



news nuggets

Friday, July 12, 2019

Mile High Academy Reaches Debt-Free Goal

» When Mile High Academy opens its doors to a new school year, it will welcome students, staff and families to a 100 percent debt-free campus.

"It was truly a community effort," said Jocelyn Aalborg, MHA's VP of Finance. "Something that wouldn't have been possible without God's guidance and the support of our generous alumni, staff, families, churches and businesses. We can't say enough to thank our donors for their role in helping MHA become 100 percent debt free."

MHA relocated to its current Highlands Ranch, Colorado campus in August 2015. With this move and unforeseen operating expenses, the debt totaled \$4.7 million. Since the move, the focus has been on relieving this debt, while continuing to provide an excellent Christ-centered education to more than 200 students annually. The total \$4.7 million has been donated or pledged with a small number of pledges still to come.



"I couldn't be prouder of the people who rallied together to pay off 4.7 million dollars of debt Mile High Academy. A great big thank you to the leadership at MHA. Praise God!" said Ed Barnett, RMC president.

"Praise God for doing the impossible. Thank each and every one of you for the way that you've given and prayed, and the time you've shared to enable Mile High Academy to

"As long as we belong to this world, we will remain subject to its competitive ways and expect to be rewarded for all the good we do. But when we belong to God, who loves us without conditions, we can live as he does. The great conversion called for by Jesus is to move from belonging to the world to belonging to God."

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



Healthy Nugget

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

-- Marcel Proust

be debt-free."



During 2019/20 budget discussions, an anonymous donor brought to the table a proposal to eliminate the debt. A strategic campaign was launched. This campaign sought contributions from current families, school board, faculty and staff, alumni, churches, hospitals and businesses. The funds started to pour in. By the evening of July 8, MHA's VP of Finance was able to report that the school was 100 percent debt free.

"I won't deny there were times of doubt," said Aalborg. "However, God opened hearts in ways we never would have imagined. The outpouring of generosity speaks volumes to the exceptional "family" that supports the current students and future generations of Mile High Academy."

-- Karrie Meyers with Jocelyn Aalborg; photos by Agape Hammond

Gratitude to God and Family Central at Ordination of Andy Nash at LifeSource » It was a family affair from beginning to end as Andy Nash was ordained to the gospel ministry at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship on Sabbath, July 6.



Supporters entered the sanctuary while parents of Andy Nash, Charles and Michelle Nash, played a piano prelude from the old youth songbook, *Advent Youth Sing*, stirring

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Upcoming Events

Cowboy Camp Meeting
July 10-14

Hispanic Men's Retreat
July 12-14

Wyoming Camp Meeting
July 16-20

MSR Meeting
July 21, 8:30 a.m.

Wyoming Taskforce Meeting
July 21, 10 a.m.

Western Slope Camp Meeting
July 31 - August 3

INTEL Class
August 2 - 3

Staff Meeting
August 6

NAD Pathfinder Camporee

memories of his teenage years. His wife, Cindy Nash, opened with prayer and daughters Morgan, Ally, and Summer participated through Scripture reading and special music, sharing the song *Reckless Love*, an anthem to God about His constancy and love throughout life.

Ordained minister and father-in-law Charles Griffin gave the ordination address.

Gratefulness to God was evident throughout the service and came full circle at the end when Nash played *Reckless Love* on saxophone with voice and piano accompaniment.



In November of 2018, Nash was invited by the Rocky Mountain Conference to be full-time pastor at LifeSource, a calling, Nash saw as the “culmination of God’s leading. After many years of part-time pastoral ministry, I was grateful to Christ for the call to leave other nets and follow Him full-time,” Nash explained.

“This has to be a God thing,” Ed Barnett, RMC president, said many times during the interview process, “You have been a minister in the classroom. Now you will be a shepherd in pastoral ministry.”

“Before God led us to meet Andy Nash,” said RMC VP for administration Eric Nelson, “He was already leading him. Today,” he said, during the ordination service, “we are affirming what God has already affirmed.”

His journey always included a ministry component. Although his major was in journalism, he minored in religion. He took graduate courses in theology while working toward his MA and included religious studies with his Ph.D. In fact, the happiest moments of his life were when he “saw someone coming to Christ. That,” he says, “is ministry.”

Andy Nash is not a newcomer to pastoral ministry. Before accepting the call to the Rocky Mountain Conference, he pastored the Southern Adventist Campus Church, called Connect. He also assisted in a church plant, New Creation Church.

For Andy Nash, biblical preaching is key and seeing the land of the Bible was an important experience in his life,

-- Oshkosh
August 12 - 17

GVR Board
August 20

**Property & Trust
Committee**
August 21

Pastoral Couples Retreat
August 23 - 25

Executive Committee
August 27

Hispanic Camp Meeting
August 30 - September 1



Story Guidelines: We 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



strengthening his appreciation of Scripture. It was there in Israel that he baptized his daughters, Ally and Morgan, after he and wife Cindy studied the Bible with them beginning with the tree of life in Genesis and ending with the

tree of life in Revelation.

"I take this calling very seriously and while I remain a sinful man, I seek to be a faithful disciple of Christ" Andy expressed.

In a Facebook comment, Kim Kennedy who attended the ordination, said "It was a blessing to be at your ordination ceremony. Your ministry has been and will continue to be anointed."

-- Carol Bolden with Rajmund Dabrowski; photos by Kim Kennedy (top) and Morgan Nash (last two)

Summer Produce Overflows from Champion's

Farm » Huge heads of lettuce, piles of turnips, and soon, green beans, tomatoes, beets, squash, cucumbers, peppers, onions and more will all be ready for harvest on the Champion Academy farm. Headed by Anna Perea, the summer harvest is a form of celebration of all the work she and her students have put in throughout the school year in the Agriculture class, and evidence of the many ways that God has blessed.

This past school year, with the vision of Perea and the support of the church community, Champion successfully implemented a new agriculture class and program. In fact, Perea, along with several other Adventist teachers throughout the United States have been developing a curriculum and teacher's guide so that the model could be more easily implemented at other schools. The pilot model focuses on educating the students about God's character through plants rather than simply for the produce to be sold or eaten.

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.**



This summer, two students are working part-time at the farm alongside the Perea family and volunteers from the church. The program continues to need both financial donations for supplies such as caterpillar tunnels, deer fencing, and ground cover, as well as volunteer labor. “It’s been really wonderful to see how supportive the community has been,” commented Perea. “Everything is donation-based, and people have supported both financially and with their time especially for our work-bees. God has always provided exactly what we needed at the right time.”



The fresh produce is available to the public at their roadside stand in front of campus every Monday (except July 8) and Wednesday from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. In addition, they will be at

the Fort Collins Farmer's Market every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The market is located at 1001 East Harmony Road near the intersection of S. Lemay Avenue.

If those don't fit your time frame, come to campus to *pick-your-own* produce straight from the field. Leave donations in the money box in the green house, or go online to donate on the website at: www.campion.net/agriculture.

-- Jill Harlow, text and photos

Casper Holds Kingdom Airlines VBS » Casper Church hosted a Vacation Bible School from June 23 through June 28, a fun-filled week focused on learning about God's love through Jesus Christ for children ages 4-12.

Through engaging mission activities, interactive Bible studies, and dynamic songs, the children connected to ways they can make a difference right now, and learned to hear God's call over a lifetime.



The program included music, crafts, snack time, Bible stories, Bible games, and more under the theme "Summer Around The World".

Patsy Current and her army of volunteers built a plane, operated by Kingdom Airlines, and Pepe, the pilot (pastor Shayne Vincent) welcomed aboard the entire group of more than 20 kids. Their first destination was Italy, followed by South Africa, and then Peru. The highlight of one evening was a special visit of four alpacas. The kids (and the adults) had a blast!

The following night, they traveled to Japan, then to Romania. The kids saw Gabriela Vincent, pastor Shayne Vincent's wife (originally from Romania) dressed in a popular Romanian costume, sampled Romanian treats and learned a Romanian traditional folk dance, Hora. The following night, the kids traveled to their final destination, Heaven.

The kids enjoyed their time at VBS and learned about Jesus through songs, Bible games, crafts and mission stories. During the worship service on the last Sabbath, they shared with the church family some of the things they had

learned during VBS.

It was the teachers, parents, friends, tour guides and many others who gave their time and resources to make this year's VBS a success.

-- Gabriela Vincent



New Men's Dean Joins Champion's Team »

Champion Academy is pleased to welcome its new head dean, Michael Gann, and his family to the campus community. Gann comes with 15 years of experience as a dean in Adventist boarding academies. Serving alongside Gann is his wife Jenny, an occupational therapist and an RN, and his three children, Caleb (13); Addison (10); and Nolan (8). "We are truly excited to be at Champion," Gann commented. "It's an institution that we've always seen as a special place to be a part of, and we feel that God led us

here."

Principal Don Reeder was also impressed by how God led in the journey to find Michael Gann and his family. "It is evident that Michael is a team player and understands how residence



hall life can be a great support for students in their walk with God and in achieving a high standard of academics," he remarked. "I am excited to work with him and the deaning team at Champion Academy."

Gann's primary goal is to help the young men form a relationship with Christ. He also desires to help build positive camaraderie between himself and the guys to create a unified dorm. Finally, he states, "I hope that we form a bond strong enough that we are able to learn from each other and hold

each other accountable.”

When asked what he enjoys most about being a dean, Gann elaborated, “It’s the impromptu interactions with the students. I love it when someone just comes in to talk in the office. It seems that often on Friday evenings after vespers, guys tend to congregate, and we are just able to talk about life. Most of the time it leads to spiritual things and we are able to engage in spiritual topics and talk openly about our faith journeys.” Of course, Gann enjoys having fun with the guys too. “I think it’s important to meet the guys at their level and have fun and be goofy with them,” he commented.

Gann has a diverse background and has called many parts of the United States home. He was born in Hinsdale, Illinois, but spent most of his childhood in Massachusetts. He completed high school at Shenandoah Valley Academy and went on to Andrews University for three and a half years before ultimately finishing his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education at Columbia Union College.

His first job was at Dakota Adventist Academy as the athletic director, but early on, Gann felt God calling him to do something beyond P.E. “When I first brought up the idea of being a dean to my wife, she thought it was a crazy idea,” he remembered, “but I felt God calling me to it. As a student, I was greatly influenced by my deans and saw how they made an impact on my peers as well. I saw what an opportunity being a dean was to have an impact on young men and as something God could truly use us to do.”

Gann’s first year as a dean was at Broadview Academy in Lafox, Illinois which had recently closed and was attempting to reopen. “That first year as a dean was trial by fire,” he reflected. “There were so many challenges and it seemed that everything that could go wrong, went wrong. However, it was a learning experience and prepared me for what was to come over the next 15 years as a dean.”

He continued on to serve as head dean at Fletcher Academy for five years, and most recently at Ozark Academy for the last eight years, where he also taught some P.E. classes and was the assistant coach for the Varsity basketball team.

Coming to Champion Academy wasn’t exactly a part of Gann’s personal plan, but he found out that it was part of God’s plan. “It was totally a God-thing,” Gann explained. “We thought we were going in one direction and God threw a curve-ball. But we are so glad that God’s in control, and we are excited to be here.”

When Gann talks about working as a dean, he consistently uses the plural pronouns of ‘we’ and ‘us’. “One of the cool things about working in the deaning field is that my family has

totally embraced it,” he explains. “The kids love being part of the dorm family, and my wife really takes on the role of the dorm mom. She takes the time to connect with the kids and does a lot of baking, which the guys always enjoy.”

In their personal time, they enjoy spending time as a family and watching and playing almost any sport. They are big fans of Chicago sports teams--“Bears and White Socks not Cubs,”--Gann clarified. The mountains and outdoor pursuits are draws for them here in Colorado as they enjoy camping and hiking.

One of Gann’s favorite verses as a dean is, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity,” Psalm 133:1. “I like to remind the guys that we get to be a part of something special. This is a unique community of young men and we can learn from each other and mentor each other,” explained Gann.

-- Jill Harlow; photo supplied by family

COMMENTARY

Parents Baptizing Children, Members Baptizing Friends »

In the winter of 2008, my wife Cindy and I studied the Bible from Genesis to Revelation—from tree of life to tree of life—with our daughters. That summer, I baptized our girls in the Jordan River.

I was not a pastor at the time (my invitation to pastoral ministry came later that same year). I was simply an Adventist church member and an ordained elder. But I could find nothing in Scripture that prohibited me, as a disciple of Christ, from teaching and baptizing my own children. In fact, I’d found just the opposite. Prior to stepping into the Jordan River, we had visited the Galilean mountainside where Christ spoke these words to His followers: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you . . .” (Matt. 28:18-20).

To whom did Christ speak these words? Ellen White writes, “The Savior’s commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ” (Desire of Ages p. 822).

The gospel commission to (1) teach and to (2) baptize is for all believers. None of us would disagree that, as church members, we are called to teach others. But what about the other half of the commission—the call to baptize?

Traditionally, in our church, only ministers have baptized. While we encourage members to teach a child or a friend, they typically do not baptize that child or friend. Only the minister can do that—regardless how well the minister knows the child or friend. I remember a local Adventist church frantically calling nearby Adventist churches, requesting that a minister come and baptize a new believer that evening; their own minister had to be out of town. There was no thought of the local elders and members who had actually studied with the new believer also baptizing the new believer.

Why is this? Why shouldn't a church member, a disciple of Christ who has studied with a friend or child, be the one who baptizes the friend or child? How can I find the words to express the overwhelming joy and privilege I felt that day in the Jordan—baptizing my own girls? What difference might it make in the lives of our church members if they realized that they could—and should—baptize those closest to them? How might this elevate their sense of calling as priests in the high priesthood of Jesus Christ?

But shouldn't things be done in order—under the guidance and blessing of leadership? Of course they should. Church members should always work in concert with the pastors and the conference, receiving approval for baptism and training in how to do it.

Like the church member Philip simply baptizing the one he studied with (Acts 8:26-40), why shouldn't our church members do the same?

Andy Nash is senior pastor of LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver, Colorado.

CAMP MEETINGS

Cowboy -- Uncompaghe National Forest near Silver Jack Reservoir, July 10-14, Speakers: Ron Price/Ed Barnett

Wyoming -- Casper, July 16-20; Speakers: Ron Halvorsen Jr. (adults); Joe Martin (youth).

Western Slope -- Montrose -- July 31-August 4, Speaker: Pastor Rodney Palmer, undergrad teacher at Andrews University

Hispanic Camp Meeting--Glacier View Ranch --August 30-September 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Leadership
Forum**



Rocky Mountain Conference is hosting its **first** Seventh-day Adventist leadership forum

Local Church Leadership for the Future

Are you asked to be a leader in your church?

Presenters are Seventh-day Adventist leadership professionals

who will provide beneficial practical information.

When: **October 20**, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Registration 9– 9:30 a.m.

Opening of Session - 9:30 a.m.

Where: Porter Place, 1001 E Yale Ave, Denver, CO 80210

Next to Denver South Church

Register by calling RMC office – 303-733-3771

Cost: \$75 per person (includes lunch, materials and gifts)

This conference will change your view of leadership

Knowing that the Lord is returning soon, we must

be “adequately equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

HMS Richards Elementary » HMS Richards is hosting a HUGE garage sale. We are selling hundreds of school supplies, book shelves, file cabinets, props, beautiful wooden picture frames in all sizes, clothing, furniture, and more. Check it out from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 12 at HMS Richards Elementary, 342 42nd Street, SW, Loveland CO 80537.

Help Needed! » Wyoming Camp Meeting needs your help. Because of last-minute cancellations, we need the following staff for **July 16-20**:

Cradle Roll Leader

Kindergarten Leader

Kitchen helpers

There is a limited budget for teacher supplies for the classes and for travel expenses. Kitchen helpers will be assisting the chef, however needed.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Steve Nelson as soon as possible at steve@unlockingtruth.com. Thank you!

RMC Youth Department Summer Hours » The Youth Department will be out of the office during the following dates this summer:

GVR Summer Camp: June 1-August 2

Vacation: August 5-10

Oshkosh: August 11-18

Please feel free to reach out to them through email.

Kiefer Dooley: kieferd@rmcsda.org

Jessyka Dooley: jessykad@rmcsda.org

Brent Learned: brentl@rmcsda.org

Their phones forward to summer camp and they check their voicemail on a regular basis.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

La Vida Mission Needs » La Vida Mission still has the following needs for the upcoming School year:

Little girls dorm parents

Big girls dorm parents

Maintenance worker

Please contact Steve Gillham by calling 505-786-5539.

Vista Ridge Academy » is hiring for the 2019-2020 school year. We need a **Part-time ECE Aide** (20-24 hours/week) to assist in our Preschool and PreK/Kindergarten classrooms. State licensing requirements a must; however, we are willing to help update the employee with the necessary classwork/paperwork.

Part time Extended Care Supervisor (10-12 hours/week) to supervise students, ages 5-15, after school Monday-Friday. Candidate must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and possess current U.S work authorization. For additional information regarding duties, expectations and how to apply, please contact Sandy Hodgson at shodgson@vistaridge.org.

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:

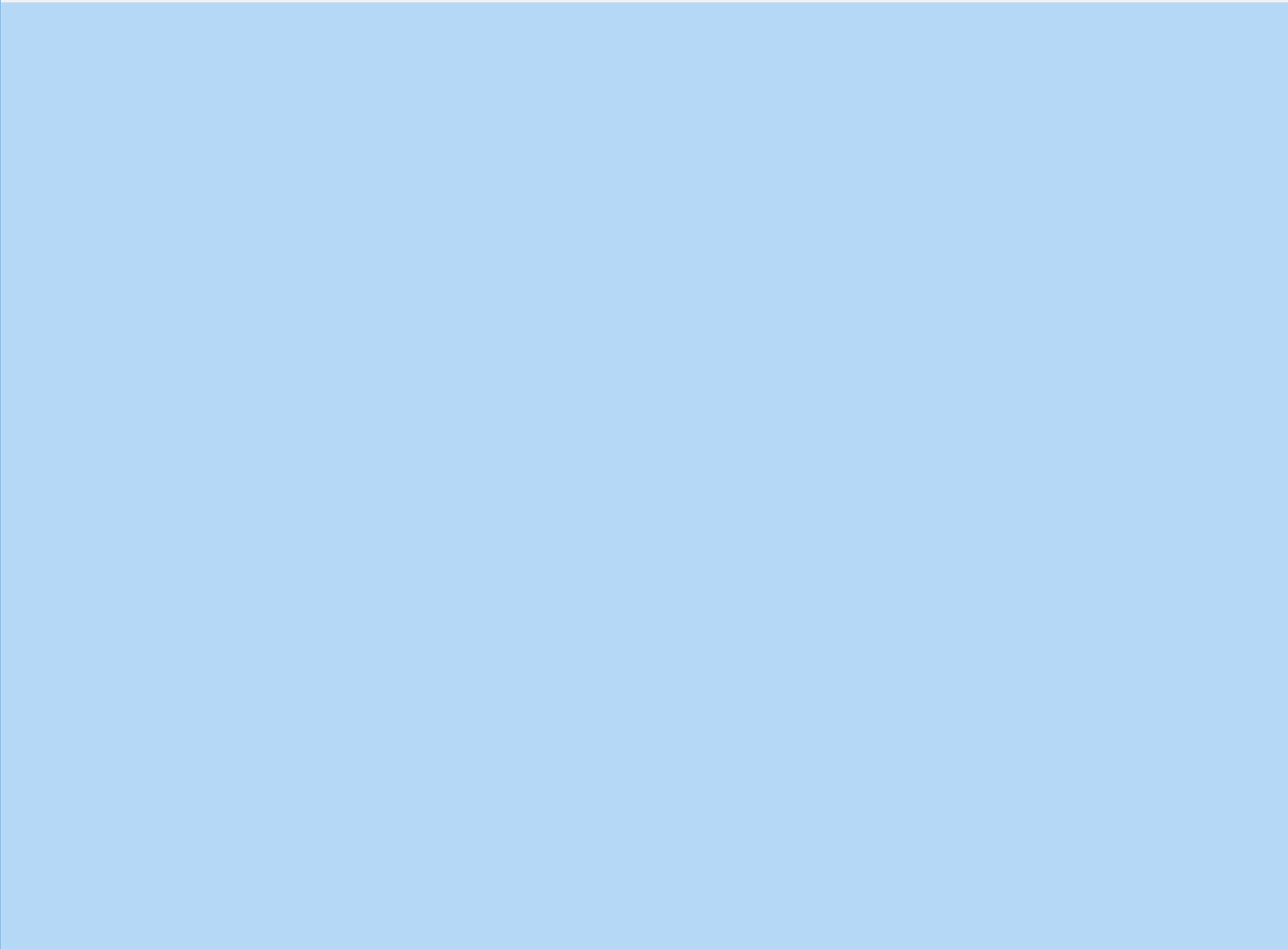
- The newsletter has been established primarily for news sharing within the conference, though selected general church news stories are also considered for publication.
- The primary readership of the newsletter are church members within the Rocky Mountain Conference.
- When submitting an announcement, 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/>
--Editor

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:



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