



news nuggets

Friday, January 18, 2019

New Bible Curriculum Uses the Bible as Its Textbook »

It's a Bible teacher's dream--students who not only dig deeply into the Bible, but who also connect with Jesus in countless ways.

The new Adventist Encounter Curriculum is created for both elementary and secondary students to give them a solid, deep, and personal knowledge of the truths of the Bible, to respond to Christ's invitation to live a lifelong, vibrant relationship with Him and to be passionate about the salvation of others. The Rocky Mountain Conference department of education adopted this curriculum in 2018.



"Before, we had a textbook and a workbook with good information but some of it was written in 2001," explained Michelle Velbis, principal/teacher at the Pueblo School, adding, "and it didn't apply or connect to the student's lives of today. "The new Encounter Bible curriculum," Velbis continued, "was written to specifically use orientation, exploration, reflection, and celebration to engage and envelop students with a clearer picture of God's love for them.

Using this new curriculum, students use the Bible as their textbook and are given countless opportunities to connect with Jesus. It is a seamless curriculum for Grade 1 – 12 that is intentional about exploring the Bible with the goal of

"Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect."

-- Stephen Covey

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making a difference for eternity.

“I can personally attest that my students are engaging and reflecting with Scripture at a completely different level,” enthuses Velbis. “Encounter is helping them to own their faith and to experience God's promises at a heart level instead of memorizing and regurgitating back the facts and stories. I am so excited that Adventist education now as a truly unique and beautiful curriculum that connects students with their awesome God!”

Even when students come from different faith backgrounds, they can discover truths straight from the Word.

Initially developed by Australian and New Zealand Adventist Education departments, the Adventist Encounter Curriculum has been taught in Australia and New Zealand for the past several years with much success. It was updated and contextualized before releasing it throughout the North American Division, who developed Grades 11 and 12 independently.

Because other textbooks date fairly quickly, the only textbook for this new curriculum is the Bible. The Encounter units provide a list of activities, resources, and a very comprehensive teaching plan. The units can be updated regularly as new resources arise and as needs change. A Resource Kit is provided for each Encounter unit, which may include posters, DVDs, books, and other unique materials as well as a Resource flash drive.

Ongoing checks for learning are available for use as students progress through each unit, and summary assessment options are also included.

To challenge and stretch each student, multiple intelligences are used, giving them opportunities to grapple with topics and apply, analyze and create personal and practical applications from their learning.

“What I hear over and over [about this curriculum],” said Diane Harris, associate director of education, “is that using the Bible as textbook leads students back to Scripture and reminds them of their place in God’s story and how much God loves them. I’m excited that students get this message year after year from Kindergarten through Grade 12. The teachers love it, too,” she enthuses. “It has, they say, renewed their love for teaching Bible.”

-- Carol Bolden; photo by Rajmund Dabrowski

A Centenarian Looks Back at a Life of Passion »

Looking back on life from the perspective of 100 years, Marcella Dittenber, who turned 100 on November 13 last year, sees a lot of change, although it happened slowly over the decades. She has memories of hardship as well as some

Teen Prayer Conference at GVR

January 18 - 20

NAD Adventist Health Ministries Convention

*January 20 - 26,
Albuquerque, NM*

Wyoming Taskforce Meeting

February 10

RMC Staff Meeting

February 12

President's Day -- Office Closed

January 18

GVR Board

February 19

RMC Property and Trust

February 20

Executive Committee

February 26

Staff Meeting

March 5

NAD Treasurers Council

March 27 - 28

Town Hall Meeting -- Casper Church

March 30

Town Hall Meeting -- Denver South Church

March 31



Story Guidelines: We

wonderful times.

Now a member of the Torrington Church, Dittenber was born on a farm near Lynch, Nebraska, in 1918, She came of age during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl years.

As the dust storms ravaged the land and the depression ravaged the economy, she remembers her father losing five farms.

She found respite as well as passion in the old country school in eastern Nebraska she and her siblings attended with other children from the community. She loved her teacher who “was a good Christian person and a good leader. She thought of each one of us children so much. I saw her kindness and what she did [to help each child].”

This teacher, who brought an old pump organ to school, started her on a lifelong love of music and helped her learn to play the piano using lessons that came to the teacher by mail and which were then passed on to her. All these years later, Dittenber plays piano and organ for her church and is skilled on the accordion and harmonica.



The influence of this same teacher led her to take teacher training while still in high school, taking advantage of a two-year program leading to a teaching license. Her teaching career began as soon as she graduated from high school in 1937 under that license. The degree came later after attending Chadron State College, Eastern Wyoming College, the University of Wyoming, and a college in Greeley, Colorado where she graduated with her teaching degree.

She was married in 1943 to Herman Dittenber, a farmer, who eventually traded farming for the iron mines, moving to Wyoming in 1954. During this time, Marcella prospered as a teacher and developed a reputation as one of the best elementary teachers around. Remembering the fun, loving atmosphere she learned under so many years before, she strived to provide this for her own students. Hauling refrigerator boxes to school, she used them to create a village with a functioning store where students could learn to count money. A math lesson might involve baking a cake and

want to share your

news! » News Nuggets is

your publication. We strive to

provide news and information

expressing our church

life. Every church, every family,

every individual has a story to

tell. We are inviting pastors and

secretaries of churches and

institutions within the Rocky

Mountain Conference to share

with us relevant information

– about developments, issues,

notable events, as well as

experiences of

church members.

Please email your story

to nuggets@rmcsda.org so we

can share how God is working

through His people in your

territory. When submitting your

story, please include the

following: the Ws (who, what,

where, when, why...also how), a

personal quote, a photo and the

name of the photographer.

Please consider time

constraints and always send in

fresh new stories instead of

outdated ones. **Submission**

deadlines are Wednesdays

by noon.

selling it to other teachers.

“I wanted my own room, so I knew what each child was doing in math and English, reading and writing, and any other subjects,” she said.

More than half a century later, Marcella still hears from her students. Sometime around her birthday, she received a letter from a student who had attended a Vacation Bible School she taught in the 1940s. He wanted to thank her for being a good influence on him.

She gets that a lot, she says. She’s always happy to know that she had an impact on her students. Sometimes, though, she needs a little help remembering names. When they come up to her now, she often says, “Who are you?” “In 100 years,” she explains, “I am forgetting so much. I can’t keep it all straight.”

According to Marcella, a long happy life includes having fun in the classroom and enjoying her work. She believes in clean living and has never used alcohol or smoked. She’s a long-time vegetarian, which she says is just “cleaner”.

“Being a Christian is the most important,” she said adding to her list of keys to a happy life. “Being kind to children, loving to them and helping out those that are weak.”

“Darlene is one of the sharpest 100-year old people I’ve ever met,” said Ed Barnett, RMC president, who visited Torrington church last Sabbath, January 12. “She drove herself to church. She spoke up in Sabbath School and was right on track. She played the piano in church. and also still lives by herself. And she’s 100 years old,” he added.

When meeting Darlene, Barnett was “nicely surprised that she was so with it and freely converse with all of us,” he commented.

“Over her life’s decades she’s had to adapt to the changing times . She’s an example of staying firm and committed to her faith and church,” Barnett continued.

“It almost made me a believer that I want to be a healthy 100,” he reflected.

-- RMCNews with Tom Milstead and Carol Bolden

Vote Kast for Northern Colorado Teacher Award

» Champion Academy’s very own Kent Kast has been nominated for the Northern Colorado January Teacher Tuesday award. The teacher with the most votes will receive a \$500 donation to his or her school as well as some personal gifts. The award is sponsored by Tutoring Excellence and is promoted by several local radio stations. Kast was nominated by a student and then was selected to be in the top six candidates.



Kast is the Vice-Principal of Academics at Campion and teaches chemistry, physics, pre-calculus, and calculus classes. While these subjects may sound daunting to many students, Kast has a way of making them understandable. “He won’t quit on you,” said Caleb Wehling, junior. “He’ll keep going until you get it.”

Beyond the classroom, Kast stands-out because he is so actively involved in student-life activities. Kast helps to lead the outdoor club where he teaches students to rock-climb, snow-ski, snowboard, and conquer 14ers. And, although he doesn't teach this to students, he enjoys skydiving. He is also musically inclined and plays in the Campion Academy orchestra and sings in the select choir, Koinonia. And during any off-campus trips, Kast is usually found in the driver’s seat of the bus.

“Mr. Kast is a great teacher because he challenges students in such a positive way,” reflected Sydney Michalenko, senior. “For me personally, he challenged me to take physics and pre-calculus this year. He encourages students to do their best and is always willing to help any time of day.”

We are proud of Mr. Kast and all our great teachers at Campion who continually challenge students and show them an example of Christ’s love in and outside the classroom.

Voting closes next Wednesday, January 23, so vote now!
<http://rock1029.com/teacher-tuesday-voting-january-2019/>
-- Jillian Harlow; photo supplied

Elder Alan Brassa Honored at Central » On Sabbath, January 12, 2019, Alan Brass and his wife, Dianne, were honored at Colorado Springs Central Church. Special recognition was given to Dianne as a supportive wife and to Alan for twelve (12) years of leadership as lead elder at the church.

In a tribute to him, Pastor Mike Maldonado, who has served with Alan at Central for the past ten (10) years remarked, “Alan has been an exemplary leader and co-minister with me.

He handles most of the difficult interpersonal problems in the church, he is greatly loved by all adults and youth.” Alan has also taught numerous youth classes and heads the churches Finance Committee.



Dianne was complimented by her brother, Robbin Barton, as being a partner in the life and work of her husband. Robbin mentioned how his sister has had to eat alone at home many nights because her Lead-Elder husband was either attending a church board meeting, a school board meeting, a church finance meeting, or a “somebody-done-somebody-wrong” meeting. “She has always been a listening ear, an encouragement, and a source for Alan’s external strength,” says Robbin. Dianne is also a volunteer in the Children’s Ministry Department and is a member of the decorating committee.

Central is blessed by this couple, as they have been an asset to the church and to its pastoral team.
-- Mike Maldonado, text and photo

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Casper Church	Sabbath, March 30
Denver South Church	Sunday, March 31 (new)
Grand Junction Church	Sabbath, April 6
Pinon Hills Church	Sunday, April 7
Campion Church	Sabbath, April 13 (new)
Colorado Springs Central Church	Sunday, April 14

All Town Hall meetings begin at 6 p.m.

CAMP MEETINGS

- Native American** -- La Vida Mission, April 26-28
NE Colorado -- June 7-8, Speaker: Dan Jackson
Cowboy -- Location TBA, July 10-14, Speaker: Ed Barnett
Wyoming -- Casper, July 16-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Twin Peaks Church » A music concert presented by Ryan Day will take place on Sabbath at 5 p.m., **January 26** at Twin Peaks Church. The church is located at 9696 Paschal Drive, Louisville CO 80027.

Dwight Nelson at Campion » "Come Alive" is the title of the seminar to be held at 6:30 p.m. on **January 30 and 31** with Dr. Dwight Nelson. If you've lost hope or feel lifeless, this seminar will teach you how Jesus can help you come alive. The church is located at 300 42nd Street SW, Loveland. Free refreshments and childcare.

10 Days of Prayer » 10 Days of Prayer began January 9, but it's no too late for you to join. The theme this year is "A Deeper Experience." You're invited to join each evening from **8-9 p.m., through next Friday, January 18** as different members of RMC lead us in a time of devotion and prayer via conference call. The number is **605-468-8026 access code 1010801#**.

Can't come every night? No worries! All resources are available at www.tendaysofprayer.org! Join in as you can and invite a friend, and **let's pray!**

Campion Church/Academy Snow Wheeling

Invitation » Northern Colorado off-road enthusiasts, come join us on **January 27** for a family-friendly day of snow-wheeling in the mountains. We welcome those who may have never driven your 4x4 in the snow and seasoned off-roaders alike. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the Campion church parking lot for a driver briefing, worship, warm drinks, and donuts. Plan to leave Campion and head to the trail at 9 a.m.. This event is an initiative to mentor and connect Campion Academy students with members of RMC. Bring a lunch to eat on the trail, dress warmly, and be ready for winter conditions. For more information, contact Esequias Perea (817) 944-5733.

Prison Ministry Convention » The 27th International Prison Ministry Convention will take place **July 24-27** in Buffalo, New York. To register, go to www.Adventsource.org and click on "Events" and then "Event Registration.". You can also register by calling AdventSource at 800-732-7587. For more information, email dmcmanus7@live.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

AdventHealth University » The Denver site of AdventHealth University seeks a Nursing faculty member to teach full-time. Qualified person with an MSN, DNP/PhD in Nursing preferred. Simulation experience and Med/Surg practice background preferred. To apply, visit www.adventhealthcareersgreaterorlando.com and search for Job #274310. This position is located in Denver adjacent to Porter Adventist Hospital.

Mile High Academy » Immediate openings are available for substitute teachers for all grade levels at Mile High Academy. Applicants should have experience working with children and be able to maintain a positive classroom environment while carrying out the teacher's lesson plans in classrooms as assigned. High school diploma required. Bachelors or some college preferred. Days/hours are on an as-needed basis. For more information, please contact Brenda Rodie at 303-744-1069. For an application, send an email request to HR@rmcsda.org.

HMS Richards Elementary » Part-time preschool teacher needed at HMS. We are growing and looking for an enthusiastic teacher to lead our preschool program. Must be ECE teacher certified. Do not need to be director certified. Please contact Davin Hammond or Kari Lange for more information @ (970) 667-2427.

ESL Teacher Needed for Mile High Academy Sister School China Campus » Mile High Academy still has a position available on their extended campus at the Guangdong Experimental Shunde - **ESL Teacher Needed**
This is a unique opportunity to serve as a teacher in Shunde China at Mile High Academy's extended campus at the Guangdong Experimental Shunde. Please see link below to explore the school: <http://www.gdsysd.com/Home/IndexEnglish>
Contact Principal Toakase Vunileva at tvunileva@milehighacademy.org for questions or to submit your resume.

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

NewsNuggets Archive Now Online »

The *NewsNuggets* archive is now online, and can be found at <https://www-rmcsda-org.netadvent.org/newsnuggets-archive>.

FROM THE EDITOR

We want to share your news -- Change is a part of the communication age. With online media experiencing constant evolution, the *NewsNuggets* is also experiencing an increased access from our readers and contributors. We will continue to encourage news sharing from our churches, institutions, and individual church members.

In order to make our eNewsletter accommodate an increased volume of announcements, our editorial work proposes to present information in a more efficient approach, ensuring that all timely promotions and announcements be included in a weekly, Friday release of *NewsNuggets*. **Submission deadline for stories, news, and announcements is at noon on every Wednesday. Please send all your submissions to nuggets@rmcsda.org.**

Thank you for your contribution, but also comments, as *NewsNuggets* continues to serve the church in an efficient and effective way.

NOTE: Questions are being raised regarding guidelines for the Announcement section of the RMC *NewsNuggets* newsletter. After a review of the guidelines, the following few points should be considered when sending announcements or promotional materials:

- The newsletter has been established primarily for news sharing within the conference, though selected general church news stories are also considered for publication.
- The primary readership of the newsletter are church members within the Rocky Mountain Conference.
- When submitting an announcement, consider that local Sabbath events may be drawing members from other local churches.
- Promoting evangelistic meetings in *NewsNuggets* is not attracting potential attendees for whom the meetings are primarily advertised.
- Due to space constraints, *NewsNuggets* will not publish posters and other large photos or images. However, information from the text will be used.
- Announcements will not be repeated more than twice, and they should be concise. Web page links or phone numbers should be provided for additional information.

We are inviting all correspondents and contributors to follow a general Adventist News Network *Style Guide*, including glossary. For guidelines, see: <http://news.adventist.org/styleguide/>

Share the NewsNuggets with your congregation » Add a note to your church bulletin or newsletter with the following URL: www.bit.ly/RMCnews

Members can follow the link to sign up for weekly news and to keep up-to-date on what's happening around the Rocky Mountain Conference.

**Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement
Tagline:**

Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known

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