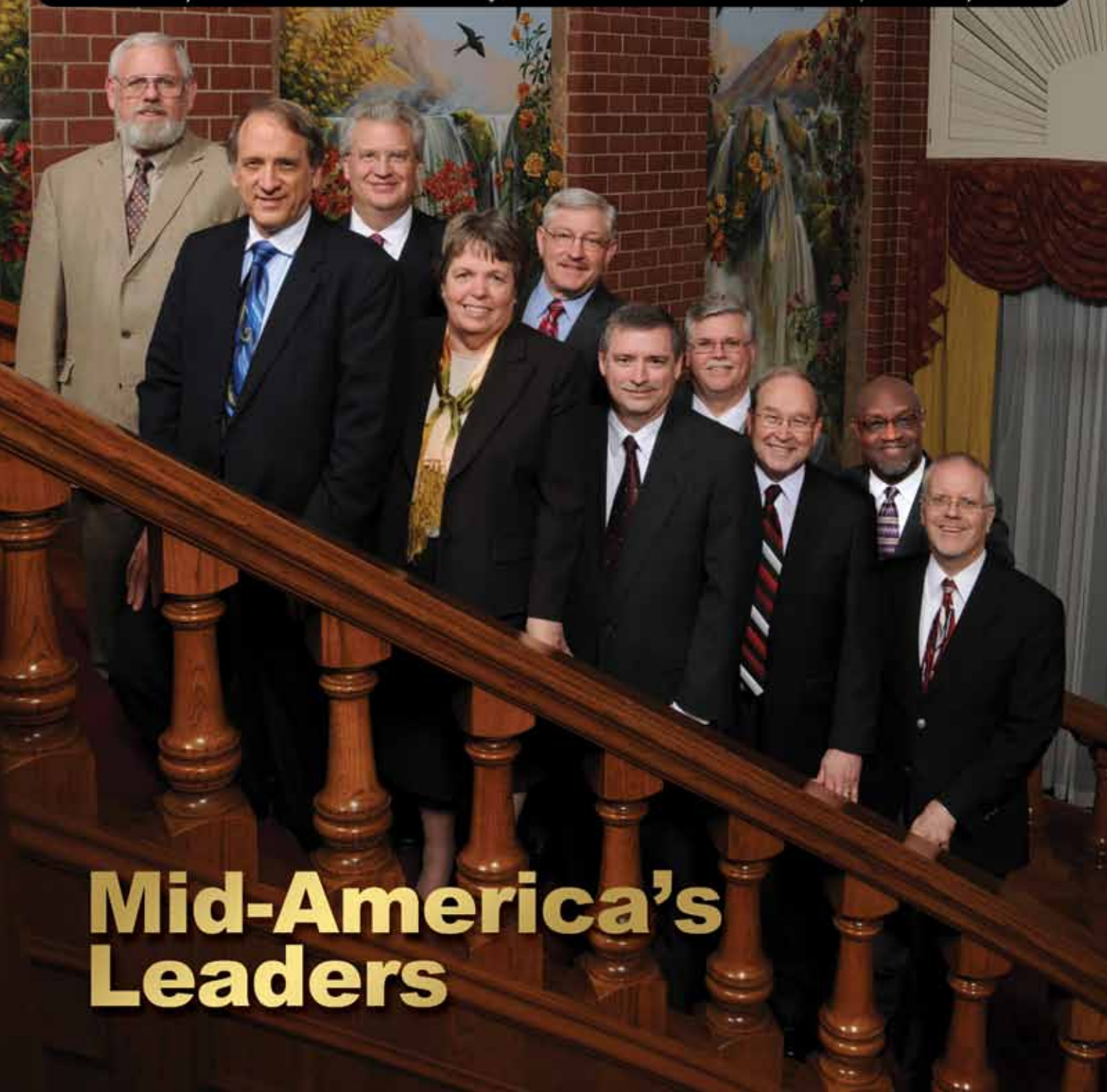


SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY ISSUE

# Outlook

*News and Inspiration From the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mid-America | March/April 2011*



## Mid-America's Leaders



# Outlook

March/April 2011

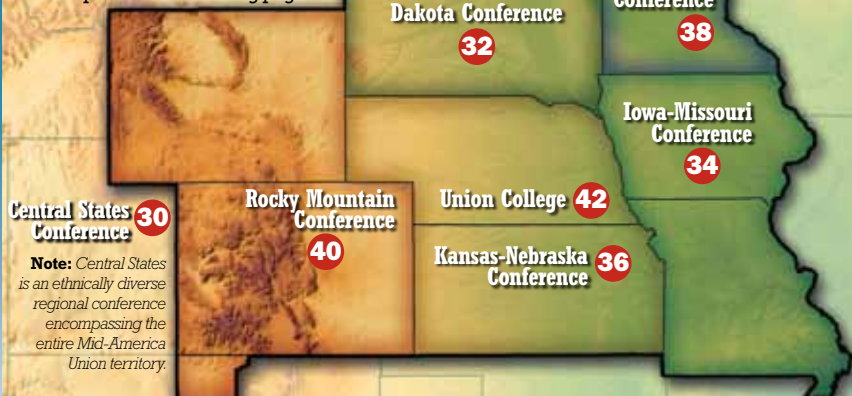
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Cover photo by Steve Nazario

## Mid-America Union

Find individual conference reports on the following pages...



**Note:** Central States is an ethnically diverse regional conference encompassing the entire Mid-America Union territory.

## In This Issue...

On the cover of this Constituency Session issue of *Outlook* are the leaders of the Mid-America Union. Out front at the top is Thomas L. Lemon, union president. Beside him is Elaine Hagele, vice president for finance, and then Troy Peoples, associate VP for finance. David Smith, Union College president, is next. They are standing with the presidents of Mid-America's local conferences as a symbol of support for building up our local churches—which is the heart and soul of everything they do.

The beautiful stairway on which they stand is a well-known artifact at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. This setting is more than a nice place for a picture—it was the site of the recent union-wide Education Summit. President Tom Lemon chose that occasion as the time to take the picture, not just because of the convenience and the scenery, but also to send a message of how important Adventist education is in the life of local churches throughout Mid-America.

In these pages you will find the five-year “quinquennium” report of Adventist education and the other departments that work out of Mid-America Union headquarters. To the right you see the entire office staff. All of us are honored to serve you, the 64,573 members of the Mid-America Union family.

Martin Weber, editor

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## Local Conferences

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[www.central-states.org](http://www.central-states.org)

**DAKOTA:** P.O. Box 520, 217 North Grand Ave., Pierre, SD 57501; 605.224.8868  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)

**IOWA-MISSOURI:** P.O. Box 65665, 1005 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50265; 515.223.1197  
[www.imsda.org](http://www.imsda.org)

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# Together Today to Transform Tomorrow

By Thomas L. Lemon

Steve Nazario



Raylene Jones, Thomas Lemon

The word “change” is losing its meaning in American culture. I see it almost as a mindless mantra reflecting false expectations for a fantasy existence. People demand change when they don’t like what’s happening. But even when things are going well, change still occurs, unintended and unexpected—like many of the changes during the past five years at Mid-America Union headquarters.

During the past quinquennium, our administrative team has undergone a complete change. Mrs. Elaine Hagele was elected vice president for finance at the last constituency meeting. Troy Peoples became associate treasurer after Walt Sparks retired. And I am the

third president since that meeting.

All but one of our departments changed leadership during the past five years. Youth and Church Ministries transitioned with the arrival of Hubert Cisneros after Van Hurst became president of the Indiana Conference.

Maurice Valentine joined us from Colorado as our new ministerial director. John Kriegelstein stepped in to lead our Office of Education when Ron Russell retired in 2008. LouAnn Howard continues as associate director of education.

Martin Weber has stayed with us throughout the past quinquennium as communication director and editor of *Outlook* magazine. Chris McConnell is managing editor, and designer of both the magazine and website. Brenda Dickerson is the new editorial assistant.

Amid the many personnel changes in leadership, our administrative assistants and other support staff have remained steady and faithful. What we accomplish would be greatly diminished without them, as we prepare for the Seventh Constituency Session of the Mid-America Union.



## Transformation Needed

Every five years, locally elected and appointed delegates\* from our six local conferences join Mid-America Union leaders in assessing how the work of God is progressing in our territory, and also to look at the larger picture of fulfilling our mission and vision. When I consider the next quinquennium, “change” is not the right word for what God has placed in my heart. The word “transformation” comes closer. It derives from the word metamorphosis in the New Testament, describing how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

As you know, Seventh-day Adventist world leaders are seeking the transformation of our church by calling for revival and reformation. Revival without reformation is undetectable. Reformation without revival is impossible—and when we lose sight of that, legalism and judgmental infighting is the certain result; factionalism and fragmentation follow. Every revival in history has resulted in reformation from the inside out; every attempted reformation that has gone from the outside inward has failed to bring true revival and hasn’t lasted—usually doing more harm than good.

Martin Luther, fleeing medieval darkness, did not intend to externally reform the Roman Catholic Church. He proclaimed the transformational message of Scripture: “The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17). The world has not been the same since. Luther started with his Bible and his personal sense of sinful lostness in the presence of a Holy God, and his discovery of grace turned Christendom upside down. He found in the Lord Jesus Christ a remedy for his own guilt and despair. Yet his joy and confidence in the Lord seemed like apostasy to church leaders of his day.

Several centuries later at the dawn of the Adventist movement, William Miller did not intend to start a new denomination or reform his fellow Baptists. Having found in Jesus a

Savior unto whom he could entrust his life, he studied to understand as much of the Bible as he could—including the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. When October 22, 1844 passed with no return of Jesus, Miller’s faith in the Savior remained resolute.

Joseph Bates, Ellen Harmon, James White, John Byington and other Adventist pioneers never intended to launch a new church. Rather they set out to understand Scripture in light of the fact that Jesus had not come. What a few disappointed Millerites discovered and discussed during the Sabbath Bible conferences of 1846-1848 revived their hope and began to transform their vision. The result is a global movement of 17 million members—about 25 million counting our children.

By the world’s standards, Seventh-day Adventists are still a small group—approximately the population of metropolitan New York City. Yet we have an influence on the world stage out of proportion to our size. ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) provides humanitarian assistance and leadership that is appreciated and respected everywhere. International Religious Liberty initiatives usually find Adventists leading the way. Even the government of China recently asked Adventists for help in upgrading its national educational system.

## Revival in the Spirit

As much as we treasure our rich spiritual heritage and rejoice in what God is doing today, we do need revival and reformation—transformation in the Spirit. The first New Testament revival is recorded in Acts 2. It fulfilled the promise Jesus made for the outpouring of God’s Spirit. That historical event happened on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit was poured out when Jesus became our high priest in heaven’s sanctuary, in recognition of the fact that His life, death and resurrection were accepted on high by His Father. Real Holy Spirit

outpourings have all been built solidly on the objective reality of Christ’s historic accomplishment of our salvation.

The first century disciples could not know what their revival and reformation looked like in advance. God also has surprises for us in earth’s last days—yet of one thing we may be certain: Whenever Jesus is sought, the Holy Spirit comes and points us back to Jesus over and over again. Lives are revived, the church is reformed and the world is impacted. John 16 is clear—when the Holy Spirit comes to the church, the world gets convicted of sin.

Genuine revivals and reformations in Christian history have never come from a vote by a committee but rather from an individual or small group of people who sought the Lord for the purpose of seeking the Lord, period. Then the Lord makes reform happen in the church. The church never reforms itself. It cannot reform or revive itself no matter how hard it may try.

Mid-American Adventists belong to a global church, and so we join with world church leaders in recognizing our need for the Holy Spirit—the only source of true revival and reformation. And we are here to appeal to each church member and each local church to set aside time to study Jesus Christ—to submit to Him and to reflect on the huge change He brought to our world by His life, death and resurrection.

It is by studying the risen Christ and submitting to Him that we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Revival comes and reformation follows when one seeks Jesus for the sake of seeking Jesus. We cannot bring it about ourselves, any more than heart attack victims can do CPR on themselves. It is futile to seek the Holy Spirit apart from or separate from or in addition to seeking Jesus. The Spirit “will testify of Me,” Jesus said (John 15:26).

This vital truth is supported by Ellen White, who exhorts us:

“Search the Bible, for it tells you of Jesus. I want you to read the Bible and see the matchless charms of Jesus. I



want you to fall in love with the Man of Calvary, so that at every step you can say to the world, His ‘ways are ways of pleasantness,’ and all His ‘paths are peace.’ You want to represent Christ to the world. You want to show to the world you have a hope big with immortality. You want to drink of the waters of salvation. You want the heavenly angels to be in your dwelling. You want Christ to abide there” (*Heavenly Places*, p. 354).

## A Transformational Constituency Session

So what does all that have to do with us today, on the eve of our Constituency Session? In times past we have come together and spent considerable time reviewing the previous five years. And

His Spirit within the parameters of Scripture.

In Romans 12 Paul says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (verses 1-2, NIV).

Couple that passage with Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

A renewed mind is a Spirit-filled mind—it comes not from reflecting on how bad the world is, or how unprepared the church is to deal with that bad world. It comes from filling

and equally so for divisions. Our focus for the Constituency Session is on the union level.

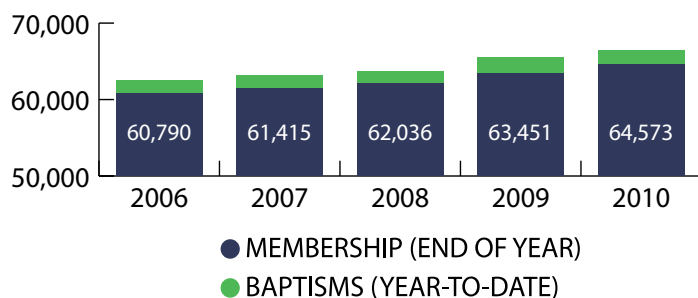
To illustrate: Central States Conference has a passion to do something about the lack of a powerful, growing Adventist presence in St. Louis. The ratio of Adventists to the population in St. Louis is among the lowest of major North American cities. I know that the Iowa-Missouri Conference has that same passion. Just across the Mississippi River in East St. Louis, the Illinois Conference in the Lake Union shares a similar evangelistic commitment. Each of these conferences has its own idea of what to do. But working together will bring results more quickly that will also develop more deeply. The outcome will be transformation on all fronts. It is the union’s role to help strategize and create community among our conferences to get that job done.

In other places, we also must synergize in the Spirit. Consider the Denver/Colorado Springs corridor; the Twin Cities; Kansas City—both in Kansas and Missouri; Omaha/Council Bluffs; Fargo/Morehead and Wichita-area churches. I think also of the Sioux Falls region, where four conferences come together in relatively close proximity. Thinking missionally together will make our energy more focused and effective. So I will say it yet again: We can accomplish far more together for the sake of the gospel than we can separately.

The same is true when it comes to education. Union College is evidence of what can happen when we cooperate. Can we take that model, or something similar, and devise collaborative measures for our boarding academies, day schools and elementary schools? I think so. A start has been made with last January’s Mid-America Union Education Summit. We are still mining that event for insight into ways to transform our schools.

The same principles apply to our Youth Ministries. Yes, each conference has a successful youth director, all of

### MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISMS OVER 5 YEARS



we will do some of that again when we convene on May 1 and 2. There is much to be grateful for as we look back and note what the Lord has done. But I have encouraged our leadership team at the Union to spend significant time and space in this *Outlook* focusing on the future.

We must envision a transformed tomorrow—this is what we are all about. The past is there to learn from and to build on, but it must not control us. We can try to figure out our slow growth rates, but we can’t fix yesterday. However, together we can envision letting the Lord Jesus Christ transform our tomorrows under the presence of

one’s mind with the mind of Jesus. And that takes time in the Word. The results will speak for themselves, and we cannot—nor must we attempt to—confine those results to what we currently experience. The results today will be as surprising as they were in Acts 2.

## Collaborating in the Spirit

Praying and planning and serving together, we can accomplish so much more than we can separately. This holds true for individuals and it holds true for churches. It holds true for conferences



whom are excellent leaders within their own territory. But there are times and opportunities when our youth from various conference territories can come together for an even greater ministry, having a transformative impact over a larger area in even more lives.

• We can  
• accomplish far  
• more together than  
• we can separately.

Both our Educational Ministries and our Youth Ministries need to collaborate with their local conferences to develop transformative opportunities for our kids who are not in Adventist schools. Working together, we can do this better than we are doing it now. I want to emphasize that our young people, college students and young adults—wherever we find them—are not asking to be entertained; they are asking to be involved. We will transform our tomorrows when we equip and empower young leaders to exercise their skills. We absolutely must inculcate into both our thinking and our actions the involvement of our emerging leaders. It will make a huge difference to our future. But again, we cannot know in advance just what that will look like.

Now let's turn our attention to healthcare ministry. Currently, across four conferences of our union, Adventist Health System is making an impact through its mission of "extending the healing ministry of Christ." The conferences of Iowa-Missouri, Kansas-Nebraska and Central States are impacted by Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Kansas City. Rocky Mountain and Central States are impacted by our four—soon to be five—hospitals in the Denver market: Avista in the north, Porter in the south central city, Littleton to the south, Parker to the southeast; soon

Castle Rock farther south will add to that presence.

I can assure you that the mission of those hospitals does open doors for local church outreach. We will continue to work with the leaders of those hospitals: Sam Turner, Randy Haffner, Ken Bacon, John Sackett and Terry Forde, as well as the corporate leaders, to make an even greater impact. We will also continue to encourage an expansion of the Adventist Health System presence across our union.

Another wonderful ministry is AdventSource, a resource center that is locally headquartered even as it serves the world church. Under the direction of Brad Forbes, who is assisted by Judy Glass, the staff produces cutting-edge materials at the lowest possible cost. An additional service AdventSource offers is Adventist Plusline for any group that needs help organizing an event or meeting. Our union is privileged to be a ministry partner with AdventSource.

I've already mentioned Union College. We truly have a union-wide consortium of support and mutual ministry with Dr. Smith and his excellent leadership team. They will bring their own report to the Constituency Session, but I want to affirm the huge impact this college is having upon its students. I also want to affirm the major blessing that Union College graduates are within their local communities and mission fields. During the next quinquennium, Union College will continue to be a major ministry partner with all the institutions of our church for the sake of building up local congregations.

## Together Today to Transform Tomorrow

The first two days of May, as spring is blossoming across Mid-America, representatives from around our nine-state territory will convene for the Constituency Session to conduct our Father's business and move forward into a Spirit-filled future. As I appealed to delegates at the recent Education

Summit, we can be controlled by our yesterdays or we can be energized by our tomorrows. With this in mind, I offer you the challenge: Together Today to Transform Tomorrow—but not as a decorative motto or superficial slogan. I yearn and I pray for it to become a Spirit-filled principle that will impact both our thinking and behavior.

Jesus is coming again! The Scripture is clear. Christ will come on one of our tomorrows—we just don't know which one. Although we can't circle a date on our calendars, the event itself is not in doubt. It is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The same Jesus who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven will soon return in power and glory.

The Bible describes Christ's second coming as our blessed hope. My prayer is that God will transform that doctrine of a blessed hope into a living hope that burns within our hearts. Then we will move forward in proclaiming God's good news with joy and confidence, together today to transform tomorrow.

Together—we are family, a community, humbly the remnant people of God;

Today—right here and right now;

Transforming—the renewing of our minds individually and then corporately;

Tomorrow—the glorious future promised by our Lord.

The next quinquennium in Mid-America presents us with a great challenge—but also with great promise and great opportunity. We can expect great miracles as the coming of the Lord draws near.

May God bless us, and may He empower us to fulfill His purpose for the Mid-America Union.

*\*A complete list of delegates will be posted on our website, [www.midamericaadventist.org](http://www.midamericaadventist.org), after March 31.*

*Unless noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.*

*Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.*





# reCOUNTing God's Blessings

By Elaine Hagele

Steve Nazario

Evelyn Cornforth, Troy Peoples, Pennie Marshall, Elaine Hagele



It was 2007. Church borrowing from the Revolving Fund had risen from 12 million in 2005 to 23 million and the project requests kept coming. The conferences in our union had approved \$6,000,000 more of borrowing from the fund and the churches were all needing funds at once for their facility purchases and building projects.

We struggled to figure our cash flows in order to meet their needs. We analyzed all our investments to determine what we could convert to cash. First we sold all the most liquid investments in the Revolving Fund, taking \$175,000 of gains on the redemptions. Then we traded for the more liquid investments in the operating fund. We sent out thousands, tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of dollars until

the churches approved for borrowing had completed their projects. Each outlay was an act of trust in God to continue to work things out, but some days (and nights) we worried that we wouldn't have the funds available as they were needed.

Then came the financial market crash of 2008. Because of the run of projects in 2007, our Revolving Fund assets were almost all at work building and purchasing churches, rather than

sinking in the financial markets. God had watched over His funds and put them to work where He wanted them at just the right time—before the crash.

Throughout these troubled economic times, church building payments have continued to come in regularly. Tithe has continued to come in steadily from throughout the Union. Church members continue giving despite financial uncertainty.

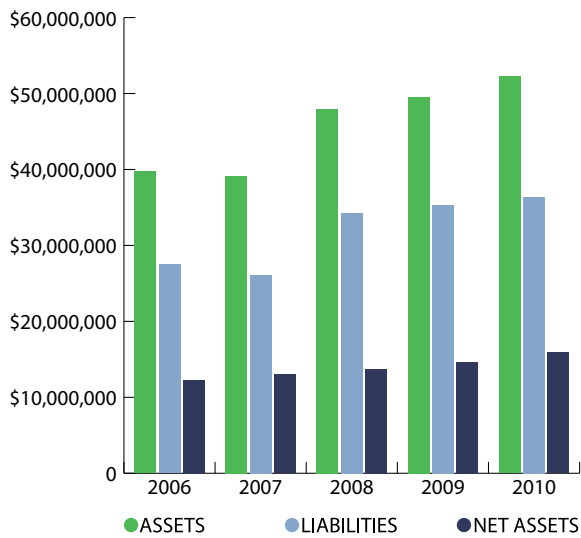
Mid-America Union was blessed by the service of Walt Sparks as associate vice president for finance from 2006 until his retirement in 2010. We are also blessed by the attitude of service that Troy Peoples, former treasurer of Gulf States Conference, brings to this position since 2010. We, your treasury staff, work together to fulfill the trust you have placed in us through your week-by-week giving to the Lord in your churches.

*Elaine Hagele is vice president for finance of the Mid-America Union.*

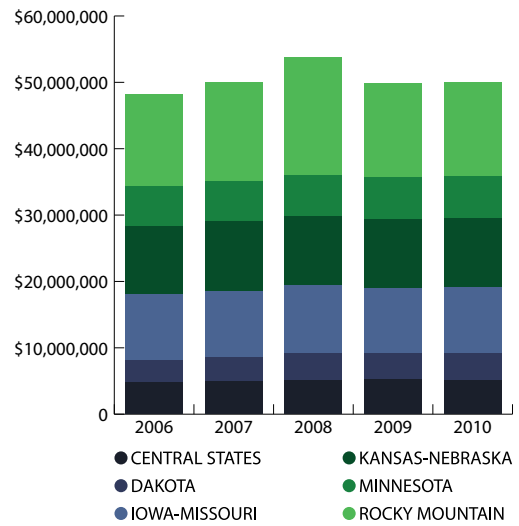




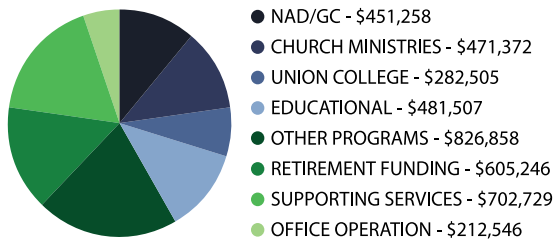
## FINANCIAL POSITION



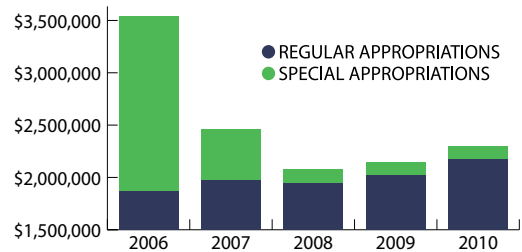
## TITHE BY CONFERENCE



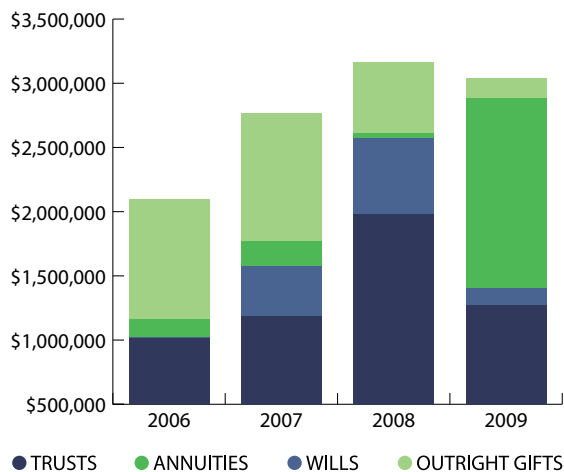
## USE OF TITHE



## SUPPORT OF UNION COLLEGE



## PLANNED GIVING &amp; TRUST SERVICES



Planned Giving and Trust Services provides financial, estate and gift planning within the framework of our faith. The purpose is to help our members build their financial security, protect their loved ones and sustain God's work through the resources He entrusts to them.



# Communicating in the Next Quinquennium

By Martin Weber

Steve Nazario



Chris McConnell, Martin Weber,  
Brenda Dickerson

The Communication Department exists to create a compelling and comprehensive awareness of our Adventist mission, message and activities throughout this nine-state region. We support Mid-America's leaders and institutions in helping the 64,600 members of our local conferences have a sense of ownership in their world church family. This stimulates local participation, fervent witnessing and financial enthusiasm. Our ultimate goal is to facilitate the health and growth of local congregations.

*Outlook* magazine promotes what God is doing throughout our territory in churches, K-12 schools, Union College and our healthcare institutions. Along with communicating news,

*Outlook* shares inspiration through the editorials of our union president, departmental leaders, and guest editorials from local conference presidents. Each issue features a

particular theme of relevance to church nurture and outreach in the Mid-America Union. We also interview people making a difference in our churches.

Beyond publishing *Outlook* in paper form, an online edition of *Outlook* will harmonize with the print edition and enhance it by providing "web extras" such as photo galleries and video content not previously available. *Outlook Online* will bring breaking news from around the Mid-America Union territory. It will also feature exclusive content that cannot be found offline, due to space limitations in the printed magazine.

The Union website ([www.midamericaadventist.org](http://www.midamericaadventist.org)) features special messages from our leaders and the latest information from each department. A unique feature is our assortment of blogs from Adventist thought leaders of various ages and backgrounds representing the life and faith of the church in Mid-America.





The harvest truly is great and the tools of communication are many.

Our Union website and *Outlook Online* is linked to social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. *Outlook Online* will have its own iPhone and Droid apps. Interaction among these various media will be optimized to gain the most from each individual tool in concert with the others. This will facilitate increased traffic to the websites, which in turn can generate advertising revenue to support operations. In every possible way, our websites will link to local conference websites, which in turn link to local churches.

Our department also provides annual training events for local communication directors in how to share the vision of their own presidents, develop their local conference websites and generate positive publicity in local secular media. During a crisis such as a natural disaster, we work with local conferences to communicate with the community what Adventists are doing. If some rumor or scandal erupts from a church entity, we will provide communication counsel upon request and in consultation with our Union president, communicate whatever information is deemed appropriate by church leaders.

Regarding public emergencies on a grand scale, such as a domestic terrorist event, the Communication Department will work with administration to have a plan in place to address the spiritual, emotional and logistical aspects of a crisis.

The harvest truly is great and the tools of communication are many.

*Martin Weber is editor of Outlook magazine and director of the Mid-America Union Communication Department.*

## VALUES

**Quality** – achieving the optimal excellence possible

**Missionality** – being purpose-driven in nurture/outreach

**Relevance** – being timely and meaningful

**Collaboration** – being interactive and interdependent

**Christ-likeness** – expressing His character

**Edification** – building up local churches and conferences

**Inclusivity** – considering our entire constituency

**Efficiency** – stewarding time, effort and money

**Pioneering** – using cutting-edge methods

**Mentoring** – helping other communicators develop skills

**Respect** – honoring God, leadership and human dignity

**Integrity** – being honest, truthful, holistic

**Excitement** – facilitating joy and happiness

*(core values in green type)*

## MISSION

To communicate Seventh-day Adventist news, inspiration and truth with excellence, grace and relevance via various media throughout the Mid-America Union.

## OUTLOOKMAG.ORG





# The Future of Adventist Education

By John Kriegelstein

Steve Nazario

Kristi Griffith, Barb Engquist (front), John Kriegelstein (director), LouAnn Howard (associate director)



Every weekday morning, 2,532 students enter the doorways of 77 Mid-America Adventist schools. Waiting to welcome them are 282 Adventist teachers and administrators who are eager to open the minds of their students to the beauty and orderliness of our God-created world. The thoughtfully developed Bible-based curriculum includes the study of math, language arts, social studies and the sciences. Students learn our uniquely Adventist worldview and interpretation of Scripture through the Bible curriculum and the living example of their teachers. They are also mentored into knowing a personal Jesus who is eager for human relationships.

Adventist schools within Mid-America's nine-state region range in size from a one-teacher, four-student school meeting in a church in a remote community, to the multi-teacher, newly-constructed urban school serving more than 100 students. These schools financially survive through the generosity of the constituencies that operate them. While some schools are heavily subsidized by constituent congregations, others receive no local subsidy. Most students come from Adventist homes, although some of our church schools have significant numbers of students from community families not yet members of the Adventist Church.

Norm-referenced testing (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills or ITBS) of students indicates that Adventist education is preparing them to perform better than the national average. *CognitiveGenesis*, a nationally recognized research project, shows that students in Adventist education perform consistently better than predicted. This increases the longer they remain in the Adventist educational system—regardless of grade level, individual student ability and school size.

Despite the high quality of education offered in Adventist schools, total K-12 enrollment has declined by 13.1 percent during the past quinquennium—even as church membership swelled 15.2 percent. This fact and other anecdotal data led Mid-America Union administrators and education leaders to invest in the future of Adventist education by sponsoring last January's "Creating a Culture of Commitment Education Summit."

The purpose of the summit was to assess the past, acknowledge the reality of the present, and create the future for a more efficient, collaborative, Spirit-filled and cost effective delivery system of Seventh-day Adventist Christian





Education in the Mid-America Union. During the event, conference decision makers (administrators, executive committees and boards of education) listened and responded to a variety of presentations on major themes such as history, spirituality, mission and values, finance, organizational change, recruitment and technology. At the close of the summit, each individual conference met to prepare specific action plans for impacting Adventist education within their territory.

In the short time since the summit, Mid-America conferences have begun to identify priorities for their educational resources. Priorities include such things as carefully researching the number and location of every school-aged young person in each conference, exploring the use of distance or distributed education (use of technology to share a teacher across several schools simultaneously) and developing and implementing programs and services for young people not attending Adventist schools. The Mid-America Union Office of Education is encouraging local conferences to prepare and implement action plans and facilitate collaboration between conferences and schools for

exploring and implementing shared goals.

The MAUC Office of Education will continue to work with the North American Division to provide curriculum development services, such as the *Pathways* reading program, a uniquely Adventist science curriculum for grades 1-8 called *ByDesign*, and also the new *Kindergarten Stepping Stones* curriculum. Additional services include administering the certification process for all Mid-America teachers; professional development opportunities for superintendents, principals and teachers; general counsel for superintendents and principals; financial assistance for teachers attending national conventions; and guidance in the school evaluation

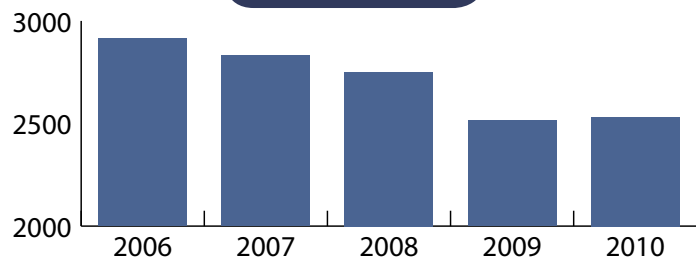
process as outlined by the North American Division.

It is the goal of the Office of Education to provide as many resources as possible to Adventist educators within Mid-America Union's territory. The desired outcomes are: first, leading students to the feet of Jesus and, second, preparing students for a life of service to their world—while even as students, they are leading their own acquaintances to Jesus.

Our vision for Adventist education in Mid-America is encapsulated in 3 John 4 (NIV): "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

*John Kriegelstein is director of the Office of Education for the Mid-America Union.*

## ENROLLMENT



Students at Vista Ridge Academy





# Ministering to Mid-America's Pastors

By Maurice R. Valentine II



Implied within the great commission to take the good news of Jesus' salvation to everyone, everywhere, is the need to organize His church in a way that is strategic both in charter and execution to meet the demands of a job that is worldwide in scope. For this reason, the Mid-America Union Conference (MAUC) Ministerial Department has been devoted to providing mission-oriented leadership to conference executive committees, institutional boards, and through one-on-one coaching and assessment with individual pastors and churches to help each hone and advance God-sized plans.

Over the past quinquennium this has been accomplished in part through developing collaborative relationships with our conference level ministerial directors for whom we have sponsored periodic events to team-build, share knowledge, and establish goals to

meet the needs of our pastors, pastoral families and church leaders both personally and professionally.

To assist the local conference in this grand task we have provided per request, custom resources specifically attuned to their needs. A series

called *Ministry Models for the New Millennium*, covering advanced strategic planning, discipleship, coaching, evangelism and marital enrichment along with other tools such as church assessment and new cities demographic strategy, has been developed and presented to workers and executive committees.

Because helping pastors reach their full potential for Jesus is our primary reason for existence, the Ministerial Department is determined to meet the needs of pastors in ways that are meaningful to them. This has been accomplished through establishing inter-conference focus groups and virtual teams comprised of pastors, pastoral wives and church leaders through which we have heard their dreams, challenges and heartaches. Further input has been sought through conference training sessions, webinars, meetings and interviews. Each forum has aided MAUC Ministerial in leading an effort to strive for comprehensive benchmarks of support and excellence.

Helping God's leaders reach new levels of growth and attainment requires continual training and development, but challenging them to put that training to use is advanced, in part, by providing regional goals. Years of national evangelistic series led to a deficiency in the knowledge and skill-sets necessary to conduct evangelistic meetings. In alignment with the MAUC theme of Selfless Service and the division theme of Year of Evangelism, at our last pastors' convention we brought in evangelistic practitioners who were meeting with success. They came from across the country to enhance pastoral competencies in mission.

After this training event pastors answered the call and conducted, in some instances, their first evangelistic endeavors. Many were





traditional meetings, but innovation was encouraged. The results were as follows: small to moderate numbers of baptisms around the Union by many pastors and churches—instead of large

coaching by ministerial directors and other key leaders will help pastors add coaching to their skill set. As they are coached, they will develop the facility to coach church leaders, thus helping

world. Realistic expectations on the part of all, especially of the pastor or church leader upon him or herself, will be enunciated by the Ministerial Department. Balance will be sought through consultation with a coaching colleague.

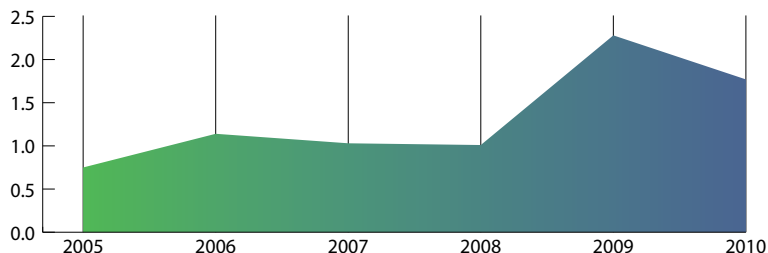
In regard to pastoral professional maturation and skill-set development, expansion of the Ministry Models series will continue, covering Introduction to Pastoral Ministry, Pastoral Transitions, Mid-Career Ministry and Finishing Ministry Well.

Finally, a new model for growth rooted in discipleship will be encouraged. Qualitative growth will be measured by assessing how many new members reach the point of sustained growth over a period of one, three and five years. Our desire is to see net growth eclipse 3 percent and new members retained and discipled at a rate of 2.5 percent.

We are grateful for the many cooperative relationships with church leaders, pastors, and church families across MAUC, afforded us through the Ministerial Department. Working together in Christ, let's continue to follow Jesus' vision of delivering the oppressed and setting captives free. Enhancing healthy leaders and missional churches in their quest to reach a dying world for Jesus Christ is our ultimate goal. Undoubtedly, the challenges are great. But our God is greater and by His Spirit, with a great commission focus to take this message to everyone, everywhere, we will see more churches secure a renewed vision for mission, fully anticipating Jesus' soon return!

*Maurice R. Valentine II is ministerial director of the Mid-America Union.*

### GROWTH RATE BY % (DECEMBER TOTALS)



meetings for few—added up to record growth for 2009 and much of 2010. With conferences leading the charge, since pastors' convention, we have averaged a 2.3 percent growth rate, our highest in 30 years. We saw a fall-off in the fourth quarter 2010 that is concerning; however, plans for the New Year would indicate that our growth rate will continue to improve. More importantly, equilibrium between acts of disinterested benevolence and intentional evangelistic endeavor has been restored and has brought new vitality to pastors and parishioners.

Moving forward, our first goal is to develop a relational support system for MAUC pastors called coaching. Coaching is a Biblical concept present in Scripture, most notably in the ministries of Moses, the Apostle Paul and Jesus. Most field training pastors and church leaders receive is rooted in short-term events. Coaching adds long-term process to these events to assist leaders by giving them access to a colleague who walks beside them, aiding them in goal setting and implementation. Conference ministerial directors of MAUC have consented to receive training in coaching; several having already done so.

The greatest benefit of a cultural shift toward coaching is that it will eventually reach local church leaders and the members they serve. Ongoing

them in turn to lead congregations proactively. Seeing church leaders coach other church leaders who serve the various auxiliaries of the local church will be of great benefit to the mission of the church. This is because coaching, by nature, is proactive and should in time lessen the need for counseling and conflict resolution, which so often ties up the efforts and energies of church leaders. Our desire is to see coaching become a new instrument that sits in tool-belts of all church leaders and ministry professionals adjacent to their counseling and conflict management skills.

Another group to which we wish to provide greater service is church elders. They are the glue that holds our church together. Assessments from several events have made it clear that they desire more opportunities for development. Surveys show they feel underserved in this regard and would like to be resourced most acutely in the areas of leadership, spiritual growth, discipleship, evangelism and marital enrichment.

Where there is a spouse, spousal support is critical to successful ministry. Scripture lessons abound in regard to the devastating effects of lack of time spent with spouses and/or children by spiritual leaders. Reinforcing familial values will help assure that families are not lost in the battle to win the

### MINISTERIAL ROAD MAP

View online at:

**<http://bit.ly/g8p73o>**



# Church Ministries

By Hubert Cisneros

Adela Martinez, Hubert Cisneros



The goal of the MAUC Church Ministries Department is to support the local conferences of the Union and to provide leadership as needed for collaborating with related ministries of the North American Division (NAD). Local conference representatives will comprise the various Mid-America Union councils and ministries listed below, for the purpose of offering the following activities and services:

## Children's Ministries

Using NAD resources, the MAUC Children's Ministries Council will

coordinate leadership workshops in local conferences for children's Sabbath school, Vacation Bible School and Neighborhood Bible Club.

## Health/Recovery Ministries

The Health/Recovery Ministries Council will use NAD resources for training, seminar materials and initiatives for better health such as Breathe Free and C.H.I.P. (Cardiac Health Improvement Program). Other programs supported and promoted will be Depression Recovery, Binding the Wounds, The Journey, Journey to NAI (for teen groups), Divorce Care and Rainbows.

## Sabbath School Ministries

The MAUC Sabbath School Council will develop a support system for local conferences, including training for children's divisions and adult Sabbath school classes.

## Personal Evangelism

To foster spiritual and numerical growth, the MAUC Personal Evangelism Council will offer courses to develop skills for teaching group Bible studies in the book of Revelation, fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and basic Christianity.

## Family Life Ministries

The MAUC Family Life Council will provide workshops in conjunction with the NAD Family Life Department.

## Disabilities Ministries

Under the leadership of Thompson Kay, the MAUC Disabilities Council will provide education and training for ministering to those who are disabled.

*Hubert Cisneros is the MAUC director for Youth Ministries and Church Ministries.*



# Youth Ministries

By Hubert Cisneros

The Youth Department of the Mid-America Union Conference (MAUC) exists to support the six local conference youth directors and provide leadership as needed. The MAUC Youth Council, comprised of youth leaders and representatives throughout our territory, coordinates ministries and establishes committees. Our goal for the next five years is to provide the following services, in cooperation with the NAD:

## Adventurer Club

Serve conferences in a consulting capacity regarding Adventurer Clubs for children under the age of 10.

## Pathfinder Club

Coordinate the annual Bible Bowl event that originates in local conferences, progresses to the Mid-America Union and goes on to the NAD. Each quinquennium the Union will organize the Mid-America Pathfinder Camporee and will provide coordination among the conferences for the International Camporee.

## Summer Ministries

Support summer camps and day camps in such ways as coordinating recruiting at Union College and summer camp visitation. A goal for day camps is to improve health education.

## Youth 4 Youth Convention

Train academy youth leaders for their campus ministry. Mid-America's youth director serves as coordinator.

## Leadership Bible Conferences

Facilitate Leadership Bible Conferences for both academy and public high school students along with their adult leaders.

## Special Events

Promote special events such as Winterfest, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Conference Youth Department.

## Youth Congresses

Cooperate with the NAD for such events as Just Claim It Youth Congress, a division-wide Hispanic Youth Congress, and BAYDA (Black Adventist Youth Directors Association) Youth Congress. A new Mid-America Union Hispanic Youth Congress will be conducted.

## Short-term Mission Trips

Promote and publicize short-term mission trips organized by local conferences, so young people can serve with the conference of their choice.

## Union College

Seek collaboration between youth work in the local conferences and the ministry of Union College through involvement in local rallies, youth congresses and leadership training.

## Related Ministries

Support leaders of Community Services by recommending resources for training local youth in Youth Emergency Services (Y.E.S.) along with Rescue and Recovery programs.

## College/University Campus Ministry

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) is a ministry of NAD's Youth Department. The Mid-America College/University Advisory will be established to fulfill its goals and facilitate ministry among young people attending public college and university campuses.

## Young Professionals

The Mid-America Young Professional Advisory will develop a ministry for young adults who have completed college studies or who have entered their life work.

### WEB EXTRA

For more on youth ministries in the Mid-America Union visit

**<http://bit.ly/gOAnoD>** as well as local conference websites—each has its own specialized ministry.





## MR. EVERYTHING FOR MID-AMERICA



Perhaps the most versatile employee of the Mid-America Union is Roy Schaecher—our maintenance specialist, property caretaker and security supervisor. Roy is not only our go-to man for everything that supports the physical plant of our office, he is a trusted source of practical wisdom.

## UNION COLLEGE INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Union College Information Systems provides tech support to the Mid-America Union and its conferences, and assists transition to new software. Back row: Richard Henriques, Eugene Clausen, Michael Calkins, Ed Sharon, Shane Flowers; front row: Cheri Blue, Tom Becker (director), Troy Van Horn.

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# Serving Neighbors in Need

By Sheila Schlisner



The goal for Adventist Community Services (ACS) is to be active in our communities, not just be a part of them. We need to be like Jesus, our example. He walked with and ministered to those in need. If we do not get to know our neighbors by meeting their needs, why would we expect them to want to get to know us? Through loving service we will draw people to Christ. We must be intentional about true service to our community.

Phyllis Alexander of the Dakota Conference ventured out during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. She was in the heart of the event, sharing and meeting people. Cathy Kissner from Rocky Mountain Conference states that they get their community involved by making and giving blankets to our service men and women. While visiting with Jody Dickhaut from Iowa-

Missouri Conference, we both agreed that ACS will be a way that we can continue to spread the gospel during the end times. Their Van Ministry will continue to feed many. John Treolo and volunteers from the Kansas-Nebraska Conference assisted with an F5 tornado disaster in the Greensburg, Kansas area. Listening to people's stories and helping them rebuild their

lives was a blessing.

Adventist Community Services in Mid-America Union is yet another arm of the gospel to reach searching souls in need of a Savior.

*Sheila Schlisner is the volunteer MAUC director for Adventist Community Services.*



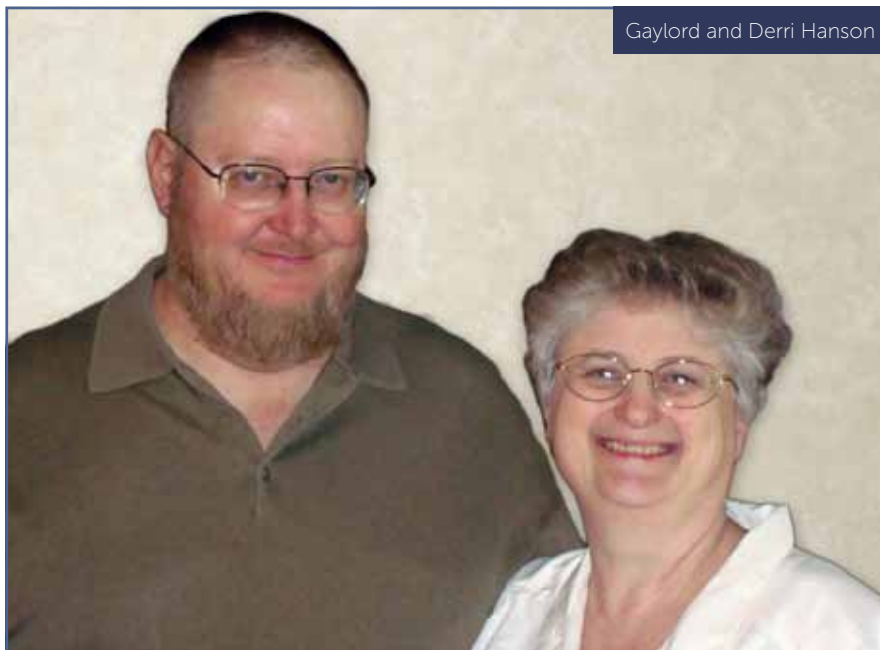
Sheila Schlisner

Steve Nazario



# Compassion in Crisis

Interview with Gaylord and Derri Hanson



Gaylord and Derri Hanson

## What do you find most fulfilling about what you are doing?

Knowing that people who had their world turned upside down by various calamities began to see and believe that it is possible to have a new normal life—with the help of dedicated and compassionate volunteers.

## What's the most exciting thing that happened in your ministry during the past quinquennium?

Seeing local leaders and volunteers receive outstanding recognition for their leadership and ministry during various disaster responses.

## Looking forward to the next five years, what are the greatest opportunities before you?

Building the capacities of each conference to minister in response to the disasters that will increasingly befall us as the end of time draws near.

We also have a fantastic opportunity to work with our Native American nations to enhance their response plan and develop a training program that fits their needs.

Additionally, we will have opportunity to witness to hundreds of people as we work to rebuild the lives and communities of our friends, family and neighbors and plan for future events.

The newest ministry of Adventist Community Services is the Adventist Crisis Care Network. Crisis Care Responder and Community Chaplaincy are two initiatives of special interest for our constituents or pastors.

## What are the greatest threats?

Not having the capacity to respond to another multiple-disaster situation like in 2008, when the tornado in Greensburg (Kansas) was followed quickly by catastrophic flooding in Iowa.

## How can Mid-America's members, pastors and leaders be more supportive of your ministry?

Become involved through financial giving, praying for the work, and being active in the wonderful ministry that is Adventist Community Service Disaster Response.

## What do you hope to accomplish during the next five years?

Over the next five years—with God's help and with capable conference coordinators—we hope to see the disaster response capacity of each local conference continue to develop. We also want a close partnership with Native American nations in regard to their response plans. Our goal is to have a Mid-America response training program that is second to none, with a strong, active and growing workforce of volunteers. We also want to build an Adventist Crisis Care Network for our members, pastors and other leaders.

*Gaylord and Derri Hanson are the volunteer MAUC directors for ACS-DR.*

## ACS vs ACS-DR

### What's the difference between "ACS" and "ACS-DR"?

Adventist Community Services (ACS) serves on-going community needs, whereas ACS-DR facilitates "disaster response" to calamities such as tornadoes or floods.

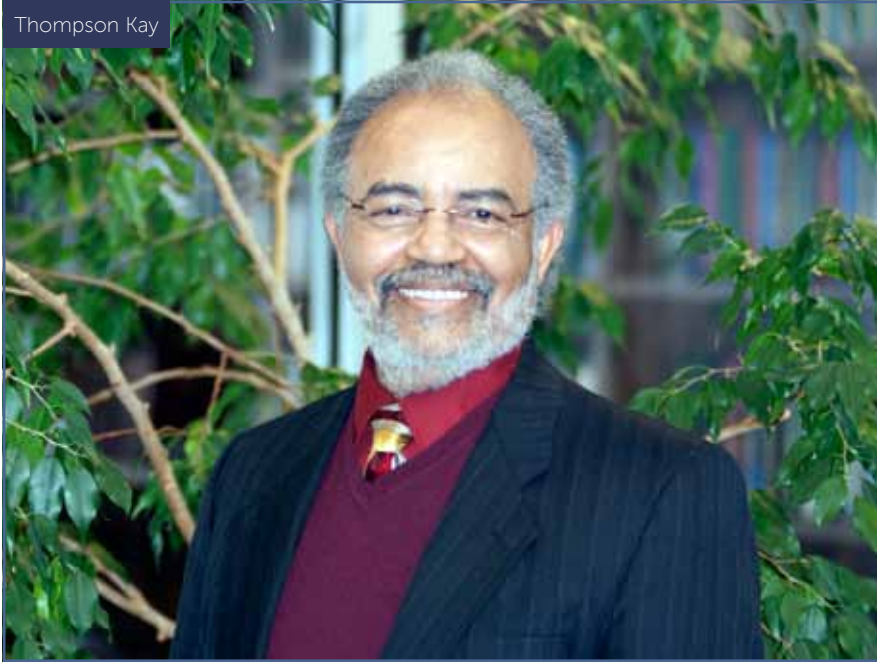




# Empowering for Disabilities Ministry

Interview with Thompson Kay

Thompson Kay



**What's the most exciting thing that happened in your ministry to disabled people during the past quinquennium?**

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to work in an evangelistic meeting where 25 precious souls were baptized. Four training seminars were also held and 12 sign language classes.

**What do you find most fulfilling about what you are doing in your department?**

Providing a ministry for people with a disability and educating church leaders and members about their needs.

**What is your greatest frustration?**

It is very difficult to find enough workers who are interested in people who have physical challenges. It is also difficult when individuals with a

disability feel the church does not care about their needs.

**Looking forward to the next five years, what are the greatest opportunities before you?**

I see five of them in particular:

1. Providing educational materials
2. Providing in-service workshops
3. Developing a union newsletter for Disabilities Ministry
4. Conducting leadership training seminars
5. Realizing the goal of every church having a Disabilities Ministry

**What are the greatest threats you are facing?**

It is becoming more and more difficult for the ministry when the funds are limited.

**How could Mid-America's members, pastors and leaders be more**

**supportive of your ministry?**

It would be wonderful if every church could have:

- A coordinator in the congregation for persons with disabilities
- Interested persons attending training seminars
- Persons with disabilities becoming involved in church services
- A visit from the Union director to train volunteers interested in the ministry

Church leaders on all levels could also help educate members about the needs of persons with disabilities. Camp meetings, workers' meetings and officers' meetings are excellent opportunities for instruction about ministry to persons with a disability.

**What do you hope to accomplish in your ministry during the next five years?**

Our goals are for more workers, and also for more persons with disabilities to accept Christ as their Savior and become baptized members of the Adventist Church.

We also hope that every conference will have a coordinator for Disabilities Ministry.

*Thompson U. Kay is the volunteer director of Disabilities Ministries for the Mid-America Union. He is also founder and CEO of TEAMS Educational Center, a non-profit public service organization in Lincoln, Nebraska, a ministry of the Central States Conference.*

**TEAMS Online**

Visit [www.teamseducationalcenter.com](http://www.teamseducationalcenter.com).



# Immigration: an Evangelistic Opportunity

Interview with Elder Juan Acosta



**What are the greatest threats our church is facing in connecting with Hispanics?**

The Midwest now has another wave of immigrants—like the Germans, Italians and others in the past. We need to take seriously the statement: “Never forget history.” We are a nation of immigrants.

**How can Mid-America members, pastors and leaders be more supportive of Hispanic ministry?**

We need prayer support from all our leaders, pastors and members. Another key is the NAD initiative “Reach America,” combined with the General Conference emphasis “Revival, Reformation, Discipleship and Evangelism.” Also, to have an effective outreach, Adventist Hispanics need greater representation, participation, power of decision and financial support in our initiatives, plans and the administration of events.

**What are the most exciting things that have happened for Hispanic Adventists in Mid-America during the past quinquennium?**

There has been steady growth and maturity of Hispanic churches, companies and groups in three fundamental aspects: spirituality, numbers and finances. For example:

- The contribution of Hispanics to revive some dying Anglo churches in Mid-America, such as Missouri’s Campbell and Mexico churches.
- Leadership programs to enhance the skills of laymen through SAL, the Andrews University Hispanic Ministries program.
- Entering into new areas under the natural church planting program (Topeka, Kansas and Independence, Missouri).

- Acquisition of property. Several new churches in MAUC own their church structures or are in the process of building churches.
- Integration of SDA Hispanic churches with Adventist Community Services, providing both financial and human resources support.

**What is your greatest frustration?**

I learned from my own early experience as a pastor in a Communist country not to surrender before obstacles. In each situation, the Lord had possibilities in hand to turn negative situations into opportunities to glorify Himself. I saw Him opening doors and tearing down walls. Remembering this is my way to resolve frustrations.

**What do Mid-America Hispanics hope to accomplish during the next five years?**

- Target large cities with inner city ministries.
- Provide leadership training in small groups, discipleship and public evangelism.
- Start bilingual and bicultural ministries targeting second and third generation Hispanics.
- Implement TEAM: Total Engagement Action Ministry.

(To see the full text of this interview go to <http://bit.ly/eQfftp>).

*Juan Acosta is MAUC Hispanic Ministries representative for the Mid-America Union who also serves as a pastor in Kansas City, Missouri.*



# Preserving Separation of Church and State

By Darrel Huenergardt



day Adventist Christians should be sensitive to the religious beliefs of all people, whether they recognize God or deny Him, and whether or not they condone activities condemned in Scripture. I grew up believing the statement that no Adventist would support a law requiring worship on the seventh day, but in the past several years it has become popular among some church members and leaders to support other laws dealing with religious beliefs or activities.

The writings of Ellen White say much in support of separating church and state. One of her more pointed statements is in *The Great Controversy* (p. 297):

“Thus again was demonstrated the evil results . . . of attempting to build up the church by the aid of the state, of appealing to the secular power in support of the gospel of Him who declared ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ The union of the church with the state, be the degree never so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world.”

Freedom to choose religious beliefs is a sacred gift given to all by God. We as Seventh-day Adventists must understand religious liberty afforded by the gospel and beware of advancing any religious belief through the power of government. Christianity is not merely following a set of rules dealing with outward activities; rather, it is an inward decision motivated by love. No government can make love happen.

Why is the principle of separation of church and state important to Seventh-day Adventists? Consider the case of Santa Fe Independent School District, one of the key decisions by the United States Supreme Court. This case dealt with school-sponsored prayer in Galveston, Texas, which is 90 percent Caucasian and mostly Baptist.

Aside from the core of the court decision, it is interesting to notice that a fourth grade public school class was not allowed to go to lunch until all students participated in a Christian prayer. Teachers were also encouraged to invite students to local Baptist

revival meetings.

The church-state fusion popular in Galveston is, unfortunately, the common result when members of a belief system feel empowered to determine orthodox beliefs for the community. We as Seventh-

*Attorney Darrell Huenergardt coordinates public affairs and religious liberty matters for the Mid-America Union, a non-salaried position on legal retainer. In addition to educating, he assists local conferences in addressing specific threats to religious liberty.*





# Mid-America Women in Touch

Interview with Nancy Buxton

Ron Long

Nancy Buxton



## What's the most exciting thing that happened in your ministry during the past quinquennium?

When I read the yearly conference reports I am overwhelmed with what women are doing throughout the Mid-America Union. They are involved in soup kitchens, outreach ministries, Bible studies, food banks, prayer ministries and much more.

It is just wonderful to hear of women who are really excited about their ministry. In the Mid-America Union during 2010, Women's Ministries had 75 baptisms and 50 reclaimed members—a record year for us.

## What do you find most fulfilling about what you are doing in your department?

The most fulfilling thing for me is to see a woman's face shining with the joy of knowing Jesus and knowing Jesus is her Kinsman Redeemer\* and He paid the price.

## Looking forward to the next five years, what are the greatest opportunities before you?

We have great opportunities. I believe Women's Ministries is really the heart of the church. When we bring new members into the church we need to have something to invite these members to do.

It is a fact that people will not stay in a church if they don't make friends and feel like they belong. Women's Ministries provides friendship evangelism; it is a place to make friends and to become involved.

Women have the opportunity to make a big difference in their church and community. The fact is, if you can make a difference in a woman's life you will make a difference in a home, a church and a community.

## What are the greatest threats you are facing?

I fear there could be budget cuts in the conferences.

## How can Mid-America's members, pastors and leaders be more supportive?

They could ask questions about what we are doing and realize we contribute much to the well-being of a church. Evangelism is more than preaching; it is serving.

## What do you hope to accomplish in your ministry during the next five years?

Two big things we need to accomplish:

1. Establish a viable ministry for women in every church—this requires training opportunities for leaders.
2. Help every woman realize the importance of knowing Jesus, reading His word and praying each day, believing in His promises, and then finding an area of service where God can use her to make a difference.

For a schedule of Women's Ministries events, visit [www.midamericaadventist.org](http://www.midamericaadventist.org).

\*See the Old Testament story in Ruth chapter 4.

*Nancy Buxton is director of Women's Ministries for the Mid-America Union, a stipend position.*

# Mid-America ASI Spring Conference

## "A Time to Reap"



**Thursday, March 31 - Sunday, April 3**

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Northglenn, CO

### **Special speakers:**

John Bradshaw, new speaker/director for It Is Written | Don Mackintosh | David Asscherick

### **Featuring:**

"Members in Action"—what your Mid-America ASI family is doing to finish the work, reports from 2010 mission offering recipients, Sabbath evening musical vespers and fellowship with other lay members on fire for God and His work.

**To register visit [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or call 800.732.7587**

# Radical Reboot

## Mid-America Pastors' Convention May 2-4

***A CONFERENCE ON HERMENEUTICS, ELLEN WHITE AND EVANGELISM***

Plenary sessions, discussion forums and tracks prepared for your enrichment with academicians and practitioners collaborating to resource you with their research and findings

### ***SOME INVITEES:***

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# Resourcing Adventists for Outreach

By Brad Forbes



Brad Forbes

As the official Adventist supply center for the church in North America, *AdventSource* provides practical resources and information that help congregations develop ministries to their own

members and also reach their communities. Here is a brief look at seven areas of focus for the next five years.

## AdventSource Store

*AdventSource's* online store features more than 4,000 resources to help churches achieve their goals and connect with their communities. *AdventSource* provides books, Sabbath school visual aids, CDs, DVDs, brochures, Pathfinder supplies, Adventist logo apparel and more. Visit [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) and watch for our new website design in May 2011.

## 7 Day Wear

*AdventSource's* new online design studio provides an easy way to create shirts for your Pathfinder or Adventurer Club, youth group, mission trip, or any other church group. Choose from the library of clip art and Adventist logos or upload your own artwork. Visit [www.7daywear.com](http://www.7daywear.com) to design a shirt.

## Email Newsletter

In 2011 *AdventSource* began a monthly email newsletter which

allows customers to stay current with new and updated products, sales and special offers, and other news from *AdventSource*. Visit <http://newsletters.adventsource.org> to sign up.

## Event Registration

Are you looking for training for your church's ministry leaders? Whether you lead communication or women's ministries, Adventist Community Services or song service, you can search and register for ministry training events through *AdventSource*. Visit [www.adventsource.org/events](http://www.adventsource.org/events) or call 800-732-7587 to find what's coming up or to register.

## PlusLine

As the official help desk for the Adventist Church in North America, *PlusLine* is your source for tools, information and free downloads to assist your church. Visit [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or call 800-732-7587 to find answers to questions about ministry.

Through *PlusLine*, we also provide an Online Church Resource Player that offers you access to hundreds of hours of teaching and presentations from recent Seventh-day Adventist conferences and conventions. Search for "Online Church Resource Player" on the *PlusLine* site to find instructions for adding this feature to your church website.

## Websites for Churches and Schools

Through Adventist Church Connect, *AdventSource* currently provides websites to 350 churches in the Mid-America Union. In the next five years we would like to add 130 more! If your church or school is not yet using a free website, visit [www.adventistchurchconnect.com](http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com) or call toll-free 877-518-0819. Sites include free set-up, hosting and support.

## Webinars

In 2010 *AdventSource* began offering free online training through a series of Webinars for Growing Churches. This series will continue through 2011 and beyond. To find a current list of upcoming webinars, visit <http://webinars.adventsource.org>.

## Spring Webinar Schedule

- March: Vacation Bible School – The Best Evangelism Series
- April: Active Family Ministries = Growth
- May: How to Grow Your Church through Single Adult Ministries

We look forward to partnering with churches across the Mid-America Union throughout the next five years.

*Brad Forbes is director of AdventSource, located in Lincoln, Nebraska.*



# 100,000 Births and Counting

by Jessica Wahaus



**S**hawnee Mission Medical Center (SMMC) proudly welcomed its 100,000th baby on November 23, 2010. Brooklyn Marie was born at 9:23 p.m. in the Special Addition Birth Center.

"We always said she would make a grand entrance," remarked Leslie Botkin, Brooklyn's mom.

In addition to the 100,000th delivery, SMMC's Special Addition Birth Center broke its annual record in 2010, bringing 3,912 newborns into the world.

"We saw days with as many as 24 births in 24 hours," said April Crouch, RN, Clinical Manager of Perinatal Services. "Regardless of whether we deliver one or 24 babies in a day, we focus on providing a unique birthing experience for each family."

Because of its growing number of births each year, SMMC is making plans for a \$42.5 million expansion of its birth center, which will break ground later this year. The expansion will allow staff to continue delivering babies safely and comfortably, and will have the capacity to deliver 5,000 babies each year.

"SMMC has made the effort to make obstetrics a priority by building a dedicated unit. Not many hospitals have a special area like that," said Randy Sheridan, MD.

The new facility will feature all new labor and delivery and postpartum rooms. In addition the hospital's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will have a new home that includes private family rooms. Expanded family waiting areas, an additional C-section suite and a new home for the Mommy & Me Boutique will also be part of the project.

More women choose to deliver at SMMC than other

area hospitals because of several programs to ensure the safest and most enjoyable birth experience possible. Families delivering at the Special Addition Birth Center plan their delivery experience in advance with the Maternity Care Coordinator team. Because women have varying expectations for their birth experience, they meet with the Maternity Care coordinator in advance of their delivery to create a birth plan.

SMMC was the first area hospital to provide an in-house physician for emergency situations where a patient's regular doctor can't make it in time. In addition, a Level III NICU makes specialized care available. Through iCare in-room monitors, recovering moms can keep an eye on their baby in NICU.

A NICU nurse is also present at each birth, no matter what the risk, to provide another layer of safety for newborns.

SMMC offers comprehensive quality care to the Kansas City area community by providing facilities dedicated to bringing comfort and healing to mother and baby. The Special Addition Birth Center offers services that surround each mother with the comforts of home such as in-room massages, current on-demand movie choices and relaxing music, wireless Internet access, Sanijet whirlpool tubs and visitor-free nap times. Mothers and babies deserve extra special care, so SMMC provides one nurse who takes care of mother and baby, in the same room. This nurse is specially prepared to give practical infant care tips on diapering, bathing, feeding and relating to the baby.

SMMC's recent milestone of delivering 100,000 babies is a testimony of its dedication to healing and wellness.

# The Hospital is the Church

An interview with Gary Thurber

Photo by 360 Media



"Adventist hospitals open many doors for us as a church that wouldn't be opened otherwise," says Rocky Mountain Conference president Gary Thurber. "We have a tremendous opportunity to partner with this committed team of 'healers' in prayer."

*Rocky Mountain Conference president Gary Thurber talks about the importance of the global healthcare mission, and the contributions of Denver's four Adventist hospitals.*

## **When did your life first intersect with Adventist healthcare?**

My earliest memory is of going with my father, John Thurber, to Glendale Sanitarium in California. He was a member of the King's Heralds quartet, and they would go up and down the halls singing to patients.

## **What role do Adventist hospitals play in the global mission of the church?**

I think our health care mission is incredible, and of huge importance. More than four million patients are seen just in Adventist Health System<sup>1</sup> hospitals, and millions more worldwide in other Adventist medical facilities every year. That's frontline ministry.

These institutions have the opportunity to model the message in the book *The Ministry of Healing*<sup>2</sup>—"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" The pastoral care given in times of crisis is especially profound.

## **Would you say as much ministry can happen in a hospital room as in an evangelistic series?**

Absolutely. We have to keep reminding people of that wonderful metaphor that Ellen White uses—the health message is the right arm of the gospel. And though there's a very specific role for our Adventist hospital ministry, it's not a separate entity. The hospital is the church.

## **What does it mean to be the right arm of the gospel?**

Well, people will never understand the gospel if they

don't first understand true love and care, which is at the very core. By entering our patients' lives in a very caring, loving and spiritual way, we offer them a better opportunity to know personally the Great Physician.

**From your vantage point as conference president, what is the most important contribution of Denver's four Adventist hospitals—Avista, Littleton, Parker and Porter?**

First off, let me say the hospitals provide world-class healthcare for our community. What an honor it is to be connected with a healthcare system with that kind of reputation! The hospitals' ministry opens many doors for us as a church that wouldn't be opened otherwise.

Not only does the medical staff provide first-class healthcare, but the hospitals' mission statement says they aspire to "Extend the healing ministry of Christ." This attitude starts with the CEOs and flows to all the departments, nurses, physicians and the wonderful group of chaplains who provide pastoral care for the patients and staff. It's impossible to measure the positive impact their ministry makes in people's lives.

**Are there other tangible ways the hospitals support the work of the church that perhaps aren't widely known or understood?**

They're so supportive. They've frequently provided significant financial help to our schools, including Mile High Academy and Vista Ridge Academy, and that's been a huge blessing. They also sponsor the children of their employees to attend our Friendship Camp each summer. This not only helps keep Glacier View Ranch financially viable, but also it exposes the young people to who we are as a church and to our mission. More than half of Friendship Campers do not have an Adventist background, so that's a pretty exciting opportunity.

Another illustration of partnership is in global outreach. For example, members from Littleton Adventist Church and LifeSource Adventist Fellowship have participated in trips to Peru as part of the hospitals' Global Health Initiatives program. It's been an amazing way for local churches to come alongside those who work in our hospitals and participate in mission outreach together.

**How could that partnership be enhanced?**

I'd like to see more church members volunteer at our hospitals. If we would each say, "What can we do? How can we bless your ministry here?" more avenues for partnership could be created. To me, it's a two-way street. Both churches and hospitals ought to be constantly seeking ways in which we can bless each other's journey, because we'll be stronger together.

**What's your dream for the future of the church and its hospitals?**

The greatest gift the hospitals bring to our church family is through the millions of lives they touch. But how can we as a church better connect with those patients? How can we get across to them that we love them, and we care deeply about their journey? To accomplish that, I have a great desire for us all to feel as though we are one ministry, working together.

**What's the most important thing you could say to every church member about Adventist health care in the Rocky Mountain Conference?**

I'd ask each of them one question—Are you praying for our hospitals? God has given this arm of the church great responsibility in meeting our community's physical and spiritual needs. We have a tremendous opportunity to partner with this committed team of "healers" in prayer.

**And if you could share one message with hospital employees, what would it be?**

I would just say thank-you for extending the healing ministry of Christ. You can never underestimate how powerful that is in a person's life. I'm reminded of how, years ago, my 12-year old son and I were on a trip together, and I found myself in an emergency room in one of our hospitals. There was more than a slight chance I was going to have to have surgery, and the rest of my family was all the way across the country.

Before I could even think about what to do next, the chaplain came to see me, made friends with my son, and offered to take him home and care for him if I had to spend the night in the hospital. She prayed with us and we knew she cared, and you can't put a price tag on that. The medical help was great that night, but the healing came in knowing they cared about my son and me. That's the difference between a Christian hospital and one that just dispenses medical services.

When those who work in our hospitals add that element to their ministry, when they go the extra step and are representatives of Christ in the way they care, they can make a huge impact. So I want to send the message that we love them, that we need them and that they're part of us.

<sup>1</sup>*The Adventist health care organization that sponsors 43 hospitals in 12 states, including Avista, Littleton, Parker and Porter hospitals.*

<sup>2</sup>*Ellen G. White, Ministry of Healing, page 143.*

*This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for mission and ministry for Colorado's Adventist hospitals, and written by CMBell Company.*





### Greatly Blessed Amid Great Challenges *by Roger Bernard*



Prayer ministries

This quinquennium has been one of challenge and change for the Central States Conference. We began the past five years under the outstanding leadership of Elder G. Alexander Bryant. During his 12 years as president, he with his fellow officers built a strong foundation. Then came an unexpected turn when Central States lost its executive administrative team: Elder Bryant to the North American Division, Phyllis Ware to marriage and Elder Jack Morris to death.

A new administration began with the arrival of Dr. Charles W. Drake III as president, Elder Roger A. Bernard, executive secretary, and Sister Tonya L. Anderson as treasurer. God has blessed this trio of leaders to become a cohesive unit in serving the Central States Conference.

Upon his arrival in December 2008, after having served as vice-president for administration at the Mid-America Union, Dr. Drake began building upon the foundation of the previous

administration. He initiated an immediate assessment and mission focus review.

Statistically, here are the numbers reported over the last five years:

- Baptisms—1,863
- New church plants—16 strong congregations averaging 1,810 worshippers
- New church buildings—six
- Tithe—23 percent increase
- Church attendance—12 percent increase.

Numbers cannot tell the whole story. They can't reflect the number of members reclaimed to the church, nor can they measure the success of revival, individually or corporately. Numbers alone cannot indicate how lives were impacted by community outreach programs or by individual members loving and sharing. How do you measure the influence of our teachers on the lives of students, or our pastors on the lives of parishioners?

Despite the challenge of administrative transition, Central States Conference has enjoyed the sustained blessing of God this past quinquennium. Among notable accomplishments is the unification of various metros in our conference for collaborative ministry. The St. Louis area launched this initiative by embracing the theme: "One Church in Five Locations." Area pastors synergized their ministries by uniting their churches for outreach, which the Lord greatly blessed. Some achievements are:

- Joint church services twice a year
- Joint prayer meeting every fourth Wednesday night
- Citywide evangelistic meetings
- Joint area training
- Any member can approach any pastor for pastoral care
- Pastors visiting any sick and shut in member in the city
- Unity among pastors and their families
- Churches supporting one another.

Now the spirit of St. Louis has spread around the conference. We believe that working together in unity will fulfill the promise of Acts 2, bringing us the same experience in the Holy Spirit that was evident in the apostolic era.

Central States Youth Department has implemented several innovative programs, including community service initiatives such as Wiiserve, I-Gen (Impact Generation), a teen leadership training program, and its first video devotional project intended to minister not only to the youth of Central States, but to the world.

Moving into the next quinquennium, Central States Conference has developed three intentional focus areas under the theme Sharing the Hope.



### Evangelism

God's mission to the church is clear: "Go and make disciples." We intend to follow God's command. During the past five years over 1,000 members have been trained to take the gospel to the streets through community involvement, direct Bible studies, health ministries, literature evangelism and personal witnessing. All pastors have committed themselves to create an atmosphere of evangelism in the churches so that every Sabbath is an evangelism Sabbath. School teachers are witnessing every day in the classroom and also mentoring students to reach out and share Christ. Youth are sharing Christ with peers, in their own context, through organized evangelism groups within each congregation.

### Nurture

Since baptizing people into the church is not enough, we are focusing on closing the "back door" through specific plans to nurture new members. It is our desire to grow the church through making disciples who are so excited about their relationship with Jesus that they must share it.

### Stewardship

Central States is challenging members to recognize and use the gifts God has given them for the building of His kingdom. Members as individuals cannot do it all—but together we can accomplish much. We stress the importance of whole life stewardship: body, mind, finances and soul. All of these belong to Christ, who has given us the privilege to use them in accomplishing His mission.

We are excited about plans to build 24 new senior housing units on the conference campgrounds. With a focus on upgrading the community and providing safe housing for seniors,

the Conference Executive Committee recently approved the plan. The new housing complex will provide for the seniors' immediate needs. Plans include having a store, a barber shop, and a building for medical care.

In the next quinquennium, we are looking forward to revitalizing the publishing ministry in Central States. Led by Pastor Compton Ross, a new zeal and excitement is developing for witnessing through the printed page. Pastor Ross has also been empowered to start a modest Adventist Book Center with the hope of its growth into a vibrant, self-supporting business for the Central States Conference.

Because our family of members has grown significantly, we have outgrown our current campground. This "good problem" necessitates that we strategize regarding the development of our grounds so the needs of our constituents can be accommodated.

These, among many other ideas, will be the focus of Central States leaders over the next five years. We pray that God will bless us in each venture. We are committed to give Him all the glory for His blessings.

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*Roger Bernard is executive secretary and communication director of the Central States Conference.*



The "Biggest Losers" of 2010



Organization of the Korean Church



Equipment training 2011



Faith International SDA Company becomes an official church.



### Divine Blessings in Dakota



Neil and Jacquie Biloff

*Communication director Jacquie Biloff interviews her husband, conference president Neil Biloff, about what God has been doing in the Dakotas.*

#### **Reminiscing about the past five years in which you have served Dakota Conference as president, what brings you a sense of satisfaction?**

Among all God's blessings to the Dakota Conference, several in particular come to mind. All were achieved by the support and cooperative effort of our constituents:

God has added precious souls through many outreach channels, for which we praise Him.

The new roof on Dakota Adventist Academy was a major accomplishment. People gave until I had to write a letter to tell them to stop giving because we had enough money! I'm told that the new roof will save over \$10,000 a year in utility expenses.

Speaking of new roofs—a new roof was provided for the auditorium at Flag Mountain Camp in South Dakota. Also, the auditorium and adjacent buildings were painted.

Two new resident cabins were added to Northern Lights Camp—plus a boathouse. Many members shared their building talents to support the youth programs.

One anonymous donor funded a three-year salary for a senior youth and camp director. This has been an extraordinary blessing, providing several expanded programs and resulting in baptisms.

Three new congregations have begun worshipping in the Dakotas: Red River Adventist plant in Fargo; Brookings Adventist plant in South Dakota; and Hermosa Adventist plant, presently on the Black Hills Health and Education campus. The latter group purchased property for a new church building.

Also in South Dakota, Spearfish Adventist Church has broken ground for construction to begin in the spring.

Unfortunately, we have also had to close some churches due to dwindling memberships as the population becomes more urban than rural.

#### **What would you like to see happen in Dakota during the next quinquennium?**

God says that without a vision, His people perish. I believe that a vision should always be before us. As projects and programs are finished, new challenges appear. I am envisioning:

- Uplifting Christ in all personal and corporate actions. Daily decisions are made that affect the future of the Dakota Conference. Only with His blessing can those choices be appropriate.
- Expanding Adventist education and schools, both elementary and secondary. This is a mission field where second and third generation Ad-

ventists are introduced to a loving Savior and first generation Adventists can be created. Three quality environments are necessary to produce healthy Adventist children: the home, the school and the church.

- Increasing baptisms. Our stated mission is to advance God's kingdom through every means at our disposal. The harvest is ready. We are searching for spiritual combines to gather in His elect.
- Continuing to upgrade the infrastructure at Dakota Adventist Academy. This is now possible due to the protection the new roof provides. Many improvements have already been made.
- Maintaining a solid financial base for the conference. God has blessed Dakota with a stable economy and more recently, with the discovery and exploration of oil reserves. These blessings are for the advancement of the cause of Christ in these final hours of earth's history. We need to use them wisely.
- Moving our conference office to Bismarck. Property has been purchased to make this a reality. When designated funds are available, a new conference office will be built to serve the constituency of Dakota.

#### **Do we have draft-ready plans for the new conference office?**

Office plans were gathered from four different conferences for reference: Texico, Montana, Wisconsin and Alaska. Ideas were adapted from these plans to draft a working blueprint for our needs.

Dakota is rich in talent. On God's timetable, we will have a building that will properly function as an office and adequately represent Him.





## Dakota's Largest District (Unofficially)

by Cheryl Erickson



Marking Bibles for distribution along I-94

When North Dakota's Cleveland members realized that theirs is the only Adventist church between their town and Bismarck—an 82-mile stretch along I-94—they began taking their mission territory even more seriously. They installed six *Signs* magazine distribution boxes in towns between the churches, four of them

near freeway exits. They also offered Bibles and a variety of books and study cards, with the church's address.


Cleveland members were delighted when the first request for Bibles studies came in—from someone in Pennsylvania, who also enrolled her friends. Now five people back East study by mail with the Cleveland congregation—missionaries to an even larger territory than assigned to them by the Dakota Conference.

*Cheryl Erickson is a member of Cleveland Church in North Dakota.*

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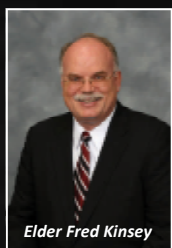
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### Sedalia Hosts Family Life Weekend *by Michelle Miracle*

Michelle Miracle



Pastor Tony LaPorte and his wife, Nereida (standing at right) sharing how personality differences affect our communication styles during their Sabbath morning seminar

Sedalia (Missouri) Church recently hosted a Family Life Weekend with newly appointed Family Life Ministries coordinators Tony and Nereida LaPorte. Declaring that “open communication is the key to a happy family and a happy marriage,” Pastor LaPorte and his wife addressed the entire family rather than just couples.

Using “Jesus, the Master Communicator” as their communication model, attendees progressed through a series of seminars on family communication that is honest yet respectful and non-judgmental. “In open communication, people talk about issues with no hidden messages,” said Tony. “It is a combination of listening, accepting and expressing. This can be difficult because it requires vulnerability.”

The LaPortes explained that open communicators are willing to:

- admit when they’ve done wrong
- take risks
- be genuine
- feel at ease in verbalizing feelings
- be honest with themselves and others
- take responsibility for their own behavior
- listen, even when the message is painful to hear.

“We need to develop communication skills to have deep relationships and a positive atmosphere in our families,” said Tony. He added: “The key to accepting our differences is to sacredly regard the feelings of family members and respect their right to be different.”

Nereida explained the importance

of letting children know they are respected and that communicating opinions and feelings is valued and appreciated. “Encourage your children to share their lives with you,” she advised. “Ask how their day was and make sure you are genuinely interested in hearing what they have to say.”

As the weekend drew to a close, the LaPortes left attendees with a guiding Scripture: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

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



### Warm-hearted Students Brave Winter Cold *by Darren McDaniel*

For kids at Des Moines Adventist Junior Academy, community service is neither a punishment nor a chore. From Kindergarten through 9th grade, DAJA students enjoy reaching out to neighbors through various approaches. This past winter the kids—from the smallest Kindergartner to the strongest 9th grader—braved intense cold to distribute the Word of God to the community.

Whether it is grades K-3 singing to the elderly in a local nursing home or

grades 4-6 raking leaves for neighbors unable to do it themselves, DAJA students have discovered the joy of serving others. Upper graders (7-9) baked cupcakes, cookies and pies to give away. On a cold December morning, they went door to door with a plate of goodies in one hand and a free Bible in the other. Encountering both warm welcome and icy resistance, they persevered, believing that if even one Bible led someone to Christ, the project was worth their effort. Eighteen

Bibles found a home in their neighbors' hearts.

With enrollment at DAJA having more than doubled over the past two years, students and staff believe that their responsibility to the community has also grown—and God has blessed them in fulfilling it.

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*Darren McDaniel is principal and teaches grades 7-9 at Des Moines Adventist Junior Academy.*

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### Hands-on Field Trip *by Elizabeth Rodriguez*

Students at Aspenwood Christian School in Sioux City, Iowa recently visited Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. After studying about scales, feathers and fur in class, students visited the Nature Center for a hands-on learning experience. They had a great time touching various bird, fish and mammal specimens. The Nature Center host asked students numerous questions about animal classifications and habits—and each question was met with an eager and correct answer.

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*Elizabeth Rodriguez is principal and K-4 teacher at Aspenwood Christian School.*

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Above: Nature Center host shows students a fur pelt.

Left: Aspenwood students inspect feathers at the Nature Center.



### President's Message *by Ron Carlson*

Photo by John Trede



The Kansas-Nebraska Conference has experienced significant change during the past five years. Maintaining two boarding schools—Platte Valley and Enterprise academies—became too much for the conference to afford. Because of our constituents' deep commitment to Adventist education, they voted to merge the two schools into Great Plains Academy. Despite every effort to help this new school succeed, enrollment did not increase. In the spirit of meeting the needs of our students, rather than preserving buildings, Great Plains Academy was closed in May 2010.

The conference developed a new scholarship plan with the monies traditionally used to subsidize our boarding schools, along with other contributions. More than \$300,000 was distributed in the 2010-11 school year to assist over 50 youth attending the Adventist boarding school of their choice, as well as providing significant scholarship assistance to College View Academy, Midland Adventist Academy and Wichita Adventist Christian Academy. This self-perpetuating scholarship fund will make it possible for many Adventist youth to get the education they need and want.

Throughout our educational dilemmas, the Kansas-Nebraska Confer-

ence continued a strong evangelistic outreach. And now the financial situation of our conference is on much more solid ground than it has been. The academy situation had drained funds to a very dangerous level, but over the past five years, resources have continued to increase and God's people have been faithful in returning His tithe—and very generous in supporting His work in our two-state

territory.

Sharing the gospel continues to be the driving force behind all we do in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. We will continue our mission of building congregations that are healthy places for believers to grow and mature, while also providing a welcoming, loving environment where new people can experience Jesus. This is our goal for the next quinquennium.

### **"Total Freedom"**

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THE NEW FACETS OF  
**LEADERSHIP**



## Five Years of Outreach and Compassion *by John Treolo*

As a new quinquennium begins for the Mid-America Union, evangelism continues as Priority One in Kansas-Nebraska. Beyond collaborating with the Net satellite meetings from the NAD, many pastors invited evangelists to conduct full-scale campaigns.

Lay members also participated in outreach. At the conclusion of a recent Hispanic camp meeting, more than 50 lay members received certi-

icates for completing rigorous training. Local elders received instruction from NAD ministerial officials at New Haven Church in Kansas.

Equipping lay people has brought church growth. Existing congregations have gained members, and new companies organized in the past five years include River of Life (Omaha), New Haven Spanish (Overland Park), Hutchinson Spanish and

Topeka Spanish. Grand Island Spanish moved from a company to church status.

The Kansas-Nebraska Conference has experienced numerous blessings, for which we praise God even as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus."

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

***Riding With the Badventists***

You may be bad to the bone, or just bad enough to throw out recyclables with the regular trash. Kim Peckham and Mike Owens talk about what God wants to do with the frustration and guilt that comes from not being as good a man as you want to be.

**Mike Owens** is a graduate of Enterprise Academy and author of *Stop Laughing: I'm trying to make a point.*

**Kim Peckham** is an ordinary "bubba" from North Florida who has a passion for the Lord and a riveting story.

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Upcoming Events	
March 27	Breast Cancer Awareness Tea, Northside Church, Lincoln Contact: punkyjr@hotmail.com
April 1-3	Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend www.alumni2011.org
April 7-10	Union College Alumni Weekend   www.ucollege.edu
April 15-17	Marriage Encounter Weekend Contact: anhardt@ucollege.edu
April 22-23	Platte Valley Academy Alumni Weekend www.plattevalleyalumni.com
April 29-May 1	Pathfinder Camporee   Contact: tsager@ks-ne.org
April 29-May 1	New Haven Men's Ministry   Speaker: Senate Chaplain Barry Black   Contact: rmtennison@yahoo.com





### Interview with Conference President Ed Barnett

Jeff Wines



D. Edward Barnett, president of the Minnesota Conference

*Minnesota Conference youth and communication director Jeff Wines interviews Ed Barnett, president of the conference.*

**Over the last year and a half, you have been in Minnesota serving as president of the conference. Where is the conference headed? What is our mission and our vision?**

Not long after I arrived in Minnesota, the conference executive committee as well as the administrative team came together to pray and discuss where we saw God leading. Out of that experience came four initiatives to coincide with our mission and vision.

Our mission is to help people realize they are accepted in Jesus Christ

and come to know, love, serve and share Him. Our vision is this: recognizing that Jesus will return soon, we will all actively engage in ministry.

The first of our four initiatives to support that mission and vision is to encourage members in the Minnesota Conference to read their Bible clear through in 2011. In my personal experience, as I have read the Bible through for a number of years, I have found the Holy Spirit helps us grow closer to Jesus and become more holistic Christians. The daily reading from God's word is a light to our path.

The second initiative is to encourage members in the Minnesota Conference to be faithful in stewardship. It takes money to spread the gospel.

**What financial state are we in right now?**

Things are real tight. But we see the Lord continuing to bless and lead through our members, teachers and pastors. In conjunction with this, we are putting more emphasis on lay led ministry/evangelism. We had to do some right-sizing in 2010, and yet we had a 0.44 percent increase in tithe. Praise God!

A major emphasis and the third initiative is our youth.

We now have you [Jeff Wines] as our youth director in the conference. Your main job is working with our youth, as well as being our communication director. One of your major emphases is North Star Camp (NSC). There is a master plan now to completely improve the camp. God is blessing in that effort. You are also working with Pathfinder ministries, Adventurers, Master Guides and young adults, as well as other initiatives.

We are also continuing to promote

Seventh-day Adventist education. This fall we had a SchoolWorks summit to discuss strategies for improving SDA education in the conference. Out of that came a new program called "Made in Minnesota." It's a plan for members across the conference to give monthly toward Christian education to help young people. Whether or not the local church has a school, this is a way for our people to participate in Christian education.

**So how is our educational system doing?**

Our total student enrollment is up from last year. We're moving in the right direction. Education is expensive, yet it is money well spent.

The fourth initiative is to reach our goal of 9,000 members by camp meeting 2012. At the end of 2010, we exceeded 8,000 members.

**Isn't it hard to gain 1,000 members in one year in Minnesota?**

It is a big goal, yet it's attainable. A lot of the growth is happening in our ethnic congregations, so a large portion of this growth will come from these churches.

**As we talk, you seem to carry a sense of urgency with these four initiatives.**

We must do everything we can to get people in the Word and faithful in stewardship. At the same time we can't let the youth slip out of the church. With the short time that we have before Christ comes, I believe these initiatives will help us do our part in seeking and saving the lost.





## “This is My Home—I Grew Up Here!” *by Jeff Wines*

### *Excitement and Evangelism at North Star Camp*

“This is my home—I grew up here!” That sentiment was heard from several North Star Camp (NSC) staff members last summer. So now it’s natural that they would return to mentor a new generation of campers. By riding horses, wakeboarding, being with friends and just enjoying the overall NSC experience, kids gain a sense of family, Christian community and God’s presence. Their lives are powerfully impacted.

The story of how NSC got started is one of miracle after miracle. (To get a printed copy of that inspiring history, contact the Minnesota Conference office.) Those long-ago miracles continue today, as donations have

come in to replace worn-out cabins. The conference expects to roll out the financial master plan later this year. Meanwhile, NSC’s redevelopment plan can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/hKTDZA>.

Kid’s lives continue to be changed at NSC. They are making decisions for baptism. For providing them that evangelistic experience, Minnesota Conference leaders say “thank



Tubing on Rice Lake

you.” Someday these kids will return and say, “North Star Camp is my home—it’s where I met Jesus!”

*Jeff Wines is youth and communication director of the Minnesota Conference.*

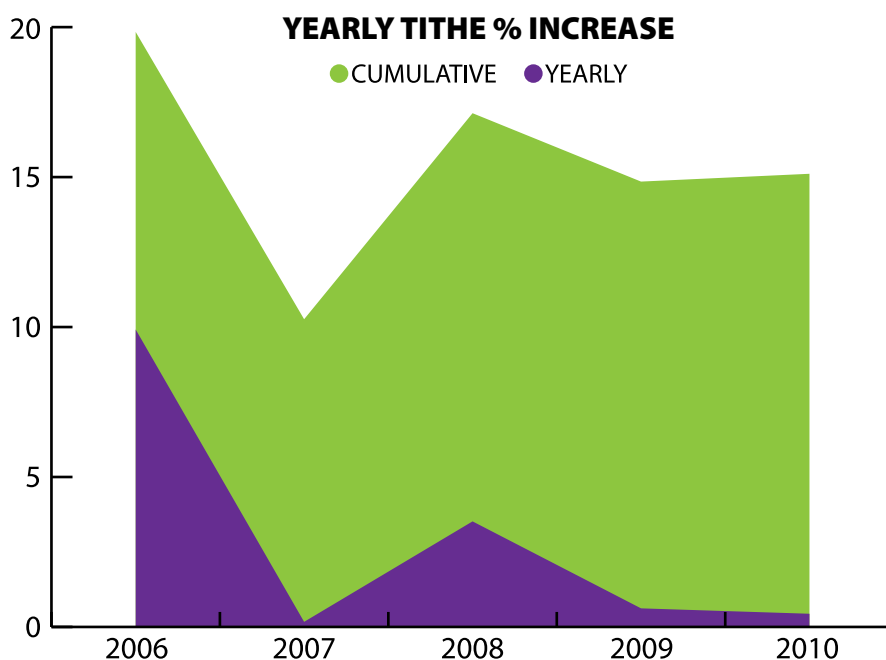
## Growth for the Minnesota Conference *by Reggie Leach*

Two significant indicators portray the health of the Minnesota Conference: patterns of membership gain and tithe increase.

In 2010 conference membership passed the 8,000 mark, after growth in the previous five years averaging 17.48 percent. In 2010 alone we had 407 baptisms and professions of faith. Meanwhile, tithe in the past quinquennium grew at a steady rate averaging 2.93 percent.

While these statistics are not a total indicator of spiritual health, they do show how God is blessing the efforts of Adventists in Minnesota to spread the gospel across the state and support their church.

*Reggie Leach is vice president for finance of the Minnesota Conference.*





## Vista Ridge Academy Hosts Health Fair *by Jodie Aakko*



"It was fun!" exclaims Kendra Eickmann (second from right), first grade student of HMS Richards School.

"God wants us to make our bodies strong and healthy," proclaimed Cameron Cizek, an eighth grade student at Brighton Adventist Academy who attended last November's North Front Range Invitational Health Fair. Caleb Anthony, a sixth grader at Adventist Christian School chimed in: "I had a lot of fun and learned a lot!"

Vista Ridge Academy hosted the first of what is planned to be an annual health awareness event. Each participating student prepared a display board, log book, written report and oral presentation. Judges awarded them each a ribbon.

More than 200 Colorado students from Adventist Christian School

(Greeley), Brighton Adventist Academy, HMS Richards School (Loveland), and Vista Ridge Academy (Erie) joined a crowd of teachers and parents to celebrate a pillar of Adventist education—health in all its dimensions: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual.

"When you soak chicken bones in Mountain Dew, it takes calcium out of the bones," reported Gabrielle Langley, pre-kindergarten student of HMS Richards School. First grade classmate Bethany Morton added, "Vinegar takes calcium away from bones, too." The Loveland PreK-1st group proudly wore bright, beaming smiles—the only sight to out-

shine their cheerful, informative "Bones, Teeth and Calcium" project (complete with chicken bone experiments).

"I learned that arteriovenous malformation can happen anywhere in the body—not just the brain," explained Arie Wright, a Vista Ridge Academy seventh grader. "There is contradictory information about this disease, because it hasn't been studied for many years," she said as she stood by her poignant and informative display board. She was practicing her presentation before a judge arrived.

Examples of other student projects included diabetes, cells, blueberries, alcohol, left/right brain, caffeine, exercise, genetics, depression, trust in God, stress, hydration, skin cancer, Crohn's, hearing aids, joint replacement, fiber, robotics in medicine, family prayer time, sunshine, obesity, speech therapy, dentistry, artificial hearts and more.

*Jodie Aakko is a teacher at HMS Richards School: jodieaakko@comcast.net*

## Prayer Blankets for Soldiers *by Cathy Kissner*



Adventist Community Service Center in Grand Junction is sponsoring "prayer blankets" for soldiers. Volunteers made 66 blankets for soldiers in Marcus Kissner's unit, distributed at the recent deployment ceremony.

*Cathy Kissner is volunteer ACS coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Conference: cathyk@rmcsda.com*

*Cathy Kissner and her grandchildren giving a prayer blanket to a soldier in Cathy's son's unit*



### Arvada District Wins 130 For Jesus In 2010 *by Gordon Anic*

Milos Tomic



Pastor Milos Tomic baptized four girls at Arvada English church.

Colorado's Arvada District is comprised of two churches, one company and three branch Sabbath schools, totaling 535 members. In 2010 the district won 130 new members—96 by baptism and 34 by profession of faith. Lay pastor Milton Encarcion

baptized 70 by himself while leading a Spanish-speaking company in Aurora. His method is simple: preach a message of grace, offer a contemporary worship service and love everyone until they can't stand it anymore. In two years of existence, Milton's group has grown from 15 to 130, with new people coming every Sabbath.

Arvada English is the district's mother church, living by the same rules. Grace-based proclamation is its most important growth principle. The next is to offer a safe place to grow in a relationship with Jesus. This means no judging or gossip, no cliques, no dress requirements, no resistance to drums in the worship service, and no excluding anyone based on

age or spiritual maturity. Arvada accepts people as they are, with all their sins and baggage, issues and quirks. Members open the church doors to everyone and then get out of the way, letting the Holy Spirit heal, guide and change—in His time, not theirs.

In December, Arvada Church membership exceeded 400 for the first time in four decades. To experience such growth, the church had to go beyond merely learning 28 fundamental beliefs, committing itself to also nurture a close relationship with Jesus. The Arvada Church website is accessible at [www.aachurch.org](http://www.aachurch.org).

*Gordon Anic is senior pastor of Arvada district: [gordonanic@gmail.com](mailto:gordonanic@gmail.com)*

### Eisenmans Celebrate 75 Years Together *by Darlene Clark*



Albert and Bertha Eisenman

Albert Eisenman and Bertha Neumiller Eisenman recently celebrated 75 years of marriage at the home of their daughter, Aldine Klein, of Republic, Washington. The couple met at the farming community of Mobridge, South Dakota, where Bertha was a high school friend of Albert's sisters. Albert fell in love with Bertha when she removed a splinter from his

finger! They were married on December 7, 1935 and made their first home near Mobridge, doing farming and ranching. They have seven daughters: Donna Hartensteine, Silverton, Oregon; Crystal Kronner, Roseburg, Oregon; DeEtta Burr, Evergreen, Colorado; Lititia Coleman, Mora, New Mexico; Aldine Klein, Republic, Washington; Joanne Rea, Calimesa, California; Robin Howard, Greeley, Colorado; 21 grandchildren, and 42 great-grandchildren.

In 1970 they moved to Loveland, Colorado, where Albert worked in construction, helping to build their last home at age 80. During Albert's working years, Bertha was busy as a homemaker and mother along with gardening, sewing and missionary activities. They also enjoyed volunteering at the Loveland Seventh-day

Adventist Community Service Center.

During their December week-long celebration, all seven daughters gathered and enjoyed organizing and assembling seven picture albums representing each daughter's family, as well as albums representing their heritage, their friends and their own siblings. Other activities included singing, Bible study and eating the healthful home-cooked food that characterizes Klondike Mountain Health Retreat.

When asked to what they attributed their many years of happy marriage, Albert responded, "Divorce was not an option. Besides I couldn't have found a better wife!" Bertha's response was, "I made a promise that I could not break, and the Lord helped me to keep it."





## Union College

### How Do You Support Us? Let Me Count The Ways *by David Smith*

Eric Stenbakken



David Smith, president of Union College

The priority that Seventh-day Adventists give to education is still evident today in Mid-America. As I travel our territory, I am awed and grateful to see the many ways that members support Union College. Whether

encouraging young people to enroll, giving tithe to your conference or remembering us in your prayers, your support allows us to provide the strong education and spiritual growth opportunities that make Union a great place to learn. Thank you.

#### A living endowment

Many colleges and universities benefit from endowments supplying million of dollars each year for operations and special projects. While Union does not have a large endowment in the traditional sense, our financial stability is assured by something even better—a “living endowment.” Through the faithfulness of the members, each conference contributes a subsidy—the combined

total reaching more than \$2 million annually—to our operations. This living endowment accounts for 10 percent of Union College’s operating budget and allows us to continue offering competitive tuition rates and a quality education.

Beyond this regular subsidy, the Mid-America Union helped Union College upgrade campus infrastructure, the imperative but unglamorous projects that rarely interest donors, but enable future growth. In 2005 through 2007, the Mid-America Union contributed more than \$2 million to replace two boilers, repair an aging chiller (air conditioner), renovate the HVAC system in Larson Lifestyle Center, upgrade plumbing and replace the campus electrical deliv-

## experience the last five years

As the Mid-America Union takes a look back at the last five years, here’s a snapshot of some of the highlights at Union College. If you want to learn more about these stories, check out the feature at [www.ucollege.edu/2006-2011](http://www.ucollege.edu/2006-2011).



**PA master's**  
Union grants its first master's degree—in physician assistant studies. The program previously granted bachelor's degrees.

MAY 2006

**U.S. News best college**  
Union named to U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges list for the first time. Union has made the list every year since.



**Cooper Place**  
Union opens Cooper Place, a 24-unit contemporary apartment-style student residence, through a collaboration with local developers.

AUGUST 2006



**Passing 1000**  
Enrollment tops 1000 for the first time in 24 years.

FALL 2007



#### 25th Impact

Union celebrates the 25th Project Impact, an annual service day when more than 800 students and employees take the day off to help out at service organizations in the Lincoln community.

SEPT 2006



JANUARY 2008

**Nursing expands**  
The nursing program begins enrolling a new class each January, effectively doubling the size of the program.



SPRING 2008

**10,000 alumni**  
Raven Downs becomes the 10,000th alumnus to join Union's alumni association.

2006

2007

2008



# Union College

ery system. Without your generosity through your local conference and the Mid-America Union, we could not have completed these vital upgrades. Thank you.

## Leadership

The leadership of the Mid-America Union also provides valuable guidance for our school. The Mid-America president serves as the ex officio chair of the Union College Board of Trustees, and he is joined on the board by the vice president and treasurer of the Mid-America Union and the presidents of each of our six conferences.

Even though three different Mid-America presidents have led our board during the last five years, they have each provided strong and consistent leadership, and Union College

has continued to thrive. To Dennis Carlson, Roscoe Howard and Tom Lemon, thank you.

## Outlook magazine

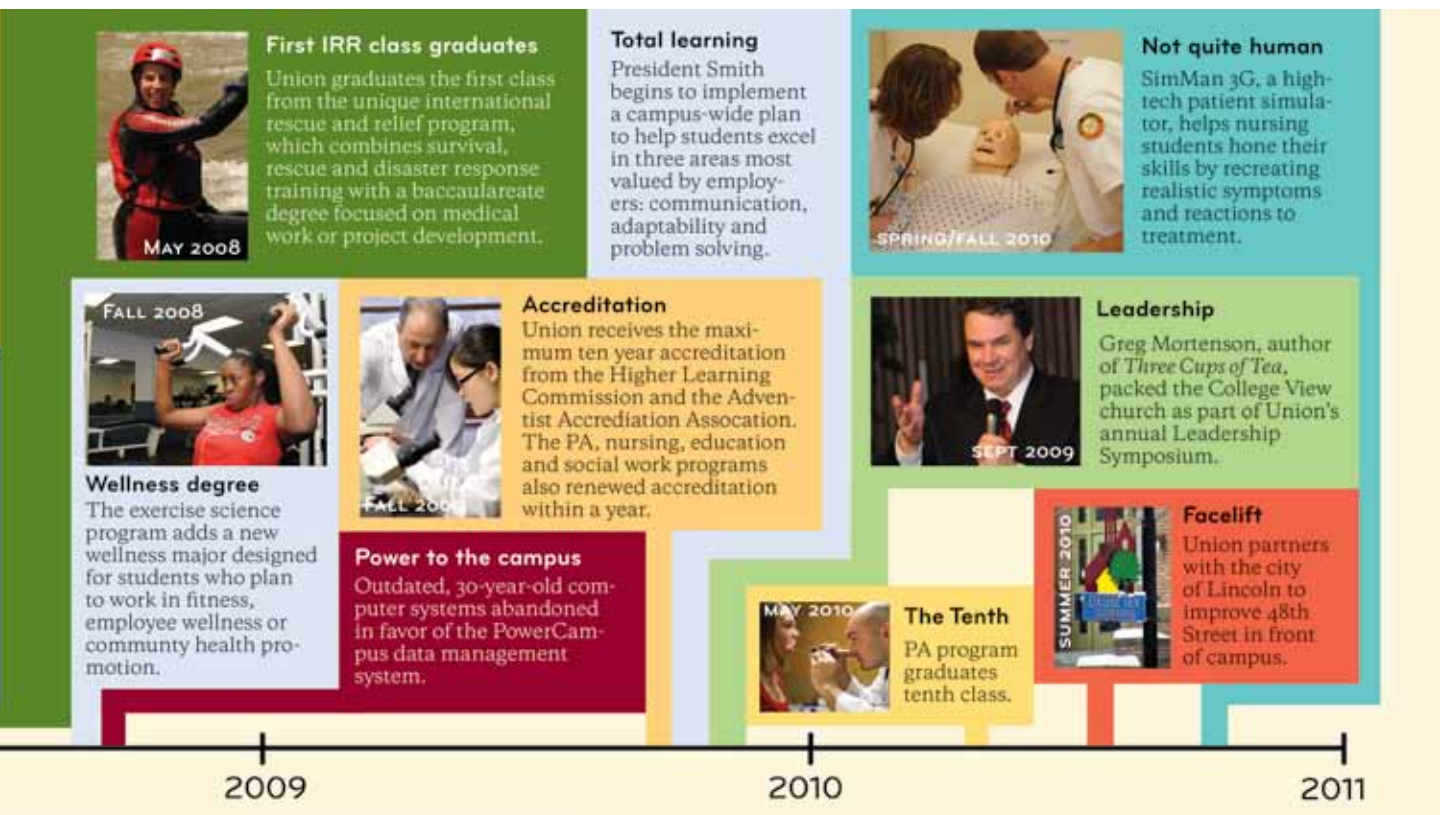
Union College enjoys unprecedented coverage in *Outlook*, the Mid-America Union's official magazine. In addition to providing two pages in each issue for Union College news, the *Outlook* editorial staff dedicates the November issue each year to sharing stories from the life and mission of Union College students.

For more than 15 years, the magazine editing class taught by Chris Blake, associate professor of English and communication, has been given the opportunity to produce an issue of *Outlook*. Thank you all for being open to young voices.

## Best students in the world

Young people from the Midwest bring something very special to the Union College experience. We don't create great students here; we help them find the greatness God has planned for them. Your children and grandchildren make Union College a vibrant experience, academically, socially and spiritually. Thank you for raising such exceptional young people, and for entrusting their transition to adulthood to Union College.

Thank you to the Mid-America Union, the conferences and each of you, the members, for your faithfulness. If you have questions about Union College, please take the time to learn more at our website, [www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu), write to [ucinfo@ucollege.edu](mailto:ucinfo@ucollege.edu) or give us a call at 800.228.4600.





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## Legal Notice of the Seventh Session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Seventh Session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held May 1-2, 2011 at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. This regular session is being called to receive reports, to elect officers, departmental directors and members of the executive committee, to consider recommended changes to the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session. The first meeting will convene Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. The delegates to this session are the regularly elected delegates from the conferences and institutions in the territory of the Mid-America Union Conference. Thomas L. Lemon, president

## Legal Notice of the Quinquennial Session of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the Mid-America Union, Central Union and Northern Union Conference Associations of Seventh-day Adventists, legal corporations, the regular business session will be held at the time of the Seventh Business Session of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The first meeting of the associations will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, 2011. The purpose of the meeting is to elect trustees, to receive reports and to transact business that may properly come before the corporation at that time. The members of these associations are the accredited delegates in attendance at the meetings of the Mid-America Union Conference Session.

Thomas L. Lemon, president

Elaine Hagele, vice president for finance



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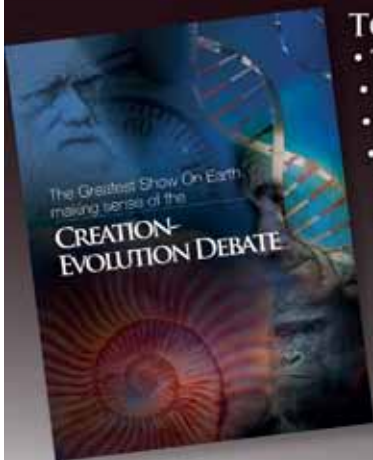
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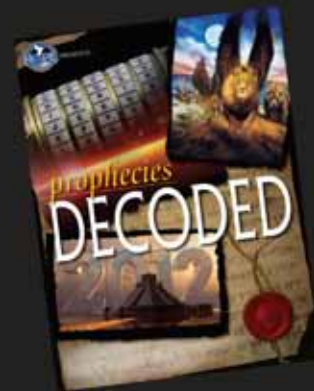
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- The Life of Creatures: Wonder and Trouble in Paradise
- Genes and Genies: What We Know and What We Don't
- The Flood and the Fossil:  
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- Father God or Mother Earth: History, Presuppositions,  
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## Farewell

**Achtziger, Alexander**, b. May 14, 1926, in Milwaukee, WI, d. Jan. 16, 2011, in Lincoln, NE. Member of the College View Church. Survived by son, Ron; daughters, Becky Bowen and Vicky Buchholz; foster son, Larry Whitebear; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Bandiola, Benjamin**, b. Oct. 11, 1926, in the Philippines, d. Dec. 27, 2010, in Orlando, FL. Member of the Collegedale Church in TN. Served as a professor at Union College from 1969-84. Predeceased by parents and three brothers. Survived by wife, Anita; daughters, Vivien, Renee, and Lillian Gibson; sons, Ivan and John; one brother; three sisters; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; nieces and nephews.

**Baughner, Ida Ruth**, b. April 25, 1923, in Albia, IA, d. Nov. 16, 2010, in Unionville, MO. Member of the Centerville Church. Survived by daughters, Sherrill Baughner and Deborah Pankey; son, Ted; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Bergmann, Vera Melita**, b. May 28, 1929 in Aurora, IL, d. Nov. 29, 2010, in Delta, CO. Member of Cedaredge Church. Nursed at Porter and Paradise Valley Hospitals. Predeceased by parents, August and Minnie (Chigan); sister, Audrey Hulett; and brother, Alfred. Survived by sister, Ina Haugen; and niece, Wanda Kaiser.

**Boydston, Eugene "Stanley"**, b. May 8, 1918, in Platte County, MO, d. Jan. 15, 2011, in Agency, MO. Member of the All Nations Church in Leavenworth, KS. Earned the Bronze Star medal during WWII. Predeceased by parents, wife, a son, four brothers, and two sisters. Survived by daughters, Mary Hunt, Paula Raccuglia, Robyn Wahlgren; brother, Leonard; sisters, Adella May Foxworthy, Martha Jean Surls; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Bulla, Else**, b. March 9, 1930, d. Oct. 25, 2010, in St. Louis, MO. Member of the St. Louis Southside Church. Survived by son, Karl; daughter, Shirley Wampler; sister, Margaret Wilson; and five grandchildren.

**Chapman, Elsie B.**, b. Sept. 27, 1913, in Cherokee, IA, d. Nov. 29, 2010, in

Cherokee, IA. Member of the Spencer Church. Survived by daughters, Barbara Welch, Linda Widicker and Delores Yaros; sons, Dan and Jim; 16 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

**Custine, Jerry**, b. March 4, 1945, d. Dec. 6, 2010, in Grand Junction, CO. Member of the Nevada Church. Survived by brother, Elbert Custine.

**Dassenko, Wallace**, b. June 13, 1925 in Grassy Butte, ND, d. April 5, 2010 in Breckenridge, MN. Member of the Wahpeton Church. Predeceased by wife, Charlotte. Survived by daughter, Susan Vandrovec; sons James, John, Roger; sister, Lena Schild; brothers, Jack and Ivan; and seven grandchildren.

**Ebrite, Ross "R J" Neal**, b. Jan. 6, 1923, in Gainsville, MO, d. Nov. 15, 2010, in Ozark, MO. Member of the Springfield Church. Survived by granddaughter, Andrea Herbst.

**Fernandez, Mildred Mae**, b. April 14, 1940 I Madison, SD, d. Jan. 22, 2011, in Longmont, CO. Member of the Brighton Church. Survived by husband, Ezekiel; son, Matt Barnhart; three sisters; step-daughter Marlene Medina-Ellquist; step-son Gary; two granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; step-grandchildren; and step-great-grandchildren.

**Frazier, Marvin E.**, b. Dec. 31, 1929, in Salisbury, MO, d. Sept. 27, 2010, in Eldon, MO. Member of the Jefferson City Church. Survived by son, Robert; brother, Earl; and three grandchildren.

**Gibbs, Marvin E.**, b. Jan. 29, 1933, in Edwardsburg, MI, d. Dec. 11, 2010. Long time member of the Chapel Haven Church in Northglenn, CO. Survived by wife, Rosemary McCown Gibbs; daughters, Rhonda Myers, Mearl Gibbs and Marlys Seek; four sisters; four brothers; and six grandchildren.

**Harras, Janet Lorraine Greer**, b. July 5, 1936, in Aledo, IL, d. Aug. 15, 2009, in Fort Collins, CO. Very active 52-year member of the Fort Collins Church, providing countless blessings through her music. Survived by husband, Victor; sons, Mike and Jeff; and three grandchildren.

**Herrington, Arthur T.**, b. July 12, 1922 in Omaha, NE, d. Sept. 12, 2010, in Lincoln, NE. Long-time member and head elder of Bethesda Temple in Omaha. Served in WW II in the Army Air Corps. Predeceased by wife, Leona; stepson, Vernon Stone, and grandson, Livingston Herrington. Survived by daughter, Joann Herrington; stepson, Philip Stone; sons, Robert and Arthur "Teddy"; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Hoskins, Irene**, b. Feb. 6, 1928, d. Nov. 25, 2010. Member of the Gladstone Church in Missouri. Survived by son, Ralph Joseph Tucker III; one sister; two brothers; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Kaiser, Alvin O.**, b. April 17, 1916, in Sibley, MN, d. Nov. 30, 2010, in Sibley, MN. Member of the Mankato Church. Survived by brother, Edwin.

**Kees, Lavonne (Toutges)**, b. March 1, 1949, in Watertown, SD, d. Jan. 28, 2011, in Golden Valley, MN. Member of the Minneapolis First Church. Predeceased by husband, William (Bill); brother, James Toutges; sister, Linda Ladwig; seven grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

**Kube, Allene Davies**, b. April 11, 1907 in Frankfort, KY, d. Jan. 4, 2011, in Wahpeton, ND. Predeceased by spouse, Llewellyn. Survived by daughters, Lou Scherer and Geni Smouse; son, John; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

**Lee, Kimberly Dee Ann (Schleif)**, b. Aug. 16, 1953, in Omaha, NE, d. Feb. 1, 2011, in Lincoln, NE. Member of the College View Church. Survived by husband, Larry; daughter, Alexander (Allie) Deanne; son, Joseph William; mother, Rose Schleif; and sister, Julie Mae Schleif.

## Sunset Calendar

Colorado	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Denver	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52
Grand Junction	7:38	7:45	7:51	7:58	8:05
Pueblo	7:22	7:28	7:35	7:41	7:48
Iowa					
Davenport	7:27	7:35	7:43	7:50	7:58
Des Moines	7:40	7:47	7:55	8:03	8:10
Sioux City	7:51	7:59	8:07	8:15	8:23
Kansas					
Dodge City	8:03	8:09	8:16	8:22	8:28
Goodland	7:11	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:38
Topeka	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:13
Wichita	7:52	7:58	8:05	8:11	8:18
Minnesota					
Duluth	7:37	7:47	7:56	8:06	8:15
International Falls	7:44	7:54	8:05	8:15	8:25
Minneapolis	7:41	7:49	7:58	8:07	8:16
Missouri					
Columbia	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:53	7:59
Kansas City	7:42	7:48	7:55	8:02	8:09
Springfield	7:36	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:01
St. Louis	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:44	7:51
Nebraska					
Grand Island	7:58	8:05	8:13	8:20	8:28
Lincoln	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:21
North Platte	8:08	8:15	8:23	8:30	8:38
Scottsbluff	7:20	7:28	7:35	7:43	7:51
North Dakota					
Bismarck	8:12	8:22	8:31	8:41	8:50
Fargo	7:56	8:06	8:15	8:25	8:34
Williston	8:25	8:35	8:45	8:55	9:05
South Dakota					
Pierre	8:08	8:17	8:26	8:34	8:43
Rapid City	7:20	7:28	7:37	7:45	7:54
Sioux Falls	7:53	8:02	8:10	8:18	8:26
Wyoming					
Casper	7:31	7:39	7:47	7:55	8:03
Cheyenne	7:24	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:54
Sheridan	7:35	7:44	7:53	8:02	8:10



## Farewell

**Lorenz, Esther E.**, b. July 22, 1917, in zzFreedom, NE, d. March 29, 2010, in Littleton, CO. Member of the Denver South Church. Employee of Porter Hospital for 40 years. Predeceased by husbands, Philip Adolph Lorenz, Leland Riddle and Albert Lorenz; sisters, Elva Wymore, Mary Lorenz and Clara Chipman; brothers, Chancy Daharsh and Ira Daharsh; and parents, Luther and Lizzie Daharsh. Survived by daughters, Lorene Lorenz Belko, and Phyllis Lorenz Boggs; 18 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Lowe, Jeanette Viola (Halstead)**, b. April 2, 1925, in Brainerd, MN, d. Oct. 3, 2010, in Brainerd, MN. Member of the Brainerd Church. Predeceased by husband, Gilbert. Survived by sons, LaVerne "Skip," Michael "Miles," Daniel, Shawn; daughter, Alesia Overstreet; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; nephews and nieces.

**Middleton, Isabelle Iva**, b. Nov. 8, 1923, in Little River, KS, d. Dec. 18, 2010, in Cape Girardeau, MO. Member of the Cape Girardeau Church. Survived by sisters, Fern Lange and Pauline James.

**Murphy, Iona "Yvonne"**, b. Nov. 11, 1917, d. Oct. 9, 2010, in Lee County, IA. Member of the Fort Madison Church. Survived by sons, Morris and Patrick; daughters, Darla Worrell and Colleen Barker; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Newell, June Yackley**, b. June 2, 1916, in Wichita, KS, d. Sept. 29, 2010 in Olathe, CO. Long-time, very active member of the Nucla Church. Predeceased by husbands Erwin Yackley and Paul Newell; six brothers; and one sister. Survived by daughters, Lorene Yackley, Winona Cressler; step-daughter, Ruth Warnock; sister, Delores Shaw; many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

**Nielsen, Florence E. (Unterseher)**, b. Oct. 20, 1914, in Bowden, ND, d. Dec. 15, 2010, in Lincoln, NE. Long-time member of the St. Paul 1st Church in MN and recent member of the College View Church. Graduated from Plainview Academy and taught church school in SD and MN. Survived by husband, George; daughter, Angie Hardt; son, Wayne;

brother, Elmer Unterseher; sister, Lillian Nielsen; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Pegel, Dale**, b. Aug. 12, 1924, in Minneapolis, MN, d. Dec. 31, 2010, in Marshall, MN. Member of the Marshall Church. Predeceased by parents, Edward and Pearl (Johnson). Survived by wife, Rachel; brothers, Neil and Dean; children, Gaylan, Jan Borden, Verna Mitchell, Polly Kerkvliet, Jasper, Amy, Sidney; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Polensky, Freida**, b. Oct. 27, 1920 in Germany, d. July 10, 2010, in Kansas. Longtime member of the Aitkin Church and the former Northbrook Church in MN, and the Salina Church in KS. Predeceased by husband, Fritz. Survived by daughter, Ursula Hamilton; son, Siegfried; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Pollman, Stanley, E.**, b. Feb. 17, 1930, in Upland, NE, d. Dec. 24, 2010, in Larkspur, CO. Member of the Franktown Church. Medical missionary in Japan and Thailand from 1966-69. Survived by wife, Norma J. Maser; daughters, Amy L. Pollman and Lorie S. Justice; sons, Matthew J. and Perry F.; and five grandchildren.

**Russell, Charles Edwin**, b. Nov. 23, 1921, in Little Sioux, IA, d. Sept. 11, 2010, in Denver, CO. Member of LifeSource Adventist Fellowship (formerly Denver First) Church. Served at Porter Adventist Hospital for 26 years. Predeceased by parents, Charles Z. and Greta Russell. Survived by wife, Margaret Jo; brother Robert; niece, Marlene Aquadro; two grand-nieces; and one grand-nephew.

**Schlenker, Mabel**, b. Sept. 25, 1923, in Kulm, ND, d. Jan. 17, 2011, in LaMoure, ND. Member of the Kulm Church. Predeceased by husband, Edgar; four brothers; and one sister. Survived by son, Terry; brother, Wilbert Henneberg; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Seek, Melvin Lewis**, b. June 24, 1932, in Rayville, MO, d. Oct. 12, 2010, in Fort Collins, CO. Member of the Fort Collins Church. Survived by wife, Marjorie; sons, Steven and Mitchell; and four grandchildren.

**Stolz, Lawrence**, b. Sept. 19, 1924, in Medina, ND, d. Jan. 19, 2011, in Carrington, ND. Member of the New Home Church. Predeceased by parents, Otto and Olga; daughter, Laurie Gottfried; and brother, Gerald. Survived by wife, Viola; daughter, Kelly; son, Larry; sister, MaryAnn Rhodes; brother, Mineard; and four grandchildren.

**Thomas-Dean, Hilda**, b. March 7, 1920, in Marksville, LA, d. Dec. 5, 2010, in Denver, CO. Faithful member of the Park Hill Church for many years. Preceded in death by parents, Rodden and Mary Thomas; husband, Rodney; brothers, Horace Landry, Larry Roland, John Dail, Worley Thomas; sisters, Florida Juneau, and Sable Mann. Survived by daughter, Carmen Williams; son, Timothy Dean; and sister, Bell Walters.

**Treece, Louise L. (Koenig)**, b. May 22, 1917, in Kansas City, MO, d. Dec. 18, 2010, in Excelsior Springs, MO. Member of the Gladstone Church. Predeceased by daughter, Sandy Cartee; and son, Donald Newman. Survived by son-in-law, John Cartee; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Versdahl, Ruth A.**, b. Oct. 7, 1923, in Finley, ND, d. Sept. 23, 2010, in Wahpeton, ND. Member of the Wahpeton Church. Survived by husband, Oscar; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Wall, Marian E.**, b. Dec. 20, 1927 in Minneapolis, MN, d. Oct. 7, 2010 in Fergus Falls, MN. Member of the Wahpeton Church. Survived by husband, Wendall H.; daughters, Constance McCormick and Jennifer Field; son, Wendall A.; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Walls, Mary Ann**, b. Oct. 31, 1938, d. Dec. 14, 2010, in Warrenton, MO. Member of the Fulton Church. Survived by brothers, Paul and Thomas Rasche.

**Wetzel, Harlin**, b. Dec. 9, 1931, in Wishek, ND, d. Nov. 7, 2010, in Vergas, MN. Member of the Detroit Lakes Church. Survived by wife, Dorothy; daughters, Carla Funk, Darcy Wetzel, and Vickie Doeden; son, Wylie; and five grandchildren.

**Williams, Elbert Dean**, b. Jan. 26, 1933, d. Dec. 21, 2010, in Menlo, IA. Member of the Guthrie Center Church. Survived by wife, Shirley; daughter, Marcella Holland; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



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Notices of events, alumni weekends, camp meetings, etc., can be printed at no charge. Placement is not guaranteed, however, unless the notice is purchased.

## SERVICES

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## EMPLOYMENT

**Adventist Information Ministry** is seeking a Software Engineer to join our staff. Primary project is to write new software (written in .NET) to facilitate our 50-seat call center. AIM is the Evangelistic Contact Center for the North America Division located in Berrien Springs, MI. Visit [www.callaim.org/jobs.php](http://www.callaim.org/jobs.php) to see full posting.

**Andrews University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry** is seeking candidates for an organic chemistry class/lab professor. Opportunity includes: teaching organic chemistry classes, teaching high-ability public high school students, establishing and continuing an undergraduate research program, participation in extramural funding activities. A competitive candidate for this position will have an earned Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, teaching experience at the college/university level, significant recent publications; previous work in industry is a positive characteristic. We encourage ethnically diverse applicants for this position. For more details about this position and to apply, please visit: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi).

**Needed: Bible Worker(s) for church in North Central Minnesota.** This opportunity includes working as crew leader for cleaning business specializing in carpets, tile floors and professional cleaning services. Housing and wages included. For more information call 218.255.0377.

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**Southern Adventist University seeks full-time Chemistry professor** beginning July 2011. Candidates must have an earned master's degree in chemistry. Preference will be given to candidates with secondary teaching certification. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good and regular standing and hold a short-term interpretation of creation. Please send vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chair, Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; 423-236-2932; [rjscott@southern.edu](mailto:rjscott@southern.edu).

**Southern Adventist University's School of Visual Art/Design seeks professor** for sculpture, foundation drawing/design, and ceramics. M.F.A. in sculpture/3D media strongly preferred. Successful candidate will exhibit commitment to teaching/pedagogy,

advising and service. Must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send application, curriculum vitae (including statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

**Southern Adventist University seeks full-time professor** to teach freshman writing and literature or other class each semester. Top candidate will hold a doctorate in English, have a record of successful teaching, and will be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing. Applicants should provide a CV and a statement of how he/she integrates teaching and Adventist Christian faith to Jan Haluska, Ph.D., English Department Chair, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, or [haluska@southern.edu](mailto:haluska@southern.edu). Application deadline is March 31, 2011.

**Southern Adventist University's School of Nursing** seeks faculty member to coordinate Summer Study Option for Associate of Science program. Responsibilities include teaching, clinical scheduling, and supervision in the labs. Applicant must have a minimum of a master's degree in nursing, be a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing, and have a commitment to nursing and SDA education. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Barbara James, [bjames@southern.edu](mailto:bjames@southern.edu) or to SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

**Southern Adventist University seeks Dean for School of Education and Psychology.** Successful candidate will hold a doctoral degree in a field of education or psychology. Candidate must also be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send cover letter, curriculum vita, and statement of leadership and teaching philosophy, including the integration of faith and learning to Dr. Robert Young, Academic Administration: email [ryoung@southern.edu](mailto:ryoung@southern.edu) or phone (423) 236-2804 or (423) 260-0597. The position becomes available on June 1, 2011.

**Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work seeks MSW faculty.** Doctorate degree in Social Work and MSW degree from a CSWE accredited institution required. Dem-

onstrated clinical skills, technological abilities, leadership abilities, and effective teaching experience in higher education required. Must have strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and be a SDA church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Dr. René Drumm, Dean, [rdrumm@southern.edu](mailto:rdrumm@southern.edu) or [amym@southern.edu](mailto:amym@southern.edu).

**Southwestern Adventist University seeks a full-time nurse educator.** Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Contact Dr. Ron Mitchell at 817-202-6230 or [rmitchell@swau.edu](mailto:rmitchell@swau.edu).

**Walla Walla University** seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Biology, Business and Chemistry. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

## TRAVEL/RENTALS

**Tour the Holy Land** with Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko November 12-24, 2011. For info contact [mary.quick@khnetwork.org](mailto:mary.quick@khnetwork.org) or call (937) 395-8565. Limited opening for the spiritual pilgrimage of a life time.

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## EVENTS

**Enterprise Academy/GPA Alumni Weekend: April 1-3**, at Enterprise, Kansas. Honor Classes: Visit [www.alumni2011.org](http://www.alumni2011.org) for more information

and start making plans to attend!

**Memphis Junior Academy** in Memphis, TN will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary April 8-10. Search Facebook for MJA 100th Anniversary, or call the school at 901.683.1061.

**Pastor Dennis Smith will be presenting a Holy Spirit Seminar** starting Friday evening at 7:00, April 22 and all day Sabbath, April 23 at the Salem SDA Church in Missouri. There will be a fellowship meal Sabbath lunch and haystacks for supper. Everyone is welcome. For more information please call 573.743.3367.

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion** will take place June 9-12, 2011 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1961 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy at Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1931, 1941, 1951, 1961. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit [www.GLAA.net](http://www.GLAA.net) for further information. Please do pass the good word.

**Natural Remedies Workshop and Hydrotherapy Workshop will be Offered by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary**  
July 31-August 5  
Focus will be on the skillful use of

natural remedies, water and nutrition in times of illness and health. Early registration is encouraged. Workshop involves 30 hours of lectures and demonstrations along with hands-on labs. Graduate credit is available for MA in Religion, MDiv, MAPMin and PhD students. For more information, visit [www.andrews.edu/go/nrhwh/](http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhwh/) or e-mail [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu).

**Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend April 7-10** (Columbia Union College, Washington Missionary College) Alumni, friends and former faculty and staff are invited. Honor Classes are '31, '41, '51, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91 and '01. For more information visit the website at [wau.edu/alumni](http://wau.edu/alumni) or email [alumni@wau.edu](mailto:alumni@wau.edu) or call the alumni office at 301.891.4133.

**All Maplewood Academy alumni** are invited to the Lincoln, Nebraska MWA Alumni Get-Together! This event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sabbath, April 2 in the downstairs fellowship hall at College View Church. Enjoy refreshments with old classmates and meet with a MWA representative as they share news and updates from your alma mater.

## Outlook Themes for 2011

*Overall Theme: Collaboration In the Church*

### May: Summer Camps

Annual summer camp promotional

### June: Education in Mid-America

Annual K-12 educational special

### July: Stewardship/Spiritual gifts

Collaborating via spiritual giftedness for church nurture and outreach

### August: Internet Evangelism

Equipping local churches to collaborate for outreach using NAD resources

### September: High Tech for High Touch

Collaborating for nurture and retention via social networking

### October: Pastoral Appreciation

Annual feature on pastors who collaborate with lay leaders

### November: Union College

Annual promotional feature from Union College

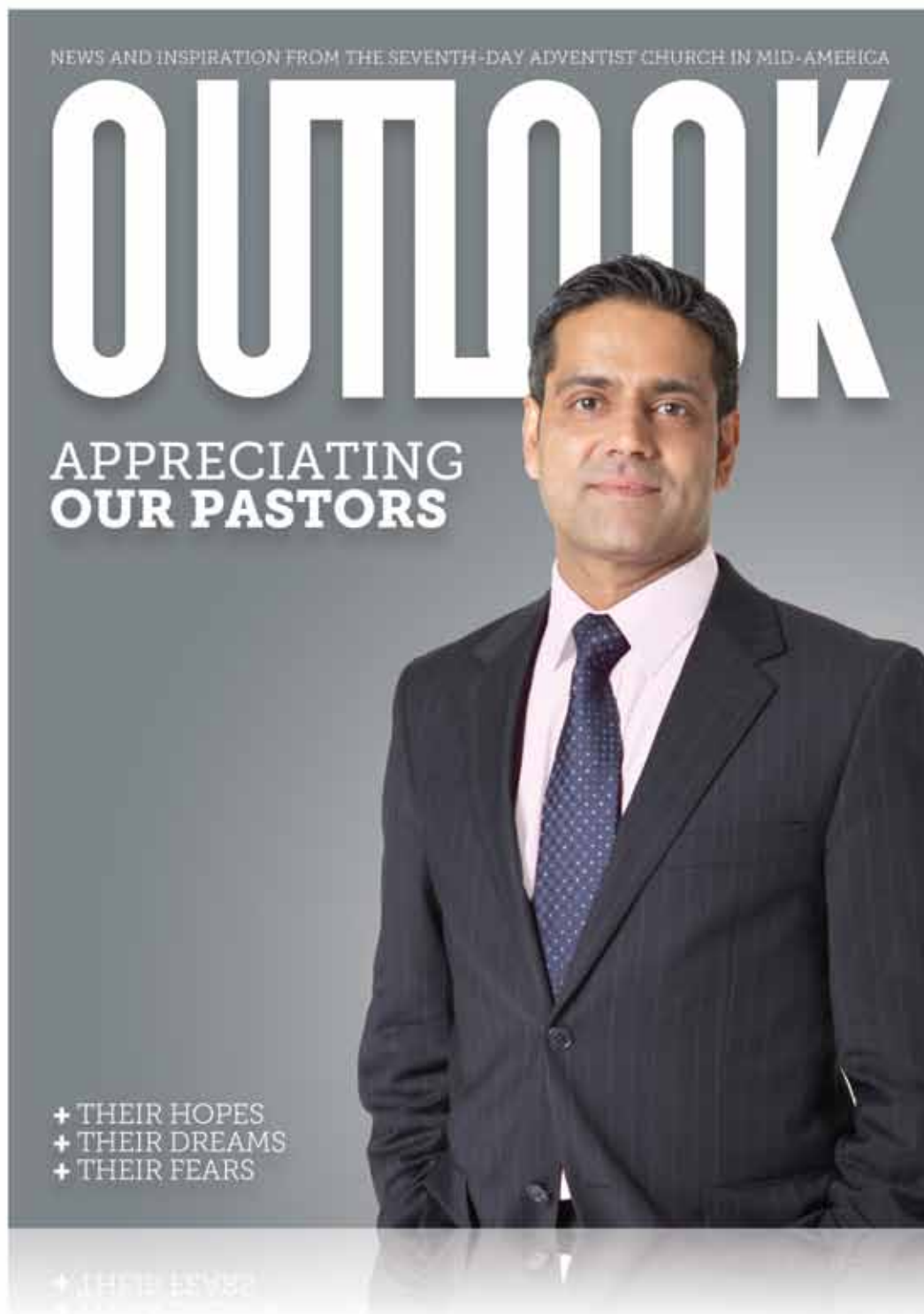
### December: Holiday Ministry

Collaborating with neighbors in the Spirit of the season



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