hectic schedule ensued. First we considered the office of president of the General Conference. After some discussion Elder Ted Wilson’s name was taken to the floor. A couple of delegates requested to speak with the Committee, but the chair and secretary of the Nominating Committee assured them that we had already discussed their concerns. When his name came to the floor, Wilson received significant support from the delegates. As additional names were taken to the floor, members of the Nominating Committee returned to the main floor to vote.

People and positions

After Elder Wilson was elected he met with the Nominating Committee to recommend names for the rest of the nearly 300 GC positions to be filled—it was amazing! During the following week we met every day except Wednesday, when ordination was being discussed.

Before we talked about the GC vice presidents Elder Lemon pulled me aside and let me know he had been asked to accept one of these important positions. I appreciated him sharing that with me before it came to the floor. I hated the idea of Elder Lemon moving on because I have worked closely with him for the last six years as a conference president, but I knew he would keep the Mid-America Union in mind and in his prayers as he moves on in the Lord’s work.

During an evening caucus with our North American Division delegates, the names of all three of our current NAD officers were selected to go to the Nominating Committee, and they were re-elected on the floor of the GC Session. Each division gets to go through the same process.

Family and friends

One of the blessings during this Session was that my wife was able to fly down the first Friday and stay through Tuesday. Even though I had a very busy schedule we were able to spend Sabbath together and see many different friends from around the globe. We enjoyed eating Sabbath lunch with Teenie and Mark Finley and reminiscing about the good times we have shared.

There were times I was disappointed with some of the votes at the General Conference Session, but I do believe God is in charge and that we will move forward in unison. I am thankful that I was able to serve as a delegate and a member of the Nominating Committee—and even got to help as a platform chairman on both Sabbaths. It is an honor to serve in our church.
THE WAY FORWARD —TOGETHER

On Wednesday, July 8 delegates to the 2015 GC Session voted 1,381-977, with five abstentions, that divisions may not decide whether to ordain women within their territories. OUTLOOK blogger Ed Dickerson responded to this action in his current series on Adventist identity. Following are excerpts from his posts. Visit outlookmag.org/tag/wayfwd to read them in their entirety.

Ed Dickerson is a lay pastor, church planter, writer and speaker living in Iowa. He enjoys photography, golf, music, watching football and exegetical Bible study. His passion is to do everything in his power to see that, if the Lord tarries, there will be an Adventist church that his children and grandchildren want to belong to.
So, how do we move forward together, after such a divisive and bitter clash? Some believe, after this vote and 40 years of debating the issue, that reuniting is not possible. Many who favored women’s ordination seem more determined than ever to continue trying to convince the rest of the church to change their minds. To them I say: Your opponents believe that this position has been repudiated by repeated votes, yet you continue to press the issue. How do you expect those on the other side to react, except to say that you are in “stubborn rebellion”?

To those opposing ordination, I say: Even if I favored your position, I would not favor pressuring that line of reasoning, for one simple reason: lecturing people on their “rebellion” rarely leads them to want to give it up. Lest anyone miss the point, I’m saying the same thing to all: It doesn’t make any sense to keep doing what you have been doing. If not for the sake of the church, then for the sake of your own position, please stop.

**How’s that working for you?**

The most distressing thing is that both sides seem incapable of understanding how those who disagree with them will perceive what they are doing and saying. If you think them rigid, self-righteous or unreasonable, then why keep trying to reason with them?

Insanity has been defined as doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results. So why do both sides insist on pursuing the same lines of argument that have produced the present impasse? I could say that sounds like insanity to me, but instead I will employ Dr. Phil’s question: “How’s that working for you?”

It has been my experience that everyone’s natural reflex, when confronted by a frontal assault, is to dig in and fight back. That is what has been happening, and it has brought us to this sorry state.

**Not on my watch!**

This behavior isn’t limited to Adventists. When I served as lobbyist for the homeschoolers in my state, I met this mindset in many: “Well, there’s no point. We know things will get worse and worse until the end.”

To which I replied, “Maybe so, but it does not have to happen on my watch.” Much to their surprise—and to the chagrin of some as well—I was instrumental in passing landmark legislation legalizing home education for the first time in 90 years. Much like abortion is today, homeschooling was an issue at the time: one side feeling morally aggrieved about the right to raise their children their way, and the other certain that without professional teachers children would be deprived or even abused.

When one’s strong belief is attacked head-on, the human tendency is to defend it. We are not likely to examine the belief carefully when we’re busy justifying it. The frontal assault technique had been tried for years by those who preceded me as lobbyist for homeschoolers, which resulted only in more deeply entrenching both sides.

**Forget the opposition?**

Why is it that the most rigorous logical arguments fail to persuade us? It’s because most of the time, these strongly held beliefs are at the end of a line of reasoning. But most of the time, this reasoning comes after the fact. That is, we have an emotional reaction/attachment to a belief, and when it is questioned, we seek evidence to support it. That’s true of most of us, and it was definitely true of the legislators I needed to convince.

I was faced then with the same problem that faces everyone in the church now. If we have two deeply divided factions, both of whom have heard and rejected the rationale of the other side, how do we bridge that gap?

This question is more relevant than many might think. After all, if we cannot understand and/or persuade those with whom we share so many beliefs, what makes us think we can reach others in the communities around us who hold world views entirely different from ours? Hoping to just leave our “unconverted” or “unenlightened” brothers and sisters in the church behind, and just go and convert the rest of the world is not likely to be successful under the circumstances.

**Perils of pride**

Many of our brothers and sisters in the church are going through significant temptation at this time. Some are being tempted to give up, to leave, to relinquish hope. Many are being tempted with pride—that they have been proven correct, or that though they “lost” the vote they are morally superior, or that their opponents’ behavior demonstrates how wrong they were. All these souls are in great peril.

I have also heard otherwise sober and calm individuals insisting that the vote over women’s ordination has initiated “the shaking.” Maybe. But I have grave doubts.

The shaking will come when God decides; but make no mistake, the shaking is not a good thing. We should not welcome it any more than we should welcome persecution. In the fullness of time, these will come—but because we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, reaching the world for Christ; not because of church politics.

Many of us go through dark nights of the soul, personal Gethsemanes. I believe this is such a moment for the church, and all the more dangerous because it is unrecognized by some.

Gethsemane is never a pleasant place. But understand that there are two outcomes among those who pass through that dark time: Christ prayed to His Father, and emerged resolute and comforted, fortified for the coming trial. The disciples slept through Gethsemane, and were devastated by the coming trial.

**Patient listening**

To both sides, I say: Please, please pray earnestly that God will show you how best to heal this wound. After you pray, pause and ask that God will speak to you. Listen patiently.

Do not—I warn you—do not pray that The other side will see the light, and do what they ought to heal this wound. As a good friend of mine said to me, “When God speaks to me, He speaks to me about me.”

If the church is the object of Christ’s supreme regard, as I believe it is, then we may be certain that He is praying to the Father for this church at this moment in history. Let us join Him.
DeAnna, tell us a little about yourself.

I was raised Seventh-day Adventist. On my mother’s side, my great-grandparents became Adventist through books bought from colporteurs. My father’s mother was converted to Adventism from the Lutheran Church by her brother-in-law.

I was baptized when I was 10 and attended Adventist schools from first grade through two years of college. I met my husband, Ken, while working at Rocky Mountain Adventist Healthcare in Denver, Colorado. We have three children: Paul—19, Mark—14 and Olivia—6.

What stood out for you during the Session?

Since it was my first time to be a delegate I did not know what to expect of the General Conference Session. I knew it would last for 10 days and I had heard about the wonderful music and speakers.

One of the things that impressed me was all the work that the GC does to research and state our Fundamental Beliefs so that they are as accurate and easy to understand as possible. Also I thought the commitment from the delegates was remarkable as they reviewed each item and expressed their opinions and concerns, as well as their appreciation for the work that was done by the committee.

The worship services were outstanding and it was a very interesting eight days of business meetings. I have a new appreciation for all the work that goes into preparing for a General Conference Session.

What did you enjoy about your time in San Antonio?

I liked the positive atmosphere. People were courteous and friendly. It felt like a big family.

It was an experience I will always appreciate having the opportunity to participate in—the feeling of community, worshiping with Adventists from around the world, seeing how the Word of God is being spread.

“I HAVE A NEW APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE WORK THAT GOES INTO PREPARING FOR GC SESSION.”
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**GC Officers:**
Ted N. C. Wilson, president
G.T. Ng, secretary
Juan Prestol-Puesan, treasurer

Nearly 300 other individuals elected, including GC vp’s, GC associate secretaries, associate treasurers, department directors and associates, division presidents

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**President:** Highlights from 12 evangelism, nurture and outreach initiatives and activities around the world

**Secretary:** Significant shift in membership from Global North to Global South (now 91%) fundamentally changes the Adventist Church (bit.ly/GCSecretaryReport)

**Treasurer:** Giving continues—Over the past five years the annual worldwide tithe increases 31 percent to total $2.43 billion USD in 2014

**Division Reports** every evening (watch the NAD’s at vimeo.com/131616219)

**VOTES**

Organization for record number of new unions (35) most in Latin America and Africa

Fundamental Beliefs update, including new wording for #6 (Creation) that includes the words “recent” and “six literal days”

**Church Manual editorial changes** defining, among other things, disciplinary protocol for sexual misconduct

Constitution and Bylaws technical changes

General business/corporation meeting that GC is legally required to hold

Divisions may not decide to ordain without regard to gender; current practices remain unchanged

Resolution on the authority of the Holy Bible

Statement of confidence in the writings of church cofounder Ellen White

**EVENTS**

**Impact San Antonio:** Youth and young adults serving the community

**InStep4Life 5K Run/Walk:** promote healthful living

**Day Camp:** Fun activities for ages 10-16

**Musical Concerts:** Variety of styles and locations

**BOOThS**

Hundreds of Adventist organizations showcasing their ministries, methods and materials
IMPACT SAN ANTONIO

YOUNG ADULTS FLOOD THE COMMUNITY WITH LOVE AND HOPE*

While important church business was being conducted in the Alamodome last July, nearly 500 young Adventists from around the world gave a huge hug to the city of San Antonio. Lawns were mowed, repairs were made, hygiene packs were distributed and prayers were said for needy residents.

“We took a very diverse group of people and brought together a Christ-centered community that would...be out in the community of San Antonio making a massive difference with their time here,” said Benjamin Lundquist, who oversaw scheduling for Impact San Antonio and serves as young adult ministries director for the Arizona Conference and one of four young adult life coordinators for the North American Division.

Lundquist also said he hopes participants were able to say after the 10-day event, “I can do what I did at Impact in my community. I can be a catalyst in my community. I can be a leader. I can make this happen.”

IMPACT SAN ANTONIO

BY THE NUMBERS

12
Training sessions

14
Completed projects

500
Registered attendees

1,400
Weekend attendees first weekend

4,000
Weekend attendees, second weekend

50
Volunteer leaders

2,000
Water bottles distributed/used by Impact

30
Pairs of shoes distributed

750
Hygiene packs distributed

1,000+
Conversations and hugs: Thousands!

*Information from Adventist Review online

Photos: Seth Shaffer

Pieter Damsteegt
MORE THAN LEGOS

Union College’s booth at the GC Session was a continual beehive of activity as visitors of all ages collaborated to build amazing Lego creations.

“I love Union College and I love our booth.”
Elena Cornwell, Recent Union College Graduate

“…The Union College booth is where you learn to build your career and build your future.”
Harold Alomia, College View Church Pastor

Photos: Scott Cushman and Steve Nazario
The Philadelphia Church in Des Moines, Iowa continues in its efforts to reach the community in various ways.

**East Side Community Health Fair**

In June, the Philadelphia Church participated in a joint effort with the Eastside Community Health Fair at the MLK Community Center. Church members, along with community members and various organizations, were present. Hy-Vee stores donated bags of utensils that are generally used to prepare vegetables for healthy meals, and healthy snacks were available for people to take as samples. Salad vegetables were available on tables so that people could put together their own combination of salads.

A representative from the Polk County Board of Health said, “I’ve never seen so many kids enjoy eating salad,” adding that she was looking forward to coming back for future events. In addition to the food, a nurse was present screening Biometrics. This was also the first time the Eastside community was able to see Philadelphia Church’s Community Garden.

**Promoting the health message**

This year marks the second season of the Philadelphia Community Garden. Many members came out and planted, plowed, watered and worked very hard to put together this wonderful garden!

Though the garden is housed on Philadelphia’s property, it is not just for members; it’s for the community. Every Thursday, approximately 25 kids from the community come over to the garden to learn about gardening. Pastor Keith Hackle Jr. began the first session with a question to the children: “Who’s garden is this?”

“You,” they responded. “Wrong; this is your garden!” he corrected.

At the end of the session, Pastor Hackle repeated the same question: “Who’s garden is this?” to which the children replied with a resounding “Ours!”

**Come Out and Play Day**

This past summer Philadelphia Church hosted its first annual Come Out and Play Day. Intended to serve as an information session for the soon-coming youth center, the event gathered some 30 children on the lawn of the church, and later in the church basement for a day of fun and recreation. The children and adults were divided into two teams and had a fun time mingling and competing throughout the day.

Of the children who attended, nearly 50 percent were non-church members. Some arrived with other church members but a large percentage responded to invitations from the pastor and members. After an amazing brunch, the day consisted of team-oriented activities including soccer, basketball, football, Ping-Pong, musical chairs and a host of other games.

**Taking it to the streets**

For three years weekly Bible studies have been held at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter in downtown Des Moines by Elder Derek Covington, personal ministries activity outreach leader. Pastor Hackle joined Elder Covington in the study of God’s Word as members of the church and residents of the shelter gather every Monday for Bible study.

Elder Maurice LaMay has been ministering to the residents at the Rehabilitation Center Nursing Home for more than 10 years where he, along with Elder Evielean Thomas and Sister Belle Taylor, brings songs, the Word of God, personal prayer and treats to the residents. Elder Covington is in his sixth year of bringing the Word to the Union Park Nursing Home residents.

Sharon Tate is a member of the Philadelphia Church in Des Moines, Iowa.
Come one, come all! Ebenezer Fellowship Church in Minneapolis is inviting all past members and friends, along with current members from all around the world, to their first annual Homecoming Celebration on Sabbath, Oct. 31.

So whether you are as far away as Guyana, Jamaica, Antigua, England or as close as Massachusetts, Tennessee or at Oakwood University in Alabama, please plan to be part of history as we celebrate reuniting with old friends and making new acquaintances.

Founded over 27 years ago, Ebenezer Fellowship in Minneapolis was the first church plant for Central States Conference and as such has been the “anchor church” in Minnesota for Central States. Under the current leadership of Pastor Reuben Roundtree Jr., the congregation remains one of the most diverse in the conference and as of 2014 was 195 members strong.

The homecoming committee is planning for a high day in Zion to include a musical concert after sunset and invites all past members and friends of members to be part of this historic journey by contacting the homecoming chairperson, Callmie Dennis, at 612.432.1685 or by email: sirgeo322@usfamily.net or Melinda Suttle at 651.442.5505.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 4-6: Marriage Retreat in Minnesota
- Sept. 11-12: CAY Fall Federation in Kansas City
- Sept. 19: Men’s Day of Prayer & Fellowship
- Sept. 18-19: GPAY Fall Federation in Lincoln
- Sept. 20: Let’s Move Day
- Sept. 25-26: EAY Fall Federation in St. Louis
- Sept. 27-Oct. 3: Children’s Week of Prayer
- Oct. 2-3: Rocky Mountain Federation Town Hall
- Oct. 2-3: GLAY Fall Federation in Minneapolis
- Oct. 9-10: Great Lakes Federation Town Hall
- Oct. 9-11: Hispanic Women’s Retreat
- Oct. 10: Central Area Community Services Federation
- Oct. 16-17: RMAY Fall Federation in Denver
- Oct. 16-17: Eastern Federation Town Hall
- October 16-18: Marriage Retreat in Colorado
- Oct. 23-24: Hispanic AY Fall Federation in Omaha
- Oct. 23-24: Great Plains Federation Town Hall
- Oct. 24: St. Louis Mini Marriage Retreat
- Oct. 30-31: Central Federation Town Hall
Nursing Career Spans Seven Decades

In each place she worked, Estelle Tachenko’s goal was always to ensure that her patients had the best care possible.

The Bismarck Tribune of Bismarck, North Dakota distributed an insert in one of its Sunday flyers in May 2015 titled Celebrating 100 Years of Nursing Excellence: Past, Present and Future. In that circular was an article featuring the life and 70-year nursing career of Estelle Tachenko, a long-time member of the Grassy Butte Church.

Estelle Frances Lang Tachenko, 92 years young and married to Lonny for 68 years, “shares her dedication, love and respect through nursing,” read the introduction. Following are excerpts from the story, written by her daughter Lonna.

A first generation child of Germans-from-Russia immigrants on her father’s side, Estelle was the second of three children. Life in the 1920s and 30s had one focus—survival through hard work. And work she did, mostly outdoors as she would much rather be feeding her horse, or riding on a hayrack, than cleaning and cooking indoors like her older sister, Lorraine.

Entrepreneurship in the 1930s was trapping gophers. So Estelle trapped gophers, selling the tails for one cent each every Saturday evening when the family went to Gackle. They bought groceries at one of the town’s two grocery stores and bought ice cream for five cents a cone at the drug store. It was a huge highlight of the week, as many of the neighbors were also there.

When it came time to attend school, one of the older students graciously took pity on Estelle and Lorraine, teaching them English upon their enrollment in the first grade. It was then Estelle realized her love for learning. She wanted to explore, to travel, and to experience life in unusual dimensions.

By the sixth grade, she realized her life’s journey had two potential pathways: attend high school in Gackle and probably marry a Gackle boy, or attend Sheyenne River Academy, an Adventist boarding school in Harvey, North Dakota (a distance of 110 miles from home), work hard to pay the tuition, but be with other kids of like energy, like faith, and like goals of service.

Her father thought the girls should attend high school in Gackle and live with their grandparents. So, Estelle decided to pray. Every day she went into the barn and up to the hayloft where she knelt in prayer asking the Lord to make a way for her and Lorraine to attend academy.

All signs pointed to that not happening, as the family was poor. Furthermore, they depended on the girls for help with the chores—farming, milking, gardening and all parts of work necessary to survive.

Just one month before high school started Estelle queried her father one more time about the possibility of attending the academy. When her father, without hesitation, said yes, Estelle knew a miracle had just happened.

Establishing a foundation

At Sheyenne River Academy Estelle worked in the kitchen and the laundry. They were not exactly fun jobs, but staying in the academy demanded approximately three hours of work every day except Sabbath. On Sunday they were working while the other students were out skating.

After graduating from SRA, Estelle decided to attend classes at Union College and work at the bookbindery. There she met a girl who was preparing to be a nurse. Estelle was intrigued with what she heard. Nursing resonated with her. After one year of generals, Estelle was on the bus heading to Hinsdale Sanitarium near Chicago. A new friend also from North Dakota was on the bus, Ann Tachenko, who five years later would become Estelle’s sister-in-law.

The two girls stuck together for their tenure at Hinsdale, including clinical rotations in Hines, Peoria and Toronto. Upon graduation the girls stayed at Hinsdale for several months before returning to North Dakota. Beach, located near the Montana border, boasted what was considered a state-of-the-art facility, having a hospital, clinic and nursing home all in the same complex.

The owner of the facility was Dr. Bush, a famous doctor in his own right. After six months he had a frank and gracious discussion with the girls, counseling them to leave Beach and pursue nursing careers at hospitals in California where there would be more young professionals. It was during this move that Estelle met, and a year later married, Lonny Tachenko.
Building career and family

Lonny and Estelle moved to Ohio where Lonny was enrolled in a one-year mortuary science course at Cincinnati College of Embalming. Estelle had one of the most unique nursing experiences of her career at this time. Working as a private duty nurse, her patients included individuals whose names today are associated with major U.S. manufacturing and production companies.

After Lonny completed the mortuary science degree they moved to Colorado, living in the mortuary complex where Lonny worked 24/7. Estelle worked in a doctor's office.

In 1949, they decided to move back to North Dakota and bought the Lazy X Bar Ranch for $19 per acre. With the need for money critical, Estelle moved to Mandan and worked as a nurse at the Mandan Hospital. She lived in a dormitory attached to the hospital and rode the bus to Belfield once a month where Lonny would pick her up and take her the 30 miles to the ranch. She worked there until their first child, Lonna, was born in 1951. Another daughter, Brenda, was born in 1955.

The family did not have running water until 1960 when they built a ranch house very close to the original house, which incidentally was four shacks pulled together.

In 1969, Estelle returned to full-time nursing, making the 100-mile round trip journey between Fairfield and the Dickinson Nursing Center. Estelle worked there as the charge nurse on Unit Two for 30 years, ending her career in 1999 at the age of 76. Her goal was always to ensure that her patients had the best quality care possible.

Her life's mantra has been To God be the glory for the things He has done.

Dr. Lonna Milburn is the daughter of Lonny and Estelle Tachenko. She blends her healthcare background with her executive role in international development.

Black Hills Men’s Retreat

Sept. 11-13, 2015
Flag Mountain Camp
23071 Kinney Springs Road, Hill City, SD 57745

Daughters Lonna Milburn (left) and Brenda Tachenko celebrate with their parents Estelle and Lonny Tachenko (center) and William Cork, assistant director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, who presented Lonny a commemorative coin for his military service.
The House that Generosity Built

Larry and Debbie Zell needed a new house—and soon. Their mobile home was showing its age, yet they didn’t have the resources to purchase a new home or to have one built. But they did have land.

The Zells are members of the Ava Church in Missouri, and for a number of years fellow members have helped fix up their mobile home. However, the helpful members foresaw a day when repairs would no longer be enough. So when the Zells asked for assistance again in early 2014, church members knew they would have to look for a more permanent solution.

That’s where the story goes back to the land the Zells owned. Larry and Debbie told the church board they could sell some of it and use that money to buy materials to build a new house on their property, but they wouldn’t have any extra funds for labor costs. The church board voted that their members would supply the labor so the Zells could have a permanent, durable home.

In July of 2014 ground was broken and two months later, after the rain stopped, the foundation was poured. Retired Ava Church members Eck Ulrich, Jim Porter, Ed Kennedy and Ray Hoffmaster selflessly devoted three days a week to building the house. They also received assistance from members Fred Perlee, Mel Cline and Ava pastor, Craig Wiles, among others.

Larry and Debbie picked out the paint colors and counter tops, Larry’s family bought the appliances and they were in their new home by January 2015.

The Zells are extremely grateful for the generosity of their fellow church members and the crew couldn’t be happier with how the house turned out.

Articles by Michelle Hansen, communication director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.
Small Church Funds Big Projects

The Kimberling City Church in Missouri, with around 18 active members, has supplied the funding to build 18 One-Day Churches and one One-Day School, with a second school in the works. That means this small congregation has raised $33,500 in less than five years ($1,500 per church and $6,500 per school).

“Our church got involved with Maranatha’s One-Day Church ministry when one of our elders suggested it,” said Bill Burkett, Kimberling City’s head elder. “The first church we sponsored was the Phwechi Church in Malawi, Africa in 2010.”

The Kimberling City members have long been active in ministry projects; their latest local one is starting a low power FM radio station to broadcast Christian programming to the Branson area.

St. Joseph Bilingual Company Organized

The St. Joseph Bilingual Group has officially transitioned into a Company. The congregation has come a long way since the handful of believers began meeting in 2007 with the hopes of someday establishing a bilingual church.

“The group of nearly 30 members we have today is a rich mix of cultures including individuals from Costa Rica, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and the United States,” said Victor Onkoba, translator for the Bilingual Company service and a member of Three Angels Church in St. Joseph, Missouri.

During his remarks, Bilingual Company pastor Luis Centenaro thanked the many people who have helped them and shared his hope of someday having their own church building. They currently rent the St. Joseph Assembly of God Church.
If you’re a vegan lover, the Garden Grill Café in Wichita, Kansas is for you. Three years ago Chef Miguel Larcher opened the Garden Grill Café as an alternative for the predominantly meat-eating clientele in Wichita. He says the response from customers has been very positive and sometimes people dine without even realizing their meal was vegan.

Yet for Larcher, whose restaurant is the only vegan eatery in the state of Kansas, this café is not just where healthy meals are served. He considers this a ministry.

“We have lots of ministry through our restaurant. We’ve had baptisms, people are taking Bible studies and we offer free Bibles and literature. Adventist tracts are placed on each table,” Larcher said. “Each day our staff sings, studies the Bible and prays before opening the doors to customers.”

One could order a Mediterranean Grilled Portabella and read the tract titled Life after Death while waiting on the entrée. Other menu items include salads, pizza, sandwiches, soups and stews, smoothies and fresh squeezed juices.

During lunch hour the most popular item is the buffet, consisting of (the day this interview took place) salads, soup, pizza with mixed veggies, baked potatoes and muffins. The café’s slogan is Eat Better, Live Well.

“One customer said, ‘There is something different about your restaurant.’ We have hymns playing and they often see us praying,” Larcher said.

Born in the Caribbean country of Martinique, Larcher attended culinary schools in his native land as well as in Southern France, training under some of the top chefs in those countries. He is also a skilled pastry chef.

Opening cafés like this one in Wichita is nothing new to Larcher. He has opened similar restaurants in California, Oklahoma and South Africa. His vision is to one day open a mobile soup kitchen to serve the less fortunate with free meals. For now, he offers free cooking classes to the community.

Larcher also offers catering, but has to decline most requests due to the event being held during Sabbath hours. “I do get questions about why we are not open on Saturday. I’m always happy to explain,” he said.

As a member of the Wichita Cornerstone Church, Larcher wants to support the church any way he can. “I feel like I’m a pastor. Each day I am ministering to hungry souls.”

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.
Beatrice Members Share Prophecy Stick

The Prophecy Stick is a digital Bible study sharing device created by church members from Beatrice, Nebraska. This jump drive works with any operating system and contains a video welcome message, local church contact information, free Bible programs/app links and, most importantly, PDF Bible studies with links to YouTube videos featuring Adventist content.

For more information contact Dean Carlisle, pastor of the Beatrice District, at raqueldean@gmail.com.

KS-NE Conference Calendar
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT www.KS-NE.org

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SAVE THE DATE
From Shame to Delight

Speaker: Carla Gober-Park, Director for Spiritual Life & Wholeness at Loma Linda University

Oct. 23-25, 2015
Grand Island, NE

To register contact Sue Carlson or Susan Sweigart at 785.478.4726

Scenic photos taken within Kansas & Nebraska are needed for the 2016 Conference Calendar

Deadline is October 1, 2015
Email high-rez jpegs to jtreolo@ks-ne.org or call 785.478.4726
The issue of women’s ordination is not a new topic. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been wrestling with this off and on for more than 100 years. Adventist historians say that between 1870 and 1900 the church had seen over 20 women receive ministerial credentials, Ellen White among them.

There was in the church, before and during the 2015 General Conference Session, a lot of discussion leading up to the “No” vote. The question that was voted was on whether or not to allow the 13 divisions to each decide for themselves about ordaining women to the gospel ministry within their own territories. The vote by secret paper ballot was 1,381 opposing and 977 in favor. Therefore, this vote does not allow divisions to ordain women to the gospel ministry as they deem fit. However, this vote does not change the policy on commissioning women pastors. We, as a conference, will respect the decision of the world church.

I think the question we need to ask now is, What’s next? To answer, I quote Elder Daniel Jackson because I think his remarks sum up the North American Division’s position and thus the Minnesota Conference’s position: “We ask our members to focus their energies on the one thing we can agree on—the mission of the church. God has called all of us to serve Him in ministry, whether we are recognized by the church or not. The NAD recognizes that every person, no matter his or her race, age or gender, has a vital role to play in sharing the gospel message with the world. Let us be united as a family that is bound by the love and grace of Jesus Christ. While we may disagree on various approaches to ministry, let us all agree on the need to reach all people with the message of hope, wholeness and a new life in Jesus. We will continue with our intention of placing as many women into pastoral ministry as possible. We affirm the important role they play in reaching all of God’s children. We ask that all members of the Adventist Church keep praying for God’s guidance as we move forward in mission.”

As was evidenced at the 2015 General Conference Session, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing rapidly around the world. During the business meetings a total of 35 new union conferences were approved. These are mostly located in Africa, Central America and South America. “The high number of new unions is unprecedented in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is a reflection of the church growing with breakneck speed around the world,” said G. T. Ng, executive secretary of the General Conference.

On the morning of July 16, I looked at the Minnesota Conference membership and noticed that our total is 9,351. We are growing and we praise the Lord! Having said that, I am sobered by the fact that we are not growing as fast as we should. Our membership in 2014 was only 0.17% compared to the Minnesota population.

I am not pessimistic or bemoaning the lack of growth. Christian writers over the years have done studies looking at church growth problems and
July 16, 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Ellen G. White, whose life ended at the age of 87. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan.

Ellen White, in her lifetime, saw the Seventh-day Adventist church grow from a small band of disappointed Millerites to a global movement. Now, 100 years after her death, she is being remembered as:

1. One of the 100 most significant Americans of all time (according to Smithsonian magazine)
2. The most translated female author of non-fiction (over 140 languages)
3. One who wrote on a wide range of subjects i.e., creation, agriculture, education, theology, evangelism, lifestyle and health
4. One whose writings have been most influential in changing lives (mine included)
5. One whose writing and influence has been instrumental in the establishment of schools, colleges, universities, clinics, hospitals and medical centers on several continents
6. One of the founders of the Adventist church, which is now established in 216 countries with a membership of well over 18 million. The Seventh-day Adventist church has more than 78,000 organized churches and 69,213 companies in 13 world divisions.

Ellen White (1827-1915) is the most translated female author of non-fiction and considered by Smithsonian to be one of the 100 most significant Americans.

Before she passed away she wrote: “In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (Counsels for the Church, 359).

2. Randy Harmdierks, communication seminar 2015
Forty-five pastors and their families from the Rocky Mountain Conference were among more than 5,500 attendees who gathered last summer for a four-day convention in Austin, Texas preceding the General Conference Session in nearby San Antonio.

In addition to participating in dozens of seminars sponsored by the North American Division Ministerial Department, the RMC ministers were invited by Ed Barnett, conference president, to a meeting introducing a plan to organize a special outreach event in 2016 in Denver, hosted by evangelist Mark Finley and his team.

“We are excited about this possibility, and we want to hear from him about the program he envisions for the Denver series,” Barnett said at the meeting.

The 2016 event will build on Finley’s earlier public evangelism in 2004, which resulted in nearly 500 baptisms. These meetings, however, will have a different approach to correspond with a growing interest in health in the United States. The eight-day series will be based on CREATION Health, a program developed by Florida Adventist Hospital.

The series will combine an exposé on principles of health, cooking and nutrition presented by Ernestine Finley and a biblically-based spiritual application—all aiming at reducing health risks that “have become a killer in our society,” Finley explained.

Meeting with the ministers offered Finley an opportunity to present a plan that would involve local churches becoming part of intensive preparation up to seven months in advance of the series. Finley stated that he wants to involve “pastors who are totally committed to supporting the meetings and doing a totally structured follow up. Our goal is to help Colorado become the healthiest state in the United States.”

Referring to recent research and media exposure of the Adventist lifestyle contributing to an increased longevity of seven or eight years, Finley is recommending Living to a Healthy 100 as a theme for the series, which will involve some 30 Adventist congregations in metropolitan Denver with perhaps 100 simultaneous satellite events throughout Colorado and Wyoming.

Barnett said the Finley series also offers an opportunity to involve Adventist hospitals and their community presence in the program.

Responding to the plan, RMC health director Rick Mautz welcomed the program as a challenge and an opportunity to present the benefits of an Adventist lifestyle.

“We will want to be involved,” he stated. The Austin convention offered the RMC health ministry the opportunity to present an exhibit featuring Walking the Health Path Together program for congregations. He spoke with hundreds of ministers who expressed an interest in the RMC program.

“When pastors stop here and we talk about the program we are offering, they say: ‘This is what we want to do also,’” Mautz said.

Though the exact date for the Denver series was not announced, Finley stated that one of his goals is to “see our churches become loving centers of God’s redeeming grace.”
Boulder Student Participates in National Spanish Spelling Bee

Linda Buitron, a fourth-grader at Columbine Elementary School in Boulder and member of the Boulder Church, won the Spanish Spelling Bee for her school this year. She went on to compete at the national level in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 17 and 18. At eight years old, she was the youngest contestant and in the lowest grade.

Pablo, Linda’s father, has been her main coach since the local spelling bee. “We spent about an hour a day spelling the competition words,” he said. “And I used the Internet to find helpful rules about word endings and etymologies.”

Linda placed 11th out of 26. The winner was a ninth-grader, who also won the competition last year. The event organizer gave special recognition to Linda as the youngest contestant. Finishing 11th of 26 and in round seven was quite an accomplishment for her, considering that the other students were older and in higher grades.

Linda has depended on God’s help since the beginning of the contest. “I always pray before I study, and I prayed before each round of the competition,” she said. “I asked God to help me study, even when I would rather have been making designs with the Rainbow Loom.”

Gloria, Linda’s mother, has also been a huge support. She says she is already planning the family’s trip to San Antonio next year for the national competition. “Linda is excited about getting the new spelling list and working on it right away,” she added.

“Si Dios quiere,” or “If God wills it,” Linda says of winning next year’s competition. Her trust in God, her perseverance, and her gentle spirit among the contestants were inspiring to many around her.

Gideon Logan is 12 years old and a member of the Wyoming Waldensians. Named after the famous Italian Anabaptists, whose witnessing for Christ became a hallmark of their success, the Wyoming Waldensians also resort to creative methods of witnessing.

Gideon joined eight other Waldensians last summer on a trip to Arizona. Their objective was to conduct a Vacation Bible School as well as evangelistic outreach in Paige, and also do some construction work on the Navajo Reservation.

At Wyoming camp meeting last July, Gideon shared a story with the 200 attendees about a dog that made them opt for an alternative delivery method for a leaflet invitation to a series of meetings.

Accompanied by Pastor Ruben Scherencel, two team members were near a home where they wanted to deliver the invitation to evening meetings, “but there was this dog and we were afraid of it,” Gideon explained. “But we needed to get that leaflet delivered to this house,” he continued.

“I came up with the idea to make a paper airplane and send it over the fence. It was perhaps the worst one I ever did.” Gideon smiled and reported that surprisingly it went straight, landing on the porch.

That evening while talking to a family who attended the meeting he asked how they heard about the program. They replied that they found a paper airplane on their porch!

The Waldensians are just one expression of what Awaken Wyoming is about. Individual congregations in Wyoming are hiring Bible workers and utilizing resources at their disposal. One pastor expressed that it is taking a variety of dedicated lay people—cowboys, housewives, retired teachers and an enthusiastic group of youth—to fulfill what is poignantly expressed in the camp meeting theme song Awaken Wyoming.

Read more camp meeting stories at www.rmcsda.org/news_entries/5487.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.
Christopher Banks, new assistant professor of history at Union College, has developed an international relations degree that will prepare students for government service as well as international business and law.

In fall 2015, Union College began offering a bachelor of arts degree in international relations, a program designed to prepare students for careers requiring global perspectives within government service, business and law.

“World trade, investments in other countries, international organizations and other groups with an international focus have been growing faster than the U.S. economy,” said Malcolm Russell, Union’s vice president for Academic Administration. “We are fortunate to have a doctoral student from Oxford University to lead the program.”

Christopher Banks joined the history faculty in December to develop the new program and began teaching U.S. History and International Relations classes in August. “I love history and international relations as subjects because I love to research and analyze the connections between trends, people and events and their effect on our lives today,” Banks said. “The international relations program confirms students’ preparation in the four subject areas of international relations: political science, finance, geography and languages.”

The new program is a revamping of Union’s former international studies degree with a number of new classes developed by Banks. “The vision for this program is that Union will be the first Seventh-day Adventist college to create an international relations degree that will help prepare students to infuse Christ’s character and Christ-centered global work in church and non-church institutions,” said Banks.

Some of the new courses include The Modern Middle East: From 1800 to the Present; Global Environment; and The Political Economy of International Labor. Students will also study regional and thematic courses on Russia, India, Latin America, the Caribbean, China and the U.S. War on Terror.

“Skills that students will acquire through the courses for this degree include the ability to intelligently discuss world events and reading and understanding professional-level writing about relations between nations—more than basic business skills,” said Russell. “Also they will have an intermediate understanding of a foreign language and research skills in the social sciences.”

“Students studying international relations will gain a comprehensive understanding of how governments and non-governmental organizations work and are financed,” Banks added. He believes skills in rhetoric, critical thinking and critical analysis are necessary for jobs in government and financial industries as well as for law and graduate school.

“They will also gain a critical understanding of the ways in which government service and finance are intertwined,” said Banks. “These skills are in demand in work and government service.”

International relations has been a lifelong passion for Banks. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Brown University followed by a master’s in international affairs from Columbia University. He is currently attempting a PhD in politics at the University of Oxford.

“I was drawn toward the camaraderie of the students and the self-sacrifice and passion of the professors to the standard and progression of Seventh-day Adventist college education,” he said. “The best thing about Union is the sincere community and collegiality of the professors and students.”

For Banks, teaching allows him to engage in new theories, conduct research, and to discuss and make others aware of past and present political and historical trends. “I am looking forward to helping to prepare international relations majors who are following God’s will in every part of their lives,” he said. “My advice for prospective students coming to Union is that they should be prepared to combine a love of a subject with the passion to do God’s will in every part of their lives.”

According to Banks, students who graduate with a bachelor’s degree in international relations will be qualified to work as researchers or analysts in U.S. government agencies, or in national and international developing organizations and agencies. Students will also be able to further their education to master’s or doctoral programs in most humanities programs or law schools.

To learn more, visit www.ucollege.edu/internationalrelations.

Articles by Megan Wehling, a senior English major from Lincoln, Nebraska.
Finding a Calling in Service

If I would have known better, I would have done better. “Angela Washington listened to the repentant cry of a mom in anguish. Sitting in a cold courtroom, watching the mother awaiting the verdict, she saw a judge decide the fate of this family.

“I was at court for a teen meeting,” said Washington of watching the mother’s parental rights terminated. “This hit home for me because I looked into her eyes and saw that her addiction weighed so heavily on her and held her in such a bond that she ended up losing her child. Her words kept ringing in my ears.”

This experience was one of many that ultimately led Washington, who graduated from Union College in 2009 dreaming of a career in marketing, to work at St. Monica’s Behavioral Health Services for Women in Lincoln helping mothers who have lost their children.

I want to be a track star

Social work didn’t show up on Washington’s radar when looking at colleges the summer after she graduated from high school. She wanted to go to a university and become a track star. But her mom had other plans. She convinced Washington to visit Union, tour the campus and meet with a financial aid counselor.

As the youngest child in her big family, Washington felt she wouldn’t be able to afford Union because she didn’t want to put a financial strain on her parents. But everything changed when she mentioned her summer job selling Magabooks in Chicago. When the counselor explained that Union would match her Magabook earnings she set a summer goal that would give her the money necessary to enroll at Union. She worked hard, her mom prayed and in the end Angela made just enough to cover her college expenses.

Learning leadership

At Union, Washington enrolled in the leadership certificate program (which has since become the leadership minor). One day while sitting around a table in Dr. Linda Becker’s office with other leadership students, Becker asked, “What type of leader do you want to be?”

“CEO,” said one student. “Politician!” piped up another.

“I don’t know,” Angela said. “I just want to have a job at the end of the day.”

Becker then assigned the students to research leaders in popular culture and Washington discovered she admired a variety of characteristics in different leaders. “I want to be the type of leader who is right there with whoever is following,” she later told her teacher.

Finding a calling

During her senior year studying communication and marketing, Washington met with her academic adviser to discuss finding an internship. Angela explained that she liked helping people, but wanted to work in business or management.

“Have you ever considered working for a nonprofit?” her adviser asked.

In fact, Washington had fallen in love with the idea of working for an organization that gives back to the community. She eventually landed at People’s City Mission, a local homeless shelter, where she pitched the leadership on creating a campaign to raise donations for food. The project drew citywide attention and Washington received the Nebraska Governor’s Point of Light Award for her volunteer service to the community.

Finding a career

Now Angela works with moms at St. Monica’s to help reconnect them with their children based on a court-ordered parenting plan—often including bonding and attachment exercises or engagement with the child. Angela also oversees family services and two childcare centers, and teaches parenting classes four days a week. “The phrase, ‘If I would have known better, I would have done better,’ keeps coming back to me,” said Washington.

Although her life calling landed her in a quite different place than she originally imagined, Washington’s training at Union and guidance from caring professors helped her find a career she loves. “Don’t be afraid to ask questions and learn everything you can about the degrees offered at Union,” she advises current students. “Everyone at Union is very helpful and will point you in the right direction to find answers.”

Learn more about finding a calling at Union College at www.ucollege.edu.
Medical Mission Trip Extends the Healing Mission of SMH

Shawnee Mission Health has partnered with Global Health Initiatives to provide international medical mission trip opportunities for the SMH family to participate in. Three SMH nurses, Helina Kebede, Maria Romero and Latoyea Taylor, traveled to Iquitos, Peru this past summer. The surgical nurses participated in a medical mission trip to the Amazon where they performed general surgeries and assisted with various other responsibilities to improve the lives of the Peruvian people.

Healthcare concerns abound in Peru—there is a plethora of people, yet a lack of simple supplies. Basic healthcare needs are not met due to the isolated region, poverty and too few volunteers. GHI and SMH provided medical supplies as well as talented individuals who were willing to donate their time to better the lives of the people of Iquitos.

This medical mission was Romero’s second trip with SMH. On her first medical mission, Romero, who has worked at SMH for 23 years, traveled to Puebla, Mexico and assisted with general surgery.

“The hospital was looking for volunteers to help,” said Romero. “I was able to go and I thought that it would be good for me to do something for the hospital that has done so much for me.”

For Kebede and Taylor, Peru was their first medical mission trip. “It is a life-changing experience getting to help people who are disadvantaged,” said Taylor.

Kebede hopes that this experience will be the first of many more mission trips to come. “We are to show the love of Christ in what we do,” she said. “This is not always easy but with His help we can. This trip allowed us to spread the message of love and kindness.”

In the future, SMH plans to sponsor more medical mission trips for associates, thanks to a $1 million grant from the Cusick family. The grant was established to create the Dr. J. Douglas Cusick Medical Missions Endowment Fund. This endowment will be used to launch mission trips through SMH, covering the cost of supplies, equipment and some of the travel expenses for associates.

“Medical mission trips give Shawnee Mission Health associates the opportunity of Extending the Healing Mission of Christ beyond our walls and around the world,” said Mark Stoddart, administrative director of Spiritual Wellness.

“Through partnerships with organizations like GHI and now with the grant from Dr. Cusick, we look forward to sharing the time and talents of our doctors and nurses with those in need, no matter how far away.”

If you would like to apply for the next medical mission trip contact Mark Stoddart: mark.stoddart@shawneemission.org. For more information about how you can contribute to the Dr. J. Douglas Cusick Medical Mission Endowment, please contact The Foundation at 913.676.2055 or visit ShawneeMission.org/Foundation.

Analisa Bregant is an intern for Shawnee Mission Health.
A week at summer camp builds bonds of friendships between campers, counselors and activity staff. The spiritual seeds that are planted last a lifetime and can bear fruit for eternity.

Centura Health has discovered that the shortest route to the hearts of its employees is through their children. In 2001, Centura leaders committed to sponsoring its employees’ children to attend camp at Glacier View Ranch for a week each summer at reduced rates.

The timing was perfect. The Diabetes Association, which had reserved time at GVR each summer for diabetic campers, had just begun using a different facility, leaving a spot open for a new summer camp program. Centura and GVR leaders recognized this opportunity, and Friendship Camp was born. Initially Centura campers, from juniors to teens, attended a special week of summer camp set aside for them.

In 2005, Centura merged Friendship Camp with GVR’s other camps and began sponsoring Centura kids to attend with other GVR campers their own age during regularly scheduled camp weeks. As a result, more Centura kids began taking advantage of the program, which led to increased resources and expanded programming for GVR, which in turn benefited everyone.

It’s no surprise that Centura leaders receive more positive feedback about this program than any other program they provide for their employees and associates.

“This has been a huge success,” shares Kirk King, coordinator of the Friendship Camp program. “We’ve seen growth nearly every year.”

During the 2015 summer camp season, 168 Centura Friendship campers attended GVR. At the end of each week, all campers and parents responded to a survey created by King to identify demographics and to measure satisfaction levels with various camp features, including programming.

This year, just 15 percent of the Centura employees who completed the survey identified themselves as Seventh-day Adventists, while 39 percent of combined Centura and non-Centura respondents identified as Adventist. At the other end of the spectrum, 21 percent of all respondents identified either as non-Christian or as having no spiritual affiliation overall, while 42 percent identified as Catholic or other Protestant.

King believes that the high attendance of non-Adventist and non-Christian campers was largely due to Centura employees inviting their neighbors, as well as of former and non-sponsored Centura employees sending their children to camp at regular rates. Overall, 95 percent responded that the spiritual programming was “very good,” “awesome,” or “interesting”—a remarkably high rating considering the high percentage of campers coming from non-Adventist and non-Christian backgrounds. Approximately 10 percent of Centura campers indicated that they would like to know more about Jesus, while just 5 percent indicated that they did not care about the lessons they learned about Jesus at camp. Altogether, the statistics indicate a tremendous, ongoing opportunity for outreach.

“One of the coolest things about it,” shares King, “is that I get campers telling me at the end of the week that Sabbath was their favorite day of the week. And this is coming from kids who have no spiritual background. This is about giving kids opportunities to experience Jesus. It’s about planting spiritual seeds.”

Many of the parents expressed their appreciation in the comments section of the survey:

“This was our daughter’s first sleep-away experience and she LOVED it! She’s already talking about next year! Thank you for taking such good care of her!”

“This camp was fantastic for our children! They unplugged and became more in touch with their inner souls. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of this program. Thank you so much!”

“Thank you so much for making a positive difference in the spiritual lives of my kids.”

“Our kids really enjoyed camp this year. It was the best year so far…. They had a blast, and can’t wait to go next year! Thank you to the Centura leadership for sponsoring our kids through the Friendship Camp scholarship!”

What started out as an opportunity to enrich the lives of Centura employees’ children ultimately blessed Glacier View Ranch, as well as other campers from the Rocky Mountain Conference. From everyone’s perspective, it’s a win-win.

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/Centura Health, where he serves the five Adventist hospital campuses in Colorado. It was written by Mark Bond.

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Farewell

Bjorklund, Vada D., b. Aug. 8, 1924 in Springview, NE. d. May 21, 2015 in Springview, NE. Member of Springview Church. Survivors include daughter Rutha Larsen; 3 siblings; 8 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.


Carle, Eugene W., b. July 6, 1948 in LaHarpe, IL. d. Feb. 11, 2015 in South Park, CO. Member of Fairplay (CO) Church. Survivors include wife Cherie; daughter Kim; son Eugene; 2 sisters; 6 grandchildren.

Cassell, Anise E., b. Dec. 28, 1955 in Fremont, NE. d. Mar. 13, 2015 in Omaha, NE. Member of Broken Bow Church. Preceded in death by husband Lowell; parents. Survivors include daughter Tonya; sons Tracey and Travis; 3 siblings; 6 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.


Creech, Ruth I., b. Apr. 23, 1920 in Hill City, KS. d. May 16, 2015 in McPherson, KS. Member of McPherson Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include daughter Susann Graber; sons Gary and Terry Booth; 9 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.


Hagel, Margaret H., b. Apr. 3, 1922 in Sykeston, ND. d. May 22, 2015 in Carrington, ND. Member of New Home Church. Preceded in death by husband Clifford; 3 siblings; 3 grandchildren.


Harr, Vernon S., b. Sept. 2, 1932 in Woodworth, ND. d. May 27, 2015 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother; 1 grandson. Survivors include wife Cleo; children Teree Rittenbach, Peg Tinker, Pam Wenzel and Curt Harr; 3 sisters; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Janes, Don N., b. Sept. 28, 1937 in Wayzata, MN. d. May 29, 2015 in Long Lake, MN. Member of Westview Church. Survivors include wife Glee; daughters Gayle Dalbec, Jeanne Utz and Laura Noble; 2 siblings; 2 granddaughters.

Jennings, Mavis L., b. Apr. 1, 1940 in Ellsworth, KS. d. July 17, 2015 in McPherson, KS. Member of McPherson Church. Preceded in death by husbands Gary Bush, Robert Wendlandt and Kenny Jennings; 3 siblings. Survivors include daughters Brenda Likely and Becky Robertson; son Gary Wendlandt; 4 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.


Leach, Betty J., b. Feb. 21, 1926 in Beaver City, NE. d. June 18, 2015 in Hastings, NE. Member of Beaver City Church. Preceded in death by husband Conner; son Jerry; 2 siblings. Survivors include daughters Myrna Peterson and Linda Odell; sons Gary and Robert; 1 brother; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

Lorenz, Elma E., b. Oct. 26, 1923 in LaSalle, CO. d. Apr. 5, 2015 in Gilcrest, CO. Member of Gleeley Church. Survivors include husband Oliver (now deceased).

Lorenz, Oliver J., b. May 13, 1922 in Gilcrest, CO. d. Apr. 6, 2015 in Gilcrest, CO. Member of Gleeley Church. Preceded in death by wife Elma.

Makiya, Joseph, S., b. Dec. 25, 1927 in Pohnpeii, Micronesia. d. June 30, 2015 in Omaha, NE. Member of Omaha Memorial Church. Preceded in death by parents; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Thelma; son Tovin; 1 brother.


Miller, Sharon R., b. Dec. 10, 1956 in Dickinson, ND. d. May 21, 2015 in Bismarck, ND. Member of Cleveland Church. Preceded in death by parents. Survivors include husband Jerry; daughter Resa Wald; son Justin; 2 brothers.


Schuman, Lillie, b. Oct. 9, 1928 in Rulison, CO. d. Apr. 15, 2015 in Greeley, CO. Member of Brighton (CO) Church. Preceded in death by husband Virgil; son DeNeal; 9 siblings. Survivors include daughters DeAnn Buller and Dawn Tohm; son Douglas; 9 grandchildren.

Sinclair, Howard, b. Nov. 11, 1918 in Rockwell, TX. d. Apr. 6, 2014 in MO. Member of Ava (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Ava. Survivors include wife Catherine; son Timothy Paul; stepsons Matthew and Jason Oaks; 4 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren. Served in the Army during WWII and was awarded the Victory Medal, three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Smith, Wilma L., b. Nov. 7, 1912 in Turton, SD. d. Apr. 27, 2015 in Peoria, AZ. Member of Sun Cities-Peoria Church. Preceded in death by husband Kenneth; 1 brother; 2 grandsons. Survivors include daughter Bonnie Heinrich; sons Gary and Daryl; 1 sister; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.


Stevens, Phyllis "Eileen," b. Sept. 25, 1935 in Paola, KS. d. July 19, 2015 in Lincoln, NE. Member of Chapel Oaks Church. Survivors include husband Charles; daughter Diana Jo; son Jerry Lynn; 2 siblings; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

Sutherland, Stephen J., b. Feb. 5, 1961 in Milwaukee, WI. d. Mar. 22, 2015 in MN. Member of Minnetonka Church. Preceded in death by infant twin sons Brian and Michael; father. Survivors include wife Alana; sons Bradley; Daniel and Adam; mother; 3 siblings.

Tachenko, Alma V., b. Dec. 5, 1928 in McKenzie County, ND. d. June 9, 2015 in Baker City, OR. Member of Grassy Butte Church. Preceded in death by husband Joe; 10 siblings. Survivors include sons Rodney and Terry; 3 siblings; 4 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren.

Wagner, Phillip, b. May 3, 1931 in Shaffer, KS. d. June 10, 2015 in LaCrosse, KS. Member of LaCrosse Church. Preceded in death by 2 siblings; 2 grandsons. Survivors include wife Gladys; daughters Sandy Hold and Kayla Booth; sons Lenard and Todd; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild. Army Medical Corp Veteran.


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Southern Adventist University offers master’s degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatesstudies.

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural Oklahoma setting but 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.

The Construction Management Job outlook is strong with an expected growth rate of 16 percent. Southern Adventist University offers both associate and bachelor degrees in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to succeed in a job site. Southern’s program features hands-on experience while incorporating Christ-centered value. Visit southern.edu/tech for more information.

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Vigorous Living Lifestyle 28-Day Program for individuals challenged with addiction issues stemming from drugs, stress, alcohol, appetite, smoking and depression. Program dates are flexible. Cost: $4800. Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, Tennessee. Register online at www.butlercreekhealth.org or call 931.213.1329.

EMPLOYMENT

Adventist physician seeks partner for anesthesia practice. Due to expanding service lines at rapidly growing physician-led hospital in Kearney, Nebraska, Sonno Anesthesia is looking for an Adventist anesthesiologist to join our team of four CRNAs and one MD. Must have experience in cardiac, neuro, orthopedic and spine, along with other routine anesthesia cases. Small, friendly and growing Adventist church in vibrant Christian community. For more information email wehlingm15@gmail.com.

Black Hills Health & Education Center staff openings: Plant Operations Manager, Food Service Director, Physician, Details and applications: www.bhhec.org, 1.605.255.4101.

Mathematics professor sought by Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Doctorate or ABD required for tenure track position. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching, and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and CV to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair, Division of Science and Mathematics, cawolfe@ucollege.edu.

Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Adventist Bindery Workers for full-time positions. Requirements: 2-4 years’ experience with demonstrated mechanical aptitude and proven ability to set up and run difficult bindery machines, ability to stand for a complete shift and lift loads of up to 40 lbs. Hourly rate based on experience. Contact Ms. Aixi Manskter, HR Director, PO Box 5353 Nampa ID 83653, P: 208.465.2567, F: 208.465.2531, E: aliman@pacificpress.com.

Southwestern Adventist University Advancement office seeks full-time vice president. Responsibilities center primarily in development, in addition to PR/Marketing & Alumni. Minimum bachelor’s degree and two years advancement experience required, master’s degree preferred. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University has an immediate opening for a full-time nurse educator to serve as Chair for Nursing Department. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license, Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

The NAD’s Adventist Learning Community in Berrien Springs, Michigan is seeking an IT Manager. Requirements include either a BA/BS in Computer Science or related field, or equivalent work experience as well as knowledge of development and technical skills. If interested, contact Johana Prestold-Dominguez, PHR at Johanna.prestol@nadj.org.

Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certification.
to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development: dewhite@ucollege.edu. Effective summer 2016.

Union College seeks Adventist nursing instructor with teaching experience, excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills, and an MSN. Experience in Mental Health, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology preferred. Please submit cover letter, curriculum vitae or resume, and three references to Nicole Orian at niorian@ucollege.edu.

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**EVENTS**

Andrews University’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is celebrating their 75th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of their seminar program. Alumni and friends are invited to participate in or guest lecture at events throughout the year. Info coming to andrews.edu/cas/chemistry soon. You may also contact Desmond Murray: 269.757.1641; murrayd@andrews.edu.

CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) provides a simple, effective turnkey solution for the top chronic diseases facing our communities today. Interested in bringing CHIP to your community by becoming a CHIP facilitator? Attend our two-day certification program in Loveland, Colorado, Oct. 17-18. For more info call 970.308.2716 or email chip@skybeam.com.

Minot (ND) Church 100th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 19 at 9:30 am. Address: 10 17th Ave SW, Minot, ND. There will be special speakers and a concert at 3:30 pm. Lunch and supper will be provided. For further information, contact Lenore Scheresky at 701.839.7701 or 701.340.3291.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend, Sept. 18-19 at Gates Hall (825 15th St) in Nevada, Iowa. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. Honor classes: ’40, ’45, ’50, ’55, ’60, ’65, ’70, ’75, ’80. For more information contact Allayne Petersen Martsching: 402.612.7368, allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

**NOTICES**

Mission opportunity for Sabbath School groups, families or individuals! ACI (Adventist Child India) coordinates sponsors for Adventist children in India to attend school. $420 ($35/mo) 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 rdbinder42@gmail.com.
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