NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MID-AMERICA

OUTLOOK

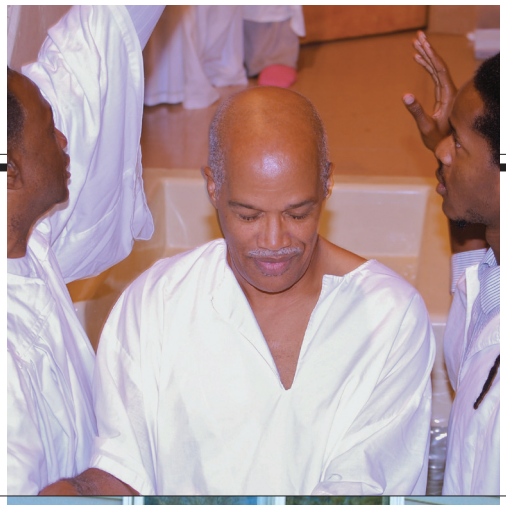
NOVEMBER 2012



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Cover Photo: Support from friends at Union College helped Liza Ngenya, a December 2011 Union College graduate, through a recent battle with cancer. Photo by Steve Nazario/Union College.

IN THIS ISSUE

If you need some inspiration and encouragement right now, lean back and enjoy this special feature on Union College. It's easy these days to get disillusioned with the world and (particularly at this point of the election cycle) the antics of politicians. How wonderful to see the people of Union College living for a purpose beyond themselves—a theme that shines through the stories in these pages.

Union students, together with the faculty and staff who instruct and mentor them, contribute much to the heartbeat of Mid-America's Adventist family. They are making an impact throughout our territory and beyond, defying the darkness of a world gone mad and bad. Praise God—His love and truth are alive and well at Union College!

—MARTIN WEBER

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VP FOR ADMINISTRATION: (TBD)
VP FOR FINANCE: Elaine Hagele
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www.midamericaadventist.org

OUTLOOK
EDITOR: Martin Weber
MANAGING EDITOR: Brenda Dickerson
DESIGNER: Randy Harmdierks
www.outlookmag.org

LOCAL CONFERENCES
CENTRAL STATES
3301 Parallel Parkway
Kansas City, KS 66104
913.371.1071
www.central-states.org
News Editor: Philip Baptiste

DAKOTA
P.O. Box 520
217 North Grand Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.224.8868
www.dakotaadventist.org
News Editor: Jacquie Biloff

IOWA-MISSOURI
P.O. Box 65665
1005 Grand Avenue
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515.223.1197
www.imsda.org
News Editor: Michelle Miracle

KANSAS-NEBRASKA
3440 Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614-4601
785.478.4726
www.ks-ne.org
News Editor: John Treolo

MINNESOTA
7384 Kirkwood Court
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.424.8923
www.mnsda.com
News Editor: Jeff Wines

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
2520 South Downing Street
Denver, CO 80210
303.733.3771
www.rmcsda.org
News Editor: Mark Bond

UNION COLLEGE
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
800.228.4600
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Thankful for Union College

by Thomas L. Lemon

Right about number four on my list of things for which to be thankful is Union College. It follows just after my gratitude for the Lord's grace and wonderful character, my wife and family relationships, and my faith heritage.

I am not an alumnus of Union, but during my time working in Mid-America and now as chair of Union's Board of Trustees, I have come to greatly treasure this school. Presently, Union's campus is undergoing significant transformation. Two major building projects have set the tone for a new direction at our school. Two growing programs, Master of Physician Assistant Studies and International Rescue and Relief need more space and better training facilities. Advent*Source* graciously gave up its leased space in the Don Love Building in favor of constructing a new office and warehouse on the southeast corner of campus. The vacated facility will provide ample space for both programs to grow and thrive.

But the construction zone on the northern edge of campus reflects an even larger project—Union's new science and mathematics complex. Several years in planning, the replacement for Jorgensen Hall will be visible above ground by the time you read this. Plans call for the division to occupy the building in time for spring semester 2014 classes.

Why a new building of this sort? Several years back, the campus family and the Board of Trustees agreed that Union's next building project should be a facility dedicated to the study of science and mathematics. From today's vantage point, the decision proved quite prescient. The demand for quality graduates in science and health sciences fields continues to grow. Healthcare changes alone, particularly in primary patient care, will require a larger number of various providers. A new, state-of-the-art facility will enable Union to not only attract new students and faculty, but will make it easier to retain the excellent people we have now. Basic math and science courses are required for all students, thus all students no matter what their major, will realize the benefit.

The science taught in this new facility (or the old one, for that matter) is not just any science, but science with an Adventist biblical worldview. This is vitally important. Graduates from our school should leave with a stronger biblical faith. I have sat in on lectures and had many conversations with our science teachers. I know firsthand they understand completely where science works and where faith takes over. They help their students learn to view a topic from all angles, but through the lens of the Bible.

The Our Promising Future campaign to help fund the new facility is just $1.9 million short of our $14.5 million goal. While that may sound like a big number, alumni, friends, faculty, the board, and other interested parties have already committed $12.6 to make this building a reality. The goal is in sight, and you can be a part of Union's promising future by getting involved!

In September, I joined nearly 800 purple-shirted Union students and employees who took the day off from school to help Lincoln service organizations during the 32nd annual Project Impact (see page 6). The group I worked with demonstrated again what a difference Union College makes in this city. This spirit of service becomes instilled in Union's graduates—science or otherwise. When I visit various places across North America, I see our alums regularly making an impact in their corner of the world.

When you count your blessings this Thanksgiving, add Union College to the list. Pray for us. If the Holy Spirit moves, support Union financially or by encouraging a prospective student to visit our campus. Every dollar is an investment in our students, which in turn is an investment for the future—an investment that pays off in eternity.

And number five on my list? The members of Mid-America Union and their generous hearts! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

Thomas L. Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union and chair of the Union College Board of Trustees.



Defying the Darkness

by John Wagner

Last March 31, *The Economist* printed the obituary of a remarkable person. Lyn Lusi, healer of Congo, died at age 62 after a lifetime working alongside her physician husband in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He was the only orthopedic surgeon for eight million people, and she worked on behalf of women who had suffered horribly during the devastating conflicts that gripped the Congo. Lyn found inspiration in the words of Isaiah 61:1: "The Lord hath sent me . . . to bind up the brokenhearted."

Goma, the site of the hospital they established, was a dark place, built on volcanic basalt tough as broken glass through which green shoots struggled to grow. But the real darkness was in the human heart. Lusi saw much evil and selfishness in this vast, damaged and neglected place. The couple worked together against the odds, defying the darkness. Often their efforts seemed very small, no more than nurturing single points of a candle flame. But they had faith that eventually there would be a huge blaze of light in that country.

Similarly, my father-in-law Richard Vinglas, a church leader in Estonia, fled his homeland with his family to escape the KGB. The church sent him to South America and shortly after he became the founding principal of an Adventist secondary school in poverty-stricken Bolivia. Like Lusi, the great need surprised and saddened him. Buildings were half finished on campus. Curriculum and faculty had to be developed. But he persevered, even managing to grow gorgeous gardens in the red clay of Bolivia. Today there stands a university for Adventist students in Bolivia and surrounding areas, and students still remember him with reverence and fondness.

People like Lusi and my father-in-law may not have anticipated the lasting difference they could make in the lives of others, but they deliberately worked each day toward that long-term goal—committed to changing lives. Most of us in North America never experience the challenges that Lusi encountered and conquered, but we can glean many lessons from her exemplary life. Likewise, most of us are never forced to flee, at peril for our lives, but my father-in-law, despite enormous losses, established churches and schools and saw the results of making a difference. While we may feel like a tiny candlelight, working against the gusts that blow and inhibit our efforts, we become part of the greater, collective light that helps heal the world. Courage, wisdom, work and compassion are traits we can cultivate and embrace for greater good in every way.

When I last served as president of Union College in the late 1980s, the school faced a dark time as we attempted to pay off a seemingly insurmountable debt. I saw professors and support staff alike make many sacrifices to keep this school alive and make a difference in the students who passed through our halls. The fruits of those sacrifices have become evident, as those graduates have done their part to change the world around them.

Today, Union College faces different challenges—not of overwhelming debt—but of maintaining the highest standards of education in a constantly changing world. Our employees are no less dedicated today than they were 25 years ago as they impact the lives of the students they touch each day. Please pray for Union College. Pray that we will have the same courage as our forbearers to make a difference no matter the cost.

The great missionary doctor, Albert Schweitzer, who gave up a lucrative practice, comforts of his country, and the delights of a good life to work in darkest Africa early in the last century, said: "One thing I know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." O

John Wagner, EdD, is president of Union College.

Making an Impact

Aron Crews/Union College



by Joellyn Sheehy

On Sept. 6, over 750 Union College students and employees took the day off from school to provide community service at nearly 80 sites around the city of Lincoln. Started in 1981 as Project BRUSH (Beautifying Residences Using Student Help), Union's annual service day, now known as Project Impact, has seen an estimated 18,300 volunteers donate 115,000 hours over the past 32 years.

I always find it difficult to decide where to go on Project Impact day, but on that morning as I made my way through the melee of students connecting with site leaders under Union's clock tower, destiny led me to Emily and Laura. Emily, our fearless site leader, needed 12 people to clean a five-story home for individuals and families recovering from addiction. We had three. We tried for more recruits, but most people had already joined a group and several other teams were also short on members.

A friend who worked at the site last year told us that the house had a secret passageway. Our excitement increased by a factor of 10 and I knew I had made the right decision. We posed for the group photo then set off with a running start.

We arrived in good time at the beautiful early 20th century house and walked through the back porch into an ornate living room with china cabinets and long rugs spread across the wooden floor. The woman who met us asked how many were coming and looked relieved when we replied, "just us."

"Good," she said. "I'm not sure I could handle 15 today."

She showed us the ground floor and then led us downstairs to a large basement room with a kitchenette at one end. "Do you want to see the tunnel?" she asked.

We looked at each other with an expression that read: so it's true…? "Sure," Emily replied nonchalantly.

She opened a door in the kitchenette that led into a series of dark, musty rooms. A bare light hung from the ceiling of the first one, casting shadows into the two beyond. "The man who built the house made the tunnel to connect to his brother's house down the road," she explained. "It was during prohibition."

She closed the door again and we set out to work. None of the house was horrendously dirty, but the rooms needed sorting and vacuuming. Laura began with the vacuum while Emily and I attacked the kitchenette, largely cluttered with art supplies.

We waded through the paints and papers, trying to create some kind of order. Judging from all the crayons and paintings with stick figures, this was definitely a children's art room.

We packed away some of

For 32 Years

the larger obstacles and stuffed the more bizarre objects into a cupboard. We threw out the clutter and cleaned the floor and surfaces before rejoining Laura, who had single-handedly transformed the main room.

Next we powered through the first floor's dusting and vacuuming, finally finishing just before noon—45 minutes ahead of schedule.

The lady had nothing else for us to do, so we said our goodbyes and got in the car to drive away. Emily called some other sites to see if anyone else needed help, but they didn't, and advised us to go back to campus.

We were one of the first groups to get back, so we sat under the clock tower and discussed what we appreciated most from our adventure.

"I think it's good to get out and help people because in doing so you gain a blessing, too," said Laura. "This year was different for me because it was a smaller group. In a big group you don't feel like you really make much of a difference, whereas here I felt more needed and I could personally make an impact."

"I think it's cool to hear other people's stories," said Emily. "You don't realize how different people are from you and yet how much the same. Just hearing their stories you can tell where they come from and struggles they've had." She was referring to the lady telling us about how holding an exhibition to display the artwork of people who were staying there helped them heal. "I'd never thought of that before," Emily added. "She showed how kind she is and how she really cares about the people she works with. She had their artwork all over the house."

Laura pointed out how they frame the pictures and make the house look nice for the art displays, and that after the shows the artists gain a new view of themselves. "She said they have more self respect."

I love Project Impact: the T-shirts, the day off from classes, the free food . . . but more than anything I love the people and the feeling we create when we come together to try and make the world a better place. I love that we can share a little bit of who we are at Union with the rest of the community.

As Michael Paradise, young adult pastor at College View Church, said, "This is Union's best day. This is the day people get a chance to see Union in the best kind of way."

In my opinion, it's a chance for people to see the spirit of Union for what it really is.

Joellyn Sheehy is a junior international rescue and relief and pre-med major at Union College.

Steve Nazario/Union College



(far left) Laura Selivanoff joined more than 750 other Union College students and employees for the 32nd Project Impact, a day off from school to serve the Lincoln community.

(below) Volunteers pose for a group photo before heading out.



Steve Nazario/Union College

The Mis

by Tyson Kahler

I always knew I wanted to be a student missionary.

My mom was a student missionary to Japan while at Union. She loved it—I heard her stories all my life. The student missionaries who came back to Union College often described an experience I sought, a story of hardship that forced a renewed reliance on and relationship with God.

But at Maxwell Academy in Kenya, I found the exact opposite of what I expected.

Let me explain. I grew up in a family of Union graduates. My mom, dad, brother and sister all went to school here. One year I had six first cousins here. My blood runs Union College red.

Throughout high school, I never doubted where I would attend college, but struggled to find a career direction. I first felt God calling me to be a pastor as a senior at Maplewood Academy. That year the conference hired some Bible workers to live at the school and teach us to give Bible studies and practice evangelism. I ended up preaching for an evangelistic series and also at nearby churches. After spending part of the summer preaching at an ASI Youth for Jesus series in Tampa, Florida, I had no doubt God wanted me to study theology at Union College.

I struggled a bit that first year at Union. I felt the passion to preach, to witness for God burning inside, but instead I found myself caught up in the rigors of reaching for a degree. When I shared my frustration with Elder Sylvester Case, one of my religion professors, he explained that even Ellen White says that when we are

Other Side of sion Service

in school, God expects us to focus on our training so that we can be more effective in the long run.

I took some comfort in that. Over the next two years, I found myself quite involved in school life as a class officer and as a resident assistant in the men's dorm. This helped me develop friendships with fellow students who shared my spiritual ideals.

Out of Africa

I left for Africa on my year of mission service expecting to experience the missionary story everybody seems to come back and tell in Kindergarten Sabbath school, complete with witch doctors, rebel fighters, scarcity of food, whatever. I geared up on the idea that I would really need God and would pray every day, depending on Him for everything.

Maxwell Academy sits on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. Even though some parts of the city might be classified as "third world," I found Maxwell's home a modern, westernized city.

All the faculty are missionaries and many of the students are children of missionaries. It felt like a normal academy—much like Maplewood, only with the opportunity to go on safari or take a water truck out to the Maasai people in the desert. As assistant boys dean, I had my own apartment, many friends and was paid a decent stipend. Nearby stores sold anything you might find at Wal-Mart.

At ease in my surroundings, I slowly drifted from God. Everything was so comfortable and the people so supportive, I didn't feel I needed Him any more. That second semester, I had no personal devotions or prayer. I had to put on a spiritual face for the students, but on the inside I was empty.

Facing the Void

Excited to be back at Union the next year, I landed a job as head resident assistant because of my experience as a dean. But suddenly my distance from God became apparent as I faced religion classes again. *If I don't have a relationship with God, how can I be the spiritual leader of a church or even my family?*

I explained my situation to trusted religion professors Elder Bob Fetrick and Dr. Ed Allen, and to my work supervisor/men's dean, Doug Tallman. I even confided in the academic dean, Dr. Malcolm Russell, when we enjoyed our shared passion for biking.

Not one of them reprimanded me but instead promised to pray for me. Elder Fetrick suggested I not change my major just yet, but take the semester off from theology classes. Since I am also earning a business minor, I decided to focus on business classes and try to figure out what to do.

I explored all kinds of options—business, teaching, even economics—but nothing felt right. I tried to pray. "God," I said. "I know I don't want to be a theology major. I'll do anything else—just show me."

Toward the end of the semester, I sat in the back of the church for a vespers service listening to Elder Case. I don't remember what he said, but his passion kindled something inside me. I felt God renewing my original call to preach. *I want to do that. I want to be like that.* I knew then that I would continue my, or rather God's, original plan.

It hasn't been all roses and rainbows, though. I still had to rebuild my relationship with my Heavenly Father. I'm far from perfect, but now I have peace knowing I operate in His will and He has my back.

Praying Professors

What happened next really surprised me. When I told Elder Fetrick the good news that next week, I saw tears in his eyes. I didn't realize how much my decision meant to him.

A couple of weeks later, I ran into Dr. Russell in Union Market. "Hey Tyson, we'll have to go riding again some time," he said, smiling. Then he asked about my major.

"I decided to stick with theology," I replied.

I could see the tears welling up in his eyes as he shook my hand. "That is so good to hear," he said. "I am so relieved. I have been praying for you."

I couldn't believe it. Dr. Russell, the vice president for academic administration at Union College was thinking about and praying for me! And many other dedicated employees at the school lifted up my struggles before God, praying for Him to reach me.

I thank God for Union College and the people He has placed here to touch our lives. I'm sure God could have reached me another way, but I'm glad He used my professors and this school instead of a more traumatic experience.

Tyson Kahler is a senior theology major at Union College.

At ease in my surroundings, I slowly drifted from God. Everything was so comfortable and the people so supportive, I didn't feel I needed Him any more.

(far left) **Tyson Kahler, a senior theology major, has found supportive faculty very helpful in the ups and downs of the spiritual life.**

Selling Out for Marketing Experience

by Joellyn Sheehy

"I love selling things," said Tyler Ellis, senior business major at Union College. "I used to sit in my grandma's house, steal her candy and then sell it back to her. They babysat me a lot, so I did it pretty often. They thought it was cute so I got away with it."

Ellis is now manager of Cooper's Corner, an on-campus convenience store located in the student center that sells snacks and beverages. The shop operates under the oversight of Union College's dining services, but is almost completely student run and acts as a learning tool for budding entrepreneurs. Ellis is using the experience to grow his business skills.

"It's really student led," said Peter Blankenship, Union's dining services director. "The manager and I talk about things and we have certain guidelines of what we can sell, but he manages the day-to-day operations."

"It counts for an internship, but that's not the only reason I'm doing it," said Ellis. "I just love marketing and businesses and learning how they work. I knew I'd like this job. This experience will be really valuable to me, since I'm planning to work in marketing when I graduate."

Ellis switched his major from education to business while working as an assistant boy's dean in North Carolina. "I took a year to work at an academy because I wanted to see if that's what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," he said. "It wasn't. I had a great time and loved it, but the issue was that I would have rather been a kid."

As manager of Cooper's Corner, Ellis is responsible for placing orders, pricing items, supervising employees and brainstorming new ideas. "In my opinion, the chain of command goes: president of Union College, Cooper's Corner manager and then vice presidents, etc.," Ellis joked. "Peter Blankenship is the boss, but he allows a lot of creativity over here and he doesn't micromanage at all. We'll meet for big decisions, but other than that, we usually meet once a week."

Ellis has already been able to apply what he's learning in his studies to his on-campus job. "Tyler has brought a lot of his classroom experience into his work," said Blankenship. "He uses marketing skills in his approach and he also has to be able to motivate and encourage employees. He often gets up early to meet with sales representatives."

All the business teachers at Union have previously been in the workforce. What I learn from them really helps me.

Steve Nazario/Union College



Applying Life Lessons to Management

"All the business teachers at Union have previously been in the workforce and are not just academicians," said Ellis. "What I learn from them has really helped me." Discovering how to manage a business not only provides experience for a professional career, but also affords valuable life lessons. "Working here helps me understand people and shows me how they react to different scenarios," said Ellis. "The most interesting thing I have learned is that making employees happy is number one."

"Tyler really values the workers and appreciates their opinions," said Geoffrey Doctoroff, senior business major and customer at Cooper's. "He has brought in a lot of different products, and Cooper's looks more aesthetically pleasing."

Since taking over last summer, Ellis focused on revitalizing the small snack shop. "I want to create the best experience for customers while making it profitable to Union," he stated. "This year we're really trying to keep on the cutting edge. Whenever there's a new product we will feature it on our new Facebook page. Students can order items through Facebook—and we'll even deliver the order for free if the temperature dips below 32 degrees."

Ellis' passion for the business and his commitment to growth go far beyond any curriculum requirements. "Whenever I'm in class, I'm thinking about Cooper's," he admitted. "I want to come to work here or I'm thinking about new products. I like to go through our provider's guide and look at all the new stuff. I love working here."

"He's doing a lot of good things with this place," said Brandon Learned, senior business major and Cooper's Corner employee. "I'm pretty sure more improvements will continue."

Running a business has helped Ellis affirm his future ambitions. "My goal in life is to open a bike shop. It's just always been a dream. I love fixing up and repairing bikes. Half of the game is marketing—catching people's attention to look at your product. My experience here will definitely help."

Joellyn Sheehy is a junior international rescue and relief and pre-med major at Union College.

Support Beyond Graduation

by Mindy Liebelt

"You have Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage 3 cancer," her doctors said. Feeling completely disconnected from her body, Liza Ngenye sat frozen, unable to visibly react upon hearing the devastating words.

The 21-year-old had just graduated from Union College a few short months before as a communication major with a public relations and journalism emphasis. Now a graduate student at George Washington University in Washington D.C., she learned she had cancer.

When Pastor Rich Carlson visited Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya, Africa, where Liza attended high school, she remembered being "very impressed with his kindness and love for God." Two student missionaries sent from Union, Heather Mekelburg Lang and Kylie Schnell also reflected these qualities, and Liza decided she wanted to be part of that school family.

While attending Union College, Liza became close friends with and was mentored by many of her professors. She credits Michelle Velasquez Mesnard, chair of the Division of Humanities, with being her "foremost enabler."

"It was Michelle's guidance that advanced me to George Washington University. As my academic advisor, she helped me choose classes that would help my professional development, and assisted me in attaining an internship at the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta. I am grateful to have had an academic advisor who propelled me in the direction of success."

Surreal Experience

After graduating in December 2011, moving to D.C. for her master's degree program in strategic public relations, and beginning an internship with one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the United States—all within the space of a few weeks—Liza's health was the last thing on her mind. But when a persistent cough worsened and became so extreme she had trouble breathing, she was forced to go to the emergency room.

Liza has battled asthma since age six and assumed spring allergies were getting the best of her. So it came as a complete shock when an X-ray revealed a mass pressing against her windpipe. Her parents immediately flew from Kenya to be by her side, and after undergoing surgery and multiple tests including a bone marrow biopsy, Liza heard the devastating news.

"I was unprepared, so I didn't have an immediate reaction," Liza recalled. "It was surreal, a complete out-of-body experience. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry or scream or run away. I was aloof, just sitting there like a passenger waiting to reach some destination. I realized my life could be taken away from me and every moment was uncertain."

Then began the most difficult fight of Liza's life. She never allowed herself to ask the question, "Why?" To her, that was irrelevant, and the sooner she accepted her diagnosis, the sooner she could wage her own war against it. But despite the resilience of her spirit, nothing prepared her for the horrors of the chemotherapy treatments.

Throughout her fight, she was humbled and grateful for all the love and support she received from her Union family—whom she said, "organized everything from encouraging messages and specially crafted gifts, to prayer vigils and personal visits to D.C."

Faith, Grace, Peace and Joy

Miraculously, Liza has now been declared cancer-free. She continues to daily utilize the skills she gained at Union College in her internship and graduate studies. Once finished with her master's program, she plans to obtain her doctorate in order to teach and train other public relations professionals.

For Liza, it's important to use the precious life she has been given to serve others. "My time at Union has taught me the greatest joy is not in you, but in serving others."

She is thankful the support from Union didn't end when she walked out the door, diploma in hand. "Attending Union was one of the best decisions of my life. I gained a family here in the United States that provided a support system during my battle with cancer. I hope to have the same impact in other people's lives."

Liza signs her correspondence with the words, "Through Faith. By Grace. In Peace. With Joy." Her young life is an embodiment of those words.

Mindy Liebelt graduated from Union College in 2011 with a degree in communication.

Attending Union was one of the best decisions of my life. They provided a support system during my battle with cancer.

Steve Nazario/Union College



God in Scrubs

by Mindy Liebelt

People came together to support me and my family, using the healing power of God.

Steve Nazario/Union College



Chris Harris discovered God at Union College. After a life of single-minded determination, struggle and survival, the support surrounding him on campus revealed a God that he had never witnessed before.

Chris has two older brothers and three younger sisters. Due to an unstable home life, he and his siblings experienced the chaos and trauma of bouncing in and out of foster homes, shelters, group homes and family missions.

"My mother was diagnosed with a mental illness because of trauma she had suffered in her early childhood," Chris explains. "As we began to reach the same age she was when she was abused, she began to have psychotic episodes."

When Chris was very young, his father—a Vietnam veteran—was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Doctors told the family they believed the disease was caused by his exposure to Agent Orange during the war.

"As I entered my freshman year of high school, his disease began to rapidly decrease his physical ability to perform daily routines, including work," Chris said. "The stress was too much for my mother, so she left my disabled father to care for four growing children alone."

With his two older brothers already living out-of-state, Chris instantly became a father-figure to his three younger sisters. The role of caring for them, cooking for them and taking them to school often rested on his teenage shoulders. Still trying to keep up with his own studies, he wondered how he would ever be able to accomplish it all.

Now a senior in Union's nursing program, Chris continues to work hard to keep up with his class work while also caring for his father, who has become a quadriplegic. Chris is thankful that his mother has since received treatment for her illness and is doing much better. His classmates and professors can pick up on the depth of his quiet understatement—and imagine a host of unspoken struggles—when he simply says, "It all worked out."

Built-in Support

Last school year something happened that changed Chris forever. While in class, he received a phone call notifying him that his father was being rushed to the hospital.

"My dad was admitted into the burn unit at St. Elizabeth," he said. "Before this I never put my faith in God or even went to church. When the news spread about my dad's condition, I discovered that God lives in so many people at Union College. My classmates, teachers and even strangers told me they were praying for me and my family. This surprised me because I had never had a body of people come together to support me and my family using the healing power of God."

This was a profound revelation to Chris. His father recovered and was able to return home. "This experience made me realize that God is real and is watching over me at all times," he said. "It's amazing what the power of God can do."

While he credits all the nursing staff and instructors with being instrumental in his success, he found himself particularly grateful for the support of Nicole Orian, assistant director of the nursing program. "I was in her class when I learned about my father's condition," he remembered. "She came to visit my father every day and prayed for him. I'll never forget Nicole. She has greatly impacted my life and family."

Once he graduates, Chris hopes to become a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology. He attributes his college experience with teaching him how to have positive interactions with others, and he hopes to support others like the staff and students at Union have been there for him. He plans to continue to share his story with those who are struggling in order to help them find strength for tough life situations. He believes that if he can achieve his goals, anyone can.

Chris' life has been indelibly changed at Union College. He has witnessed God—not under a steeple, or on a cross, not depicted in a stained glass window or in a painting. Instead, Chris has discovered God in the people at Union—their love and support—a human revelation of God's divine love for him.

Mindy Liebelt graduated from Union College in 2011 with a degree in communication.

God Doesn't Make Mistakes

by Mindy Liebelt

Bobby Nabors-Patt's mom likes to tell him how, as a baby, he would crawl up to the pulpit at the front of the church and stay there. In fact, while he was growing up he remembers everyone telling him that he was going to be a preacher someday. Now a senior double theology and psychology major at Union College, Nabors-Patt is not sure exactly where he is headed after graduation, but he believes his future is right where it needs to be—in God's hands.

He and his mother joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church while he was in elementary school. During high school, Nabors-Patt enjoyed working with mentally challenged adults, which led to a keen interest in psychology. He attended Burton Adventist Academy in Arlington, Texas, but his math grades and ACT scores were low enough that many colleges would not accept him.

"I owe my first two years at Union College to Rob Weaver [then vice president for Enrollment Services], because he really helped get me here and helped me to stay here," Nabors-Patt said. "Of all of the Adventist colleges, Union gave me the most help." His interest in ministry, along with his desire to be in a better position to work with the mentally challenged, influenced him to pursue a double major.

To ensure that Nabors-Patt gained the necessary skills to conquer math, Rob Weaver suggested he go to Union's Teaching Learning Center, affectionately called the TLC. "The TLC program really helped define me as a student," he said. "I was better organized, better able to focus, I was [harder] working. It was a huge stepping stone for me to becoming the student I am today."

TLC director, Debbie Forshee-Sweeney, and TLC academic coach/advisor, Elizabeth Anderson, provided the assistance Nabors-Patt needed. "The amount of help I received from both of them was just extraordinary," he recalled. "I love the TLC. I love Ms. Debbie and Ms. Elizabeth."

He believes the TLC is much like a campus host who shows new students around. The tutors and programs guide students academically by providing them with study skills they need to be successful. "The TLC program is designed to give students a chance where other places aren't willing to give them a chance," he added. "I know what it's like to be rejected by colleges. It's tough. They really see potential in students, even when a student doesn't see potential in himself."

Focusing on Strengths

Nabors-Patt hopes to inspire other students to realize their own potential and demonstrate how the TLC can help. "Lots of students feel stupid or dumb," he acknowledged. Forshee-Sweeney often asks Bobby to share his story of encouragement with other students who may be struggling academically.

"Don't focus on being a perfect student. It's not about perfect, because nobody's perfect. It's just about coming in with the desire to be successful, the desire to come out of college with the skills and knowledge that you didn't have before," he tells his fellow students. "Focus on your strengths. Don't focus on your weaknesses. If you don't like your weaknesses, do something that transforms your weakness into a strength."

This lesson he learned with the help of Forshee-Sweeney. "Her hard work and dedication and the way she believes in students continues to be an inspiration to me," he said.

For the last two years, Nabors-Patt has led Footprints, a drama group on campus focused on innovative ministry. He enjoys utilizing his love of writing and the dramatic arts to glorify God. "Before I came here I remember I went through a period of spiritual doubt," he said. "There was a point where I thought, 'Is God even real? Why is it that I believe the things that I believe?' During my time here at Union, God slowly but surely showed me—here is Somebody who looks after me and takes care of me."

Planning to graduate this spring, Bobby can see how God has helped him grow academically, socially and spiritually at Union College while giving him confidence about his future. He admits that he once tried to take control over events in his life, but now he simply trusts that God has it all under control.

Whether he ministers as a pastor, continues to work with mentally challenged adults or uses his talents in any number of ways to serve others, his only desire is to be in the center of God's will. "I know that I am in good hands," he said smiling. "God doesn't make mistakes."

The TLC program really helped define me as a student. The amount of help I received was just extraordinary.

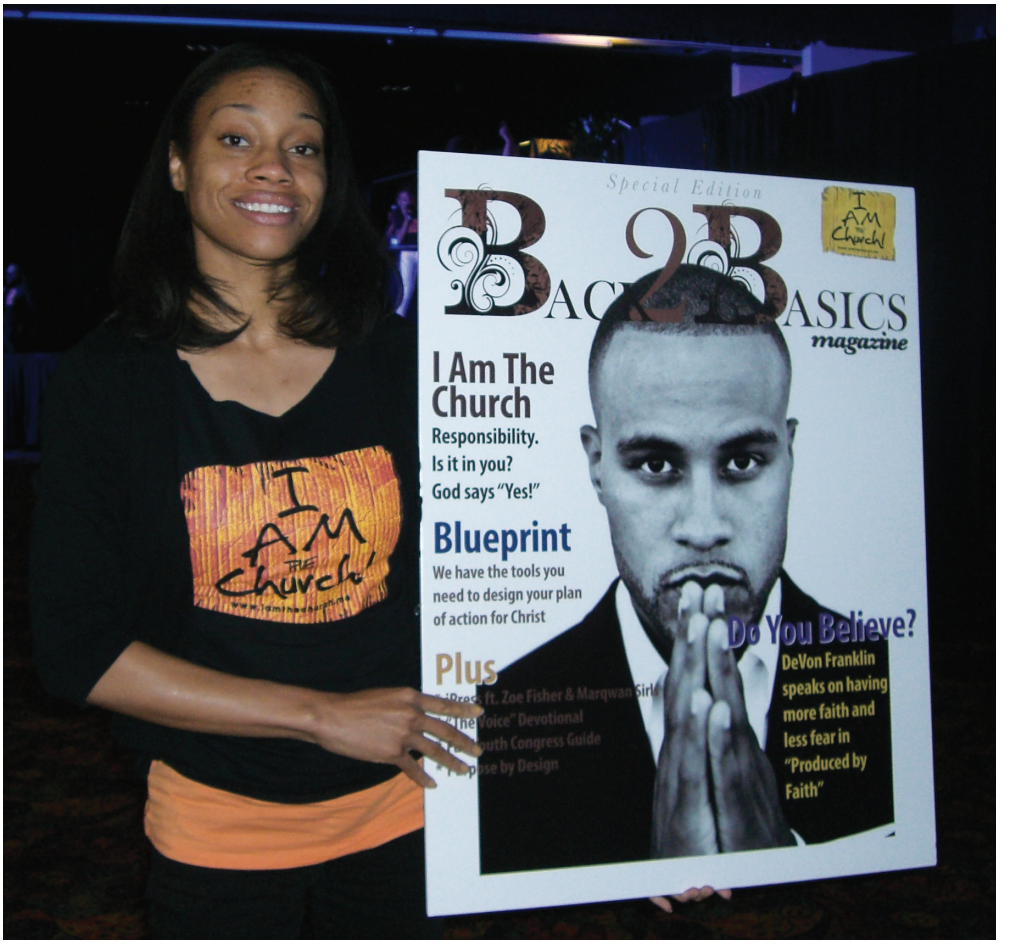
Steve Nazario/Union College



Back2Basics Magazine Wants Youth!

Adventist Christian lifestyle magazine for youth provides opportunity for self-expression about the basics of a relationship with God and His word

Courtesy Central States Conference



Brittany Winkfield, founder and publisher of *Back2Basics Magazine*, displays the debut cover.

B2B's Beginning

Back2Basics Magazine (*B2B Mag*) launched at the 2012 "I Am the Church" Youth Congress in Denver, hosted by the Central States Conference (CSC). The premier issue played a dual role, serving as the printed program for attendees at the Congress while also introducing them to a magazine with articles written by youth active in the church. *B2B Mag* exists through the resources and vision of the CSC youth department and **Brittany Winkfield**, founder and publisher.

B2B's Future

B2B began with a focus on CSC but plans expansion to other local conferences in North America and beyond. To support the mission and growth of *B2B Mag* (both online subscriptions and a printed publication), youth can contribute content and tell friends about the magazine. Anyone is welcome to make a tax-deductible donation.

B2B and You

You can be a change maker! *B2B Mag* is looking for young people who want to inform and inspire their peers and promote a deeper relationship with Christ. One ongoing theme to accomplish this is The Temperance Rally, a multi-state initiative sponsored by CSC to engage youth in creative ways of educating one another about the importance of healthy living. Temperance is a year-round feature, and youth are invited to send in poems, photos, jingles, essays, graphic art and relevant content.

For more information or to contribute, visit www.Back2BasicsMag.com.

Grand Avenue Church Launches Tutoring Program

by Philip Baptiste

Grand Avenue Church in Charleston, Missouri is reaching out to the community with its new After School Tutoring Program. Twice a week, church members invest time and resources to help neighborhood kids with math, reading and other subjects. **Pastor Kory Douglas** reports: "I am proud to be part of a church committed to making a difference in the community."

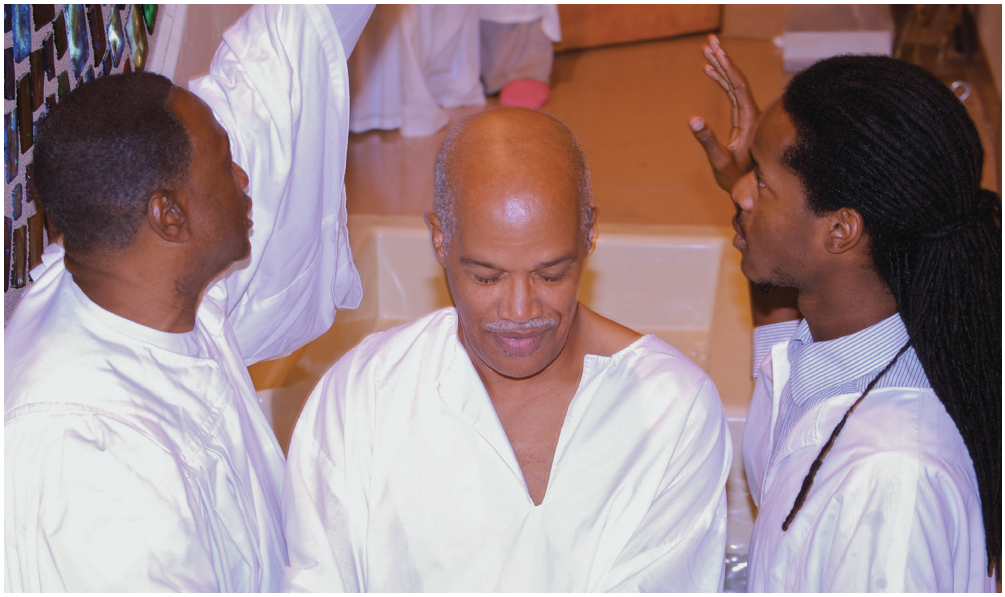
The program launched successfully with an event that offered face painting and good food to more than 50 attendees. Pastor Douglas and program coordinator **Audrey Johnson** hope that the after school initiative will build character and instill Christian values in the lives of neighborhood children.

Philip Baptiste is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Creative Evangelism Yields 26 Baptisms

by Stephanie Horton

Courtesy Central States Conference



Pastor Frederick Montgomery (left) and Ja'Mon Johnson baptize a new church member from the Fight of Your Life evangelistic series.

When planning a recent evangelistic effort, **Pastor Frederick Montgomery**, Bible workers **Doris Carleton** and **Ja'Mon Johnson**, and members of Agape (St. Louis) Church teamed up to follow Paul's example in 1 Cor. 9:22: "I have become all things to all people so that I might save some."

After prayerfully studying their urban neighborhood, they realized that their church is surrounded by people battling just to survive. Many fight addictions, financial problems, homelessness and other challenges—all without knowing Christ. Since conventional topics and meetings were not likely to appear relevant in such a situation, Agape reached out with something different: The Fight of Your Life evangelistic series.

This unique Bible series used engaging visuals to portray the connection between personal struggles and their root cause in the context of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. The battle was represented by a custom-built boxing ring in the front of the church sanctuary—complete with punching bags, gloves and other boxing equipment. Coaches, referees and ringside spectators wearing the official Fight of Your Life T-shirts every night added to the reality of the actual battle between God's people and Satan. The T-shirts served to identify members, provide publicity and unify the cause.

Pastor Montgomery spoke during the four-nights-per-week series on why Satan continues to attack God's children and how to beat him at his own game. He educated listeners on how to fight for their relationships, finances and health.

The series concluded with a Sabbath celebration of 26 baptisms. More than 10 new believers are currently taking Bible studies as a result of this series.

The signs, equipment and T-shirts of the Fight of Your Life series are packed away for now, but Pastor Montgomery and the Agape members know that the battle is far from over. With their new members, they will continue the fight and share the hope until Jesus comes.

Stephanie F. R. Horton is communication director for the Agape Church in St. Louis.

CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL **DEPARTMENTAL LEADERSHIP** ROLES

Communication: Philip Baptiste*
Family Life: Marlon and Denise Johnson
Men's Ministry: Ron Williams*
Pathfinders: Rachel Banks, Shawn Walls (assistant)
Women's Ministry: Terri Perkins

Please lift up these individuals in prayer as they serve the nine-state territory of the Central States Conference.

**Also serves as a local church pastor*

Dream Inspires New Author

by Jacquie Biloff

Courtesy Dakota Conference



Brian Pendergast had a recurring dream that would come after time in prayer. In his dream a missionary was trying to share the gospel in a village, but a lion would always show up to intimidate his intended audience. The missionary's first task was to build a wall to protect the village so he could share the gospel in peace.

Pendergast and his wife **Angie**, of Pierre, South Dakota had been listening to Bible Answers from Amazing Facts on the local Adventist radio station. When a brochure arrived in the mail featuring a series of meetings by **Emanuel Baek**, they attended. That was October 2009. Pendergast committed his life to Christ in baptism and has since been ordained as a deacon in his local church.

Previous to his baptism and gifting by the Holy Spirit, Pendergast felt a desire to write. He kept it mainly to himself, however, feeling that he lacked a substantive topic. But now he had something he wanted to share.

His first book, with Tate Publishing, is for children: *The Lion in the Playground,* based upon his dream. Drawing from the biblical story of Daniel in the lions' den, Pendergast describes God's control over a lion in the village playground.

His next book, *Surrounded by Fire,* will be set in a fire-fighting context, with overtones from the story of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah in the fiery furnace. Pendergast's desire is that parents will read these books to their children and use them as steppingstones to the associated Bible story.

Pierre's *Capital Journal* featured Pendergast at a local book signing. The newspaper reported that after his deployment to Iraq in 2003 with the Army National Guard, faith has been increasingly significant in his own life and for sharing with others: "Writing a book geared for children is a way to reach entire families with Bible messages."

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

Lenhardt Kungel



Kulm Seventh-day Adventist Church has a rich history in North Dakota. Members celebrated their centennial in 2008 with standing-room only attendance. This year they collaborated in a remodeling project, replacing siding and windows while preserving the church's classic décor.

Over the years, many church employees have traced their roots to Kulm Church—at one time the largest in the conference. The community calls their facility "the little white church on the hill."

Ethiopian Orphans Reconnect in Houston

Adapted with permission from an article by Cindy Horswell in the Bismarck Tribune

Russell and **Valerie Haveman** of Dakota Adventist Academy are the adoptive parents of **Kidane** (pronounced Ka don′ee). Last summer they traveled to Houston, Texas so Kidane could be reunited with his childhood friend, **Ayenew**. Kidane and Ayenew had lived at the same Ethiopian orphanage, fending off bullies and consoling each other when they were whipped with boards and hoses. Due to overcrowding, they shared the same bed.

Kidane's uncle left him at the orphanage after Kidane's parents died—his mother from an illness and his father in a fight. The uncle could afford to keep only one boy, and Kidane's older brother was of more use to him.

Ayenew had been left at the orphanage at the age of four. His family wanted something better for at least one of their seven children, hoping he would be adopted by an American family. Ayenew, however, feared he had been consigned to the orphanage because God was angry with him.

Three years later—on the day after Ayenew prayed that someone would want him for their son—he was adopted. However, he hated to leave his friend, Kidane. Both boys wept and have kept a framed picture by their beds of their last day together in Ethiopia. It was another year before Kidane was adopted by the Havemans.

Ayenew's adoptive parents left a note with the adoption agency for the Havemans to contact them so they could arrange a possible reunion of the boys, now nine years old. The process began with the boys mailing drawings to each other, talking on the phone and finally using Skype to communicate. When they met again, the boys hugged and greeted each other in English and then began singing in Ethiopian. Kidane translated the words into English, "God to come here; bring the children close to You."

Both adoptive mothers in America could relate to adopted children out of their own experience. Ayenew's mother gave up a son born to her while she was in high school; Kidane's mother had herself been adopted.

Kidane's and Ayenew's transition to American life has had its challenges. Ayenew thought everyone in America lived in skyscrapers and was surprised at his new family's two-story home. His mother said, "He flipped every light switch, turned on every appliance and the water faucet in the first 15 minutes after arriving. It was so different for him." Kidane was shocked to see his parents holding hands because in Ethiopia only people of the same gender hold hands.

Both boys were adopted into families with other siblings. The Havemans have two older daughters, **Carrie**, 14 and **Cassie**, 16. Kidane feels fortunate that he was adopted into a family that lives in North Dakota because he loves snow. Ayenew, however, is happy that Texas has no snow. There isn't even a word for snow in the Ethiopian national language. It is just called "frozen rain."

Kidane's mother remarked, "Reuniting the boys this summer was just a taste of the great reunion we will have in heaven one day."



Craig Wiley

Russell and Valerie Haveman with children (L-R) Carrie, Kidane and Cassie

Leaders Challenged to Be Intentional

by Michelle Miracle

Michelle Miracle



Ben Moore addressing Adventurer and Pathfinder leaders during a Leadership Training Weekend in September

The Iowa-Missouri Conference Youth Department sponsored its first joint Leadership Training Weekend for Pathfinder and Adventurer Club leaders and Teen Leaders in Training. During three days in September, participants attended seminars on starting a local club, program planning, team building, faith development in club members and more.

Featured speaker **Ben Moore**, associate director of the Sikeston (MO) Soldiers Pathfinder Club, spoke candidly with fellow leaders about serious problems facing today's youth: pregnancy, suicide and violent video games.

"We tend to blame the problems of the young people on these things, but it all seems to stem from a lack of spirituality among our young people," said Moore. "It's clear to me that we, as youth leaders, need to do a better job ministering to their needs in our churches." He cited research indicating that between 70 and 88 percent of young people are leaving church by their second year in college, and 50 percent of them feel that all churches believe essentially the same truths.

"As we get underway with this new year as clubs, I challenge you to be intentional and passionate about the ministry of Adventurers and Pathfinders," concluded Moore.

Michelle Miracle is communicaton and Sabbath school director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Michelle Miracle



The Iowa-Missouri Conference welcomed Aron Henninger to the office as assistant treasurer, replacing Helen Young, who retired in September. Aron has served the denomination since 2006, beginning with the Lincoln SDA Credit Union in Nebraska. Most recently he has been an accountant for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. Aron has moved to Des Moines with his wife, Sara, and their 10-year-old son, Jayson.

Michelle Miracle



Lee's Summit (MO) Church held a unique seminar series hosted by Herb Montgomery of Renewed Heart Ministries. Over the course of 10 meetings, local Adventists got to know the six visitors who regularly attended. Each received Scripture-filled handouts on the nightly topics, along with a code to register online at renewedheartministries.com and download audio recordings.

Students Experience Outdoor School

by Joseph Allison

Courtesy Joseph Allison



The 2012-13 Outdoor School Class

The Education Department sponsored its annual Outdoor School this past September at Camp Heritage. Forty-four 5th and 6th graders, with sponsors from 10 conference schools, learned about weather, stars, edible plants and orienteering.

Kathy Weigand, principal/teacher from Summit View Adventist School, taught the weather class; **Richard Booth**, principal/teacher from Moberly Adventist School, taught stars; and **Pastor Chris Jones**, youth pastor at the Columbia (MO) Church, taught edible plants and orienteering. Each teacher structured classes so that students accomplished Pathfinder honor requirements.

In addition to classes, students attended daily worship services, organized games and fulfilled various work duties. They also participated in the Amazing Grace Challenge, which had them searching the Bible for texts related to that day's class theme, performing physical activities and creating art projects.

Joseph Allison, EdD, is education superintendent for the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Women Retreat to the Rock of Refuge

by Michelle Miracle

The 24th Annual Christian Women's Retreat, held this year in Jefferson City, Missouri was themed My Rock of Refuge. Featured presenter **Marquita Klinedinst**, registered nurse and international speaker, explained that just as God was the rock of refuge for the Israelites when they left Egypt and traversed through the desert, He wants to be our rock of refuge today. "Anytime God asks you to go a certain way, He doesn't let you go alone. He is always with you," said Klinedinst. As the weekend progressed, she invited the women to ask God to take them to a deeper place of understanding about why He answers prayer in the time and fashion that He does.

Sabbath morning **Yara Young**, speaker and author of *Oh No It's Sabbath Again (And I'm Not Ready),* shared how to be spiritually prepared for God's weekly rest. She recalled looking forward to seeing her boyfriend (now husband) **Dr. Tom Young** each weekend after she had graduated from college and he was finishing up his last year. "I cleaned my parents' house and cared for every detail, including pulling out each blade of grass between the bricks in our backyard walkway," said Young. "Do we prepare to meet Jesus on Sabbath the same way we prepare to meet a loved one?"

Retreat participants toured the state capitol building and strolled through historic downtown Jefferson City. They also attended seminars on how to share Jesus with their children, maximize their time, get fit and more. Attendees came from as far away as California, Texas and Washington. All ladies are invited to next year's retreat, themed Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord, scheduled for September 20-22 in Iowa.



Michelle Miracle

Featured speaker Marquita Klinedinst

Channel Surfing Leads to New Life in Christ

by LaDonna McMurtry

LaDonna McMurtry



Mary Potmesil showing Pastor Adrian Atkins her infant baptismal certificate with the same date as her new certificate

Mary Potmesil was surfing through her favorite TV channels when Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) showed up. She was surprised, since no religious programming was in her lineup. But **Shawn Boonstra's** preaching impressed her so much that she began viewing 3ABN. One telecast about the Sabbath convinced Potmesil that her church had not been preaching the full truth about the Bible.

One Sabbath she timidly ventured into the Norfolk (NE) Church. Two ladies greeted her. After introductions, Potmesil explained she had been watching 3ABN and discovered she had been keeping the wrong day.

Cynthia and **Joseph Sharp** befriended her and offered Bible studies. Potmesil soon decided to be baptized. On October 28, the evening before her baptism by **Pastor Adrian Atkins**, Potmesil felt impressed to look up her first certificate of baptism as an infant. She was amazed at the date—October 29!

LaDonna McMurtry is a member of the Norfolk (NE) Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 2-3
125th Anniversary
Wichita South
Contact: thewalkingstick@gmail.com

Nov 9-10
KC Area Youth Rally
Contact: tsager@ks-ne.org

Tanya Sandoval



The Kearney Church continued a tradition by sponsoring a booth at the University of Nebraska-Kearney Blue & Gold event, an annual initiative to welcome students back to college. Members distributed more than 500 green bags with the Seventh-day Adventist logo, each containing a *Great Hope* book. They also handed out 400 granola bars with contact information on stickers, inviting students to a vegan cooking class.

John Treolo



Cassi Cox has joined the treasury department at conference headquarters as the accountant. Cox comes from Lincoln, Nebraska, where she attended Union College. She is working toward her master's in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting. Prior to accepting this position, Cox served at Advent*Source* in Lincoln.

Ordination is for Ministry

by John Sweigart

Two pastors were recently ordained in recognition of their calling to ministry.

Michael Paradise, serving young adults at Lincoln's College View Church, has enjoyed seven years of pastoral ministry through his faith in Jesus and the support of his wife, **Alana**. They have three children: **Isaiah** and twins **Anna** and **Simeon**.

Michael's ministry has been entirely within the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. After graduating from Union College, he was associate pastor at Lincoln's Piedmont Park Church and then the conference's youth director before attending Andrews University to earn his MDiv degree.

"We all have a calling to ministry," Paradise said. "If you're a Christian, you are called to serve Christ."

Travis Forde, district pastor of the Ft. Scott/Galena/Hepler/Pittsburg churches, began ministry in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference in 2006. After receiving his MDiv from Andrews, Forde served the New Life (Olathe)/Osawatomie/Ottawa District.

Forde has done the work of an evangelist, even overseas in Africa and Guatemala. He has served as a missionary to the Republic of Georgia, teaching English as Second Language and Bible classes. His wife, **Heather**, joins him in team ministry.

"My mission in ministry is communicating the gospel and empowering individuals to fulfill their God-given purpose. I've been blessed to see lives changed by a relationship with Jesus," Forde testified.

John Sweigart is ministerial secretary for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.



John Treolo

Michael Paradise (center, with wife, Alana) was ordained at Lincoln's College View Church.



John Treolo

Travis Forde (center, with wife, Heather) was ordained at the Pittsburg (KS) Church.

"I Will Be Courteous and Obedient ..."

by Jim and Alvina Cook

Courtesy Jim Cook



Maple Plain Messengers Pathfinder Club members (L-R) Sam Martinez, Asiah Brazil-Geyshick and Leo Martinez at the Crazy Horse Monument in South Dakota

"I will be courteous and obedient" is part of the Pathfinder Law, which **Sam Martinez** takes seriously. A first-year member of Maple Plain Messengers Pathfinder Club, Sam attended the recent Union-wide camporee in South Dakota. While the club visited Crazy Horse Monument, Sam noticed an elderly woman trying to get in a photo with her family. She had pushed her walker to the side and was attempting to walk unaided to where her family was standing when Sam spotted her. He immediately went over and offered her his arm so she could walk with ease to join her family.

After the picture was taken, the lady talked to **Jim Cook**, director of Sam's club. "What a nice boy!" she exclaimed. "Did you tell him to help me?"

"No," Jim replied, "I didn't even see you until he went over to you." He then told the lady about Pathfinders and invited her to the Sabbath evening program at Mt. Rushmore. The woman mentioned that at one time she had an Adventist physical therapist in California who was "the nicest lady." Now she was delighted to meet polite, well-mannered Adventist kids.

When the Pathfinder group encountered this lady again in the visitor's center, she commented on how impressed she was with them.

How awesome when Pathfinders internalize their Pledge and Law, bearing witness in every aspect of their lives!

Jim and Alvina Cook lead the Maple Plain Messengers Pathfinder Club.

Harland Thompson's Legacy of Faith and Service

by Carol Lyons*

Throughout life **Harland Thompson** took joy in helping others. Whether serving his country, his church or working with other veterans, Harland passionately shared his time and talents.

He overcame many obstacles in his life, from shyness and stuttering as a child to later living with the incurable conditions of arthritis of the eyes, Crohn's disease, and the need for cardiac pacemakers. Most recently, his faith and positive outlook helped him cope with stage 4 lung cancer.

As a young man, while the draft was in full swing, Thompson and a buddy signed up for a three-year stint in the Army. He knew that the odds of going to Vietnam were high, as well as the chance of getting shot. And being in the middle of a war, one could never be sure who was bunking next to him—in those days some criminals were allowed to enter the Army instead of going to jail.

After basic training, he was stationed in Thailand for 11 months. When his mother died, he had a month's leave of absence at home. During that time Thompson married his fiancée, **Connie Harmon**. Later he received a compassion order to move back to the States and help his father, now raising Thompson's younger sister on his own.

Thompson was stationed in St. Paul and lived off base with his new bride. However, one year later with only nine months left of service time, the base was closed and he received orders to ship out to Vietnam for the next three months. "You never knew what was going to happen. You always lived on edge," he said.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Thompson went back to school and graduated with a degree in hotel management. For several years he worked in sales. He was also a Chamber of Commerce ambassador, doing volunteer and contract work. Chamber president **Carrie Johnston** recalled Thompson's faithfulness: "He really loved to go out and meet new business people and show them how the Chamber could help them. He was a smiling face for us."



Courtesy Connie Thompson

Thompson enjoyed belonging to the VFW and the American Legion, but he worked most closely with the Disabled American Veterans. He said that serving in the military fosters camaraderie that endures. His goal was to give a little back to those who gave so much. Thompson also became involved with the Lake Area Veterans Color Guard.

When a steering committee was formed to have a Veterans Memorial Park in Detroit Lakes, Thompson was happy to be a member. He was instrumental in fundraising and organizing the project. On Veterans Day 2011, after four years of planning and preparation, his hard work came to fruition with the dedication of the new memorial. Five months later, at age 62, Thompson passed away at the VA Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota.

For over 30 years Thompson was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was blessed with a beautiful voice and enjoyed leading out in music. He also taught Sabbath school and served as a deacon. The city of Detroit Lakes and the local Adventist congregation will always remember Harland Thompson and the legacy of faith and service he left behind.

Carol Lyons is an administrative secretary for the Minnesota Conference.

**Portions of this story were originally published on Detroit Lakes'* DL-Online, *dated November 11, 2011 and* The Record, *April 29, 2012.*

Rocky Mountain Conference Re-elects Officers

by Mark Bond

Mark Bond



(left) **Re-elected Rocky Mountain Conference leadership team (from left), Gary Thurber, president; Eric Nelson, vice-president for administration; and George Crumley, vice president for finance**

(below) **A positive spirit prevailed among delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference Constituency Session held at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver.**

Delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) Constituency Session on September 16 voted overwhelmingly to re-elect their administrative team. Reaffirmed and returned to office were **Gary Thurber**, president; **Eric Nelson**, vice-president for administration; and **George Crumley**, vice-president for finance. The votes for each leader were extremely positive and represented a broad base of support among constituents for the current administration.

Also voted by a strong margin was a motion to extend the term of service from the previous (three-year) triennial to a quinquennial (five-year) session. Several factors supported that decision, including a significant cost savings, convenience for constituents who travel long distances, and the ability to spend more time focused on ministry and mission rather than the administrative function of preparing for sessions. The move also brings RMC in line with the five-year terms of the General Conference, the North American Division (NAD), the Mid-America Union, and most of the 59 conferences in the NAD.

This year's Session, held at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver, had a positive tone, which began with a stirring message by **Dan Jackson**, NAD president. **Jim Moon**, RMC prayer ministries coordinator, provided several opportunities for attendees to pause for prayer as they considered motions on the floor. Overall, a sense of unity pervaded the meeting.

Gary Thurber closed the Session with an appeal for RMC members to unite in preparation for Christ's soon return. He also challenged each attendee to personally seek a transformational relationship with God through daily Bible study and prayer. He encouraged all present to put an end to negativity among churches and members who have differing opinions, and rather to pray for those with whom they disagree.

At the end of the day, Elder Thurber said, "What a privilege it is to serve this territory. I am humbled and honored to be a small part of furthering God's work here in the Rocky Mountain Conference."

Mark Bond is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Mark Bond



Building a Mission School in Zambia

by Jessica Beans

Growing up in Zambia, Africa, **General Conference Vice President Pardon Mwansa** was one of two students out of 80 who went on to eighth grade. It wasn't because the others failed; there simply weren't enough secondary schools to accommodate more students.

The need persists for more educational facilities in Zambia. The Luapula province, for example, has 467 primary or elementary schools, but only 26 secondary schools. Thus over 95 percent of elementary students there can't go on to secondary school—there is just not room. Elder Mwansa's heart has a burden to build a school in poverty-stricken northern Zambia. Mansa Christian Learning Center will educate 460 motivated children who have no money, through a work-study and donation plan.

Rocky Mountain Conference leaders are planning a related mission trip through the youth department. Next June, 45 individuals will head to Zambia to start constructing the church—the first building on the school compound. Mwansa wants to start with the church facility because it will show the community that God is the focus of the school—the only Adventist educational institution in the region. The Rocky Mountain group will also conduct evangelistic series in 10 surrounding townships.

Anyone interested in the Zambia project may visit http://www.facebook.com/MissionToZambiaAfrica or contact jessicab@rmcsda.org.

Jessica Beans is assistant to the director for youth ministries in the Rocky Mountain Conference.



Courtesy Rocky Mountain Conference

General Conference Vice President Pardon Mwansa points to water storage containers for the wells being drilled at the new learning complex in Zambia.

HOW **YOU** CAN HELP



Finding Direction for Life at Union College

Parker Adventist Hospital's Chief Financial Officer

Courtesy Adventist Health System



An early decision to attend Union College proved formative in the life of Jonathan Fisher, now chief financial officer for Parker Adventist Hospital.

Two days before freshman orientation, Jonathan Fisher made his final decision to follow in his parents' footsteps and attend Union College. The choice wasn't easy.

He recalls being conflicted on the days leading up to the application deadline. On one hand, Fisher had attended a public high school with a small graduating class, and had formed lifelong friendships there. He could see himself at a large public university. On the other, he could tell his parents had a place in their hearts for their alma mater.

The choice between a public institution and a private one ultimately came down, for Fisher, to his trust in the guidance of his parents—the most influential people in his life. And what a difference that decision made.

Union College became a place of growth and discovery. For the first time, he didn't have to answer questions about how or who he worshipped. He could live his faith alongside countless others doing the same. It was a place where he fit in.

Beyond impacting his spiritual growth, the professors there molded his career decisions. One in particular, Mike Buck, was his advisor. During Fisher's freshman year, upon seeing the results of a Principles of Accounting test, Buck encouraged him to consider working in finance. Before that, Fisher had no career in mind. Today, Fisher serves as the chief financial officer (CFO) of Parker Adventist Hospital in Colorado.

Having set in course his career and spiritual life, Fisher believes God led him to his wife during his years at Union, as well. "I didn't meet my wife until I was a sophomore in college when we were introduced by a mutual friend. Somehow we'd managed to avoid each other for a full year. That's hard to do at Union." They now have two children—a three-year old girl and a one-year old boy.

Fisher finds his work at Parker Adventist Hospital rewarding in all the right ways. He's able to see the difference the hospital makes in the lives of others as he sees how their Christ-centered staff approaches their work.

This way of life sometimes manifests itself through unusual circumstances, such as the time he came across a car full of lost elderly ladies circling the campus. "Since they were far away from where they needed to be, I offered to show them to their destination. They exclaimed, 'Oh please do'. They were thrilled. There I was riding with three strangers who trusted me."

Fisher loves that Parker Adventist Hospital is the type of place trust and service can blossom. Though he went out of his way nearly a quarter mile to help the lost ladies, the experience stuck in his mind and he tells it fondly. Sometimes it's the little things that make a job rewarding.

Where he is now, and where he was after graduating high school, are in many ways very different. It wasn't a clear path from his freshman year to becoming a CFO, and it had its ups and downs.

As he reflects on his journey, he sees how attending a public high school challenged him in ways that strengthened his faith. And how his early jobs outside of the Adventist system—driving trucks for construction and working at Burger King—were also formative for him, just as his time at Union was. Fisher has always been content to follow God and other important figures in his life, ever since that earliest college decision.

"A lot of people in college say they have a five- or 10-year plan. I don't think that way. Looking back, I listened to people who cared for me, and I listened to God and the Holy Spirit and took direction from both of those sources."

As for the future, he says, "In 10 years, I still hope to be able to say I did that."

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

Bagley Nettie J. (Williams), b. Oct. 17, 1928 in Marmarth, ND. d. July 26, 2012 in Rugby, ND. Member of Bowman Church. Preceded in death by husband Joseph.Survivors include daughters Charlotte Bratvold and Julie Tastad; sons Alfred, Leroy, Terry, Lonny, Donny and Gary; 2 brothers; 24 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren.

Buffington, Ora J. "Jean", b. Sept. 01, 1930 in Manhattan, KS. d. Sept. 03, 2012 in Manhattan, KS. Member of Manhattan Church. Preceded in death by 2 sisters. Survivors include daughters Lorena Lee and Cheryl Schumacher; 3 siblings; 2 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

Clark, Virginia M, b. Jan. 22, 1925 in East Portal, CO. d. Aug. 16, 2012 in Benkelman, NE. Survivors include daughters Judy Haines and Kathy Henderson; 5 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

Foreman, Virgil, b. Nov. 13, 1921 in Allerton, IA. d. Sept. 4, 2012 in Lebanon, MO. Member of Lebanon Church. Preceded in death by wife Violet; daughter Dawn Dena; 2 siblings. Survivors include daughters Susan Mason, Kathy Wellman, Rebecca Mehuys and Gail Griffin; son Grant; 2 siblings; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild.

Gooden, Emma J., b. Dec. 13, 1919 in Crawford County, KS. d. Sept. 30, 2012 in Topeka, KS. Member of Wanamaker Church. Preceded in death by 7 siblings. Survivors include daughters Sonia Howard and Cheryle Rivera; sons Calvin and Lyle; 8 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

Hadley, Jeffrey J., b. June 29, 1962 in Goshen, IN. d. Sept. 20, 2012 in Cheyenne, WY. Preceded in death by parents; biological mother. Survivors include wife Kathy; daughters Danielle Pearson, Missy Robinson and Toni Johnson; son Mike;1 sister; biological father; 12 grandchildren.

Jewett, Rodney L., b. May 24, 1940 in Tacoma, WA. d. Aug. 21, 2012 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Hot Springs Church. Survivors include wife Mary Alyce; daughter Lori; son Vern; 1 brother; 3 grandchildren.

Klassen, Helen M., b. Jan. 24, 1953 in Detroit Lakes, MN. d. Aug. 3, 2012 near Osage, MN. Member of Detroit Lakes Church. Survivors include mother Norma Nordstrom; sisters Erma Vizenor and Betty Nordstrom; brothers Peter and James Nordstrom.

Kruger, George W., b. Mar. 31, 1929 in Harare, Zimbabwe, South Africa. d. Aug. 30, 2012 in Kansas City, KS. Member of New Haven Church. Survivors include wife Magdalena; daughter Del Harebottle; sons Gary, Glen, Ray and Warren; 9 grandchildren.

Lee, Paul, b. May 9, 1943 in Yugoslavia. d. Aug. 28, 2012 in Pierre, SD. Member of Pierre Church. Survivors include wife Elizabeth "Libby"; sons Martin and Elliot; 1 brother; 1 grandchild.

Machart Beverly K., b.July 13, 1931. d. July 13, 2012 in Rapid City, SD. Member of Custer Church. Survivors include daughter Roberta; sons David Walsh, Richard Walsh and Henry Machart Jr.; 5 sisters; numerous grandchildren.

Malen, David, b. Dec. 3, 1939 in Lorain, OH. d. Aug. 20, 2012 in Lebanon, MO. Member of Lebanon Church. Survivors include wife Ruby; stepdaughter Tammy Kindwall; stepson Tony Kindwall; 2 grandchildren.

Pierce, Crawford G., b. Oct. 13, 1930 in Willmar, MN. d. Sept. 15, 2012. Preceded in death by 8 siblings. Survivors include wife Gloria; daughters Sylvia Penix and Sharon Vercio; son Greig; 1 brother; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren.

Renk, Ella V, b. Oct. 9, 1920 in Goodrich, ND. d. June 23, 2012 in Overland Park, KS. Member of New Haven Church. Survivors include husband John; sons Ron, Norman and Kimber; daughter Irlys White; 4 siblings; 10 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchildren.

Schultz, Viola W., b. Aug. 18, 1936 near Denhoff, ND. d. Aug. 25, 2012 in Fargo, ND. Member of Fargo Church. Survivors include sons Ken, Tony, Neal and Darrin Grubb; 1 sister; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Segebartt, Esther L. (Pearson), b. Sept. 3, 1919 in rural Farlington, KS. d. June 12, 2012 in rural Hepler, KS. Member of Hepler Church. Survivors include daughters LaVera Moomey and Juanita Eitel; sons John and William "Bill"; 1 brother; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Segebartt. William P., b. Jan. 25, 1917 in Sumner County, KS. d. July 20, 2011 in rural Hepler, KS. Member of Hepler Church. Survivors include daughters LaVera Moomey and Juanita Eitel; sons John and William "Bill"; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.

Seibold, Willis E., b. June 11, 1927 near Sykeston, ND. d. Aug. 25, 2012 in Jamestown, ND. Member of Jamestown Church. Survivors include wife Donna; daughter Gaylene; son Llewellyn; 4 siblings; 3 grandchildren.

Tandy, Susan, b. Sept. 6, 1942; d. Aug. 5, 2012 in Veronia, OR. Survivors include sister Cindy; brother Douglas.

Townsend, Robert "Bob", b. Nov. 18, 1942 in Girard, KS. d. Mar. 22, 2012 in Kansas City, KS. Member of Hepler Church.

Wangsnes, Kathryn A. (Buchholz), b. Aug. 31, 1944 in Mentor, MN. d. Sept. 10, 2012 in Grand Forks, ND. Member of Grand Forks Church. Survivors include husband Clarence; daughters Deanna Mattice and Brenda Coble; son Jon; 3 siblings 9 grandchildren.

Wilson, Marie A. "Ande", b. Nov. 6, 1922 in Florence, AL. d. Aug. 17, 2012 in rural Conejos County, CO. Member of Alamosa Church. Survivors include husband Robert; daughter Sandee Gass; son Hal; 1 sister; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

SUNSET CALENDAR

Colorado	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Denver	5:56	4:49	4:43	4:39	4:36
Grand Junction	6:12	5:05	4:59	4:55	4:52
Pueblo	5:57	4:51	4:45	4:41	4:39
Iowa					
Davenport	5:55	4:48	4:41	4:36	4:33
Des Moines	6:07	5:00	4:53	4:48	4:45
Sioux City	6:17	5:09	5:02	4:57	4:54
Kansas					
Dodge City	6:41	5:34	5:28	5:24	5:22
Goodland	5:44	4:37	4:31	4:27	4:24
Topeka	6:20	5:13	5:07	5:03	5:01
Minnesota					
Duluth	5:50	4:41	4:33	4:27	4:22
International Falls	5:51	4:41	4:32	4:25	4:21
Minneapolis	5:59	4:50	4:43	4:37	4:33
Missouri					
Columbia	6:07	4:59	4:54	4:50	4:47
Kansas City	6:16	5:09	5:03	4:59	4:56
St: Louis	5:59	4:52	4:47	4:43	4:40
Nebraska					
Lincoln	6:22	5:14	5:08	5:03	5:00
North Platte	6:38	5:30	5:24	5:19	5:16
Scottsbluff	5:48	4:40	4:33	4:28	4:25
North Dakota					
Bismarck	6:25	5:15	5:07	5:01	4:57
Fargo	6:09	4:59	4:51	4:45	4:41
Williston	6:33	5:23	5:15	5:08	5:03
South Dakota					
Pierre	6:29	5:20	5:13	5:07	5:04
Rapid City	5:41	4:32	4:25	4:20	4:16
Sioux Falls	6:16	5:07	5:00	4:55	4:52
Wyoming					
Casper	5:56	4:47	4:41	4:36	4:32
Cheyenne	5:53	4:45	4:39	4:34	4:31
Sheridan	5:54	4:45	4:38	4:32	4:29

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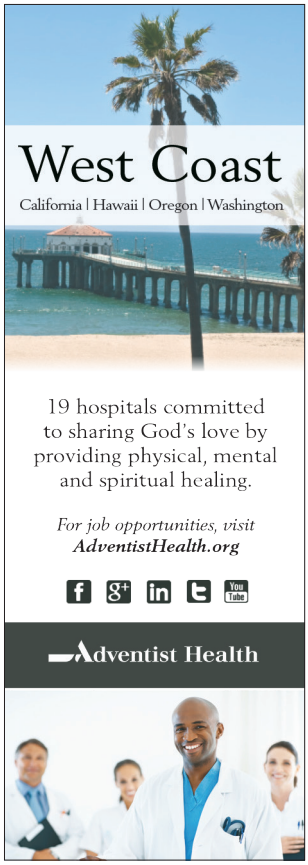
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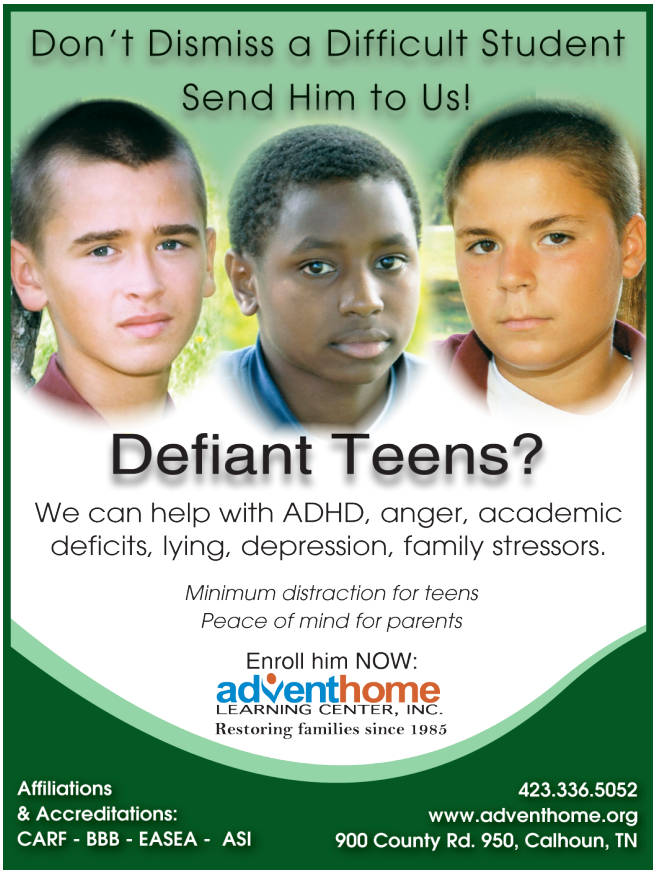
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