



NEWS NUGGETS

Friday, June 21, 2019

Students Make Connections in China » Thirteen Champion students spent their first two weeks of summer vacation in western China visiting schools, making new friends, and taking in the sights. This educational and cultural tour went beyond a typical tourist trip and allowed the visitors to go into classrooms to teach, learn, and get to know the local students.



The majority of the trip was based out of Kunming in the Yunnan Province where the group visited four different schools. Champion students were amazed by the warm welcome they received at each of the schools. To audiences of up to 500 Chinese students, both the Champion students and Chinese students shared musical performances and talked about student life at their schools. "It was really awesome to be able to see how different their school environment was compared to ours," Abby, a Champion student, reflected. "Meeting different students and getting to know them was definitely the highlight of the trip."


After getting to try out the school cafeterias, Champion students attended Chinese art and music classes in addition to leading discussions in English classrooms. "It was so much fun seeing how excited the kids were to show us their customs and culture in China," commented Tristan, another Champion student. "They had such big smiles on their faces as they showed us how to play the Guzheng or fold

"When God is the source of justice, inujustice can only ever be temporary."
-- Nathan Brown



Healthy Nugget

"Trust is built with consistency."
-- Lincoln Chafee

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dumplings correctly.”



One of the biggest highlights of the tour was getting to visit a panda sanctuary near Chengdu in the Sichuan Province. "Seeing the panda babies was literally the cutest thing I have ever seen. Seeing them just flop around and cuddle with each other was adorable!" said Tristan.

Students also had the opportunity to visit the unique and majestic Stone Forest in Yunnan Province, Asia's largest flower market in Kunming, and the ancient and beautiful mountain-town, Lijiang. "One of my most memorable experiences was in Lijiang," remembered Abby. "We sat down in a store and saw a ukulele, so we started playing it and just jamming out. The owner came out from the back and sat with us, and as we sang some worship songs, she hummed along. It made me realize how awesome music is in bringing people together, even if we don't speak the same language."



Perhaps some of the most impactful moments came while worshipping together with members of the Adventist church in Kunming each Sabbath. The pastor shared how the number of churches in the province has been growing rapidly, especially in the rural areas. He brought a group of teenagers, who have dedicated their lives to working for God, to share their incredible musical talents. They sang and played familiar hymns as well as local Christian songs using accordions, the Guzheng (Chinese harp), and the Hulusi



Upcoming Events

Staff Meeting

July 2

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 -- Oshkosh

August 12 - 17

GVR Board

August 20

Property & Trust Committee

August 21

Pastoral Couples Retreat

(Chinese gourd flute). Champion students also shared praise songs and testimonies. "Although we had a language barrier, we received a great message from their church about how we are from different parts of the world but we both love God and praise Him in similar ways," explained Abby. "I thought it was a very powerful message and it greatly impacted my life."

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of students and adults to travel to China with," reflected Dean Helm, one of the sponsors and coordinators of the trip. "Friendships were made, relationships were developed, and life-changing experiences were initiated. Without a doubt, I believe the cultural sharing by the American students and the Chinese students we interacted with was very rewarding for all. It was fun watching our students' reactions as we visited old traditional Chinese areas, as well as seeing how they responded to the modern Chinese society. In the future, as God opens doors for the students of Champion Academy, it will be exciting to see how He allows this trip to be a new beginning for future opportunities."

-- Jillian Harlow; text and photos

Michael Morss Ordained Weekend of Baptism and Wedding

» Sandwiched between two important life commitments--baptism and marriage--was a third equally important life commitment for Michael Morss the weekend of June 15--his ordination. With many friends and family members present, Morss was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Champion Church with his fiance Shila Russell by his side. Many friends, also pastors, took part in the ordination service, which included his parents who gave special music and his cousin, Doug Erickson, who gave the ordination address. Russell's presence on the platform with Morss showed her willingness to support him in his ministry.



Born a fourth-generation Adventist, Morss originally intended to work in marketing and business, but a series of events in his life and a call from God, led him to ministry. He began his ministry in Cortez, Colorado in 2015 until God-

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 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.

ordained events led him to join the pastoral team at Champion Church. It was there that he met his fiancée, Shila Russell, who serves the Loveland and Fort Collins communities as a speech-language pathologist.

The heart-warming, heartfelt ceremony was made even more special by Morss' baptism the previous evening and the anticipation of his marriage the following day. His baptism was motivated by a break with God in his 20s and his desire to recommit himself as he continues his ministry as an ordained pastor and begins his marriage with Russell.

Speaking about highlights in the ordination service, Pastor Nestor Soriano said, "I was inspired by pastors Daniel Birai and Lee Lee Dart as they sang, *You Raise Me Up*. It was the perfect introductory song to set the tone for the rest of the ordination service. I was [also] moved by Michael's ordination response, especially how he was so thankful to his family, friends, and God for their support in his life."



At the wedding ceremony on Sunday, presiding pastor, Nestor Soriano, referencing Morss' love of sushi, used the word as an acronym. S - Stop and smell the roses (take time to enjoy

each other). U - Undistracted (keep things simple). S - Signpost (keep following Scripture). H - Humility. I - Involvement (get others involved, especially God).

Ed Barnett, who gave the ordination prayer and also attended the wedding ceremony, said, "I was nicely surprised that Michael and Shila included a foot-washing ceremony in their wedding, showing their willingness to serve each other."

The newly-baptized, newly-ordained, and newly-married Morss left the church with his bride, driving away in a bright blue Lamborghini, a car that can withstand powerful forces. Maybe Morss chose this vehicle aware of its symbolism and desiring this strength for his ministry and his union with Russell.

-- Carol Bolden; photos by Victor Issa

Please consider time constraints and always send in fresh new stories instead of outdated ones. Submission deadlines are Wednesdays by noon.

Newday Offers Free Farmer's Market to Local

Residents in Need » Newday Church is serving their local Parker community this summer by hosting a free farmer's market at a local apartment complex. The market, which is a partnership with the Parker Task Force, offers fresh produce to Parker residents who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

Each Sabbath afternoon, the task force supplies Newday with high-quality fresh fruits and vegetables to fill the market. Volunteers from the church then transport the produce to



Parker Hilltop Apartments, which the task force has identified as housing a high number of residents who are financially insecure. The volunteers display the produce in open bins as in a traditional farmers market, and residents from the complex are invited to come shop the market free of charge throughout the afternoon.

To publicize the market and encourage residents of the complex to come out for the free produce, Newday kicked off the season with a free BBQ on June 1, the market's first day. Despite the hailstorm that rolled in during the afternoon, the event was well attended by both Newday members and residents of the apartment complex, and the market gave away produce to dozens of families that first day.



In addition to offering free produce, the market also features a sample station. Newday volunteers serve up mini portions of simple, healthy recipes--such as strawberry spinach salad or whole grain banana bread--that are made using one or more of the ingredients at that week's market. Residents are

also provided with the recipe so that they can make the featured dish again at home during the week.

One resident recently passed a note of gratitude to a volunteer at the market to express how much the market has meant to her. "Thank you so much for your farmers market," the resident wrote. "This month is very tight as I have to pay my child's bond fee at the end of the month! You help us."

-- Jamie Santa Cruz; photos by Shawna Sajdak

Rifle Church Celebrates 20 years of Highway Clean-up »

The Rifle Seventh-day Adventist Church recently celebrated 20 years of cleaning a two-mile section of I-70 with a luncheon provided for participants following the annual clean-up event. During the luncheon, Linda VanGaasbeek, coordinator for the Western Slope Adopt-A-Highway area, spoke of CDOT's appreciation of the church's long tradition of cleaning this portion of I-70 and answered questions from participants. A local newspaper, *Rifle Citizen's Telegram*, reported on the event.

"It is not unusual for organizations to give 20 years of service. What is unusual is for one person to coordinate the effort for an organization for 20 years as Elaine Cloninger has," VanGaasbeek said.



Following her comments, Elaine shared the history of how the church got involved. The first year the clean-up was held, Courtney Peterson was the youngest participant at 10 years of age and Phylis Sisk was the oldest at 82. Other standouts were Blanca Garcia and her sons, Alex and Josiah, who helped all the years they were in school. Many of the participants became very attached to this two-mile section of highway; always wanting it to be kept clean.



About ten years ago, when the group was losing participants (mostly due to age), the Rifle Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinders started helping. This is a service activity in which Pathfinder leaders want their youth involved.

Elaine also showed examples of some of the changes CDOT has made to provide better safety to participants and highway workers who pick up the bags. These changes included wearing orange vests during the clean-up and using lighter bags that are easier to tie.

The Rifle Church will continue the tradition of cleaning the same two-mile section with Milton Rodas replacing Elaine as coordinator with CDOT. A new sign will be provided by CDOT to replace the faded 20-year-old westbound sign.

-- RMCNews with Elaine Cloninger; photo by Elaine Cloninger

Hispanic Men's Ministry Celebrates Father's Day at first Men's Retreat »

At a gathering at Glacier View Ranch the weekend of June 15, the first Hispanic men's retreat for the Rocky Mountain Conference was held during which they also celebrated Father's Day. "It was a great experience and a great start of the ministry," said Wilmer Martinez, speaking about the weekend.



The desire for the ministry is that it will be a blessing to the men of the Hispanic churches, building stronger families.

-- RMCNews; photo supplied

MHA Counselors Lead! » One of the great things about summer camp at Mile High Academy is having Upper School students working as camp counselors and alumni working as teachers. This year, several Juniors are taking on counselor roles and Maddie, an alumnae of MHA who currently attends Union College is working as a lead teacher.



Seeing present and former students taking on leadership positions makes MHA proud.

Each week, campers get to meet their counselors, learn a bit about them, and then participate in

group activities during which their counselor works closely with them to see projects completed.

-- Agape Hammond, text and photo

From Western Slope to Spain » A Grand Junction District pastor, Ruben Balaguer, visited the city of Vigo, in Galicia, Spain, June 1-9, to present a seminar on the prophecies of the Book of Revelation. It was well attended each day, and five visitors reaffirmed their faith and are being prepared for baptism.



He shared an inspiring experience about a woman who, walking by the church and seeing it open, "felt a strong desire to enter. After the meeting, she wanted to talk to him and confessed that she had tried to take her life on three occasions as she suffered from a strong depression and several other serious problems. She promised to return every night since she had found the peace and the hope she was so much

needing,” Balaguer said. She continues to study the Bible at Vigo Church with Pastor Alexis Garcia.

“I was blessed to give a seminar about the prophecies of Revelation. It was an inspiring experience so far away from home,” he said.

-- Ruben Balaguer; photo supplied.

NEW ARRIVAL!



Congratulations to Shannon and Nathan Werner, the proud new parents of Calvin David Werner, born Wednesday, June 19, at 5:47 a.m. He was 7 pounds 1.8 ounces and 20 inches long.

Thankfully, Nathan made it back from a Wyoming work trip just in time to be present for the birth.

Members of the Boulder Church, Shannon was also the student evangelism and programs coordinator for the youth department at the Rocky Mountain Conference.

CAMP MEETINGS

Cowboy -- Uncompaghre 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

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.

Longmont Thunder Pathfinder and Adventurer Club » Volunteers are needed to teach a wide variety of honors to our Pathfinders/Adventurers during the club year beginning this fall. We want to book as many new themes as possible. With a church family composed of unique and talented people, we would love for you to share your expertise in the field/hobby you love. Your mileage and materials will be covered. Please contact Cinthya at 626-372-7030.

LifeSource Fellowship » *Evidence for God* will be presented by Stan Beasley at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship June 21-24. Beasley is a scientist and former atheist.

Friday, June 21, 7 p.m., *Leaving Atheism*

Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m., *The Big Bang*

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Monday, June 24, 7 p.m., *The Missing Link (w/ Q & A)*

LifeSource Adventist Fellowship is located at 3595 South Harlan Street, Denver CO 802235

Find more information at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2166197456767274/>

Twin Peaks Church » *Faces of Abuse* seminar will be presented by Sandy Eickmann, MA, LPC, at 2:30 p.m., Sabbath, June 22, at the Twin Peaks Church. Everyone is invited -- both genders.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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.

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Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement Tagline:

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--RMCNews with Elaine Cloninger; photo by Elaine Cloninger

Training in Mental Health First Aid Will Aid

» Ruben

Adventist Major in Colorado Springs » Chaplain,

Central Honors 2019 Graduates » Colorado Springs

Summer Camp at MHA » School may be out, but

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Northeastern Colorado District Camp Meeting In Akron was Largest Ever, Participants Say »

Some of them came from distances two-hours away. But their desire to be among a wider group of believers, and their fervor to make Adventist faith more vibrant was at the heart of their participation in the 2019 Northeastern District Camp Meeting held in Akron, Colorado, June 1.

The gathering brought nearly 100 church members representing most of the six congregations in the district, nearly half of the membership of the district. "I think this is the most people that we have had at any of our meetings," commented Sandy St John from Sterling.



Don Lopes, an organizer of the gathering, who is also a pastor of all congregations of the church district, said that they "have around 200 members total from all congregations." The district is composed of churches in Ft. Morgan, Sterling, Akron, Yuma, Burlington and Holyoke.

"We meet together twice a year. Once in the fall, usually November or the end of October, and then in the summer. The summer gathering is the bigger one, which is why we call it camp meeting. During the summer meeting, we invite different guest speakers," he added.

Lopes hopes to change the name of the gathering. "I am thinking that we might change it to District Summer Summit," he added, to differentiate it from "Campion's Northeastern Camp Meeting."



"We are a growing church in this area," Pastor Lopes commented. To further involve church members in church mission and build up spirituality among the members, he invited some of the departmental leaders from the Rocky Mountain Conference, among them Mickey Mallory, ministerial director, Doug English, stewardship director, and Rajmund Dabrowski, communication director, speaker for the church service. Mallory presented a seminar on "How to influence your friends for Christ," and English spoke on "Expressing your values." John St John from Sterling led in a presentation on "How to lead a Sabbath School class."

"The churches feel that they are small, so they come together with members of other churches and get inspired seeing what is happening here or there. This encourages them to be more involved in outreach. And they feel like being a part of a larger family. That's also my own vision for a gathering like this one," Lopes commented at the conclusion of the convocation.

If hospitality was to measure the atmosphere, many more people could be welcomed and fed. The hospitality meal was so tasteful and the menu was varied. Participants commented on how much they enjoyed it.

--- RMCNews; photos by Rajmund Dabrowski

Excitement Abounds at RMC's Pathfinder and Adventurer Investiture » Pathfinder and Adventurer Ministry is booming in the Rocky Mountain Conference with April, May and June Investitures being held all over Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Among the many new clubs is the Colorado-American Indonesian Flying Garuda. On June 1, the Flying Garuda held their very first Investiture under the direction of Barry Manembu, Pathfinder Director, and Debora Sheriff, Adventurer Director, who have excelled in getting these clubs off the ground.



With the help of their Area Coordinator, Joel Dominguez and other RMC Youth Department staff, they were able to participate alongside lots of excited kids in Pathfinder/Adventurer Sabbath, Adventurer Fun Day, Pathfinder Fair, and staff training, and they are headed to Oshkosh in August for the Chosen Camporee, a mega-event for the North-American Division.



For Chris and Don Hill, these ministry events are a part of their lives. They report several other churches, which have held or are soon to hold their very first Investitures--Denver's True Life Community, True Light Bearer (first picture); Northglenn's Hispanic Church--Koalas; and Castle Rock's plant--Solid Rock.

"These are a faith-growing and socially rich moments for our young people. It connects them to their church communities and activities and it's simply fun, even for Don and me," commented Chris.

-- RMCNews; photos supplied

CAMP MEETINGS

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Cowboy -- Location: Uncompaghre 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.

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Agape Haitian Church » Evangelist Millien Thomas will speak on "The Last Call of God" from 7 - 9 p.m. each night except Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Saturday, **May 25** and ending Saturday, June 15. His nightly titles include, "A Worldly, Confused Situation," "The Secret Code of Success," and "Guaranteed Protection." The church is located at 14190 E. Jewell Avenue, Unit 3. For information and transportation, call 720-472-8138 or 720-251-0561.

Rocky Mountain Indonesian-American Church »

Seldom will you have the privilege of hearing music and a message that has a powerful impact for missions. The Melashenkos are Ambassadors for Gospel Outreach--a volunteer organization sponsoring lay pastors in more than 70 countries. Pastor Joedy Melashenko & The Melashenko Trio Gospel Outreach Ambassadors, will present "Music with a Mission" Vespers Concert, which will take place Sabbath evening, **June 15**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rocky Mountain Indonesian-American Church, located at 1591 S. Sable Blvd, Aurora CO 80012. For more than five decades, the Melashenko family has been blessing audiences all around the world with their Christ-centered music and preaching.

LifeSource Fellowship » *Evidence for God* will be presented by Stan Beasley at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship June 21-24. Beasley is a scientist and former atheist.

Friday, June 21, 7 p.m., *Leaving Atheism*

Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m., *The Big Bang*

Saturday, June 22, 7 p.m., *Will There Be another Jurassic Park?*

Sunday, June 23, 7 p.m., *Darwinism and the Origins of Origins*

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m., *The Missing Link (w/ Q & A)*

LifeSource Adventist Fellowship is located at 3595 South Harlan Street, Denver CO 802235

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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.

Rocky Mountain Conference » The Rocky Mountain Conference has an immediate opening for a part-time **Human Resources Assistant**. Qualified candidates will have exceptional computer and organizational skills and the ability to process highly complex and detail-oriented information. The HR Assistant understands the importance of process and follow through and has the highest levels of ethical integrity. Candidates must be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and possess current U.S work authorization. For additional information regarding duties, expectations and how to apply, please visit the RMC website at: <https://www.rmcsda.org/hr-human-resources-assistant>.

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:**

Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known



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