Lee Lee Dart, First Woman Pastor Joins the Adventure Congregation

Lee Lee Dart is RMC’s very first woman pastor to serve at The Adventure Church in Greeley, effective August 1. Lee Lee’s relationship with the Greeley congregation goes back to nearly four years when she was employed as a part-time ministry leader in the position of director of worship. She has faithfully served in that capacity by helping to plan creative, contemporary and most of all, Spirit-led worship services, according to Mitch Williams, lead pastor.

Lee Lee will now serve as an associate pastor for The Adventure district. “She has trained and mentored a team of musicians who make a joyful noise to the Lord,” Mitch commented. “She has ushered in elements to the worship service including timely testimonies, relevant skits, and innovative prayer practices.”

“This is tremendous news since it will give our growing district greater pastoral support and ministry partnership. Lee Lee is passionate about spiritual growth and we are excited to have her in this capacity,” Mitch added.

“I find it remarkable how God has led me to ministry at The Adventure church,” said Lee Lee. “God has opened doors I never thought possible and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve The Adventure district and work along side such a wonderful group of Jesus-loving people.”

During her visit to the NewsNuggets office last week, Lee Lee said that she comes from a long line of ministers in her family, but “I am the first woman minister.” This is a new and welcome day for the family and the church, she added.

As associate pastor, Lee Lee’s main ministry thrust will be in the area of discipleship by overseeing small group development, spiritual growth training, and mentorship for new and existing
church members” adds Mitch.
Lee Lee commented that, “there is no greater joy for me than coming alongside Christians and encouraging them on in a deeper walk with the Lord.” [Text and photo by Mitch Williams]

**Onboarding with RMC Educators** Ten new principals for schools around the Rocky Mountain Conference met August 5 for onboarding, a day of education with the RMC staff. Department personnel explained the services provided by RMC and how they can support the schools. These service areas included:
* providing opportunities to earn scholarships working as a student evangelist
* encouraging students to become active in maintaining their own health
* providing students with outreach opportunities through ACS
* learning about responsibilities for the hiring process
* discovering the various types of school insurance

Principals came from Delta, Cortez, Durango, Alamosa, Brighton, Colorado Springs, Glenwood Springs, Casper, Worland and Farmington. Established earlier this year, this was a third such event at the RMC headquarters in Denver. [Carol Bolden]

The Whites: "Refugee community is our mission" We all know the Golden Rule: love your neighbor as yourself. But Derek and Alicia White, active members of the Lifesource Adventist Fellowship, are taking this rule and making it their goal in life.

Everything this couple does is entwined with serving their community. Derek attended law school and immediately upon graduation, began volunteering for the Colorado African Organization, where he is currently employed. Alicia got her undergraduate degree in international studies before completing nursing school. In the last few years, she has also gotten involved with Bridges to Care, a group that targets frequent emergency room visitors and helps them overcome behavioral health issues and other barriers by sending specialists and nurse practitioners to their homes.

Three years ago, they were asked to take charge of the community garden in Aurora, Colorado. Derek, who works with providing green cards and other legal services to refugees, had already met quite a few Burmese families who lived in the area.

Many refugees used to work in agriculture and farming before they moved to America. “In America, there aren’t as many opportunities, especially if you live in a big city,” explained Alicia. “This is just one way we can connect with them and make this new, strange place feel like home.” [more]
In Conversation:
"We're all young adults in God's eyes"

On a fresh summer morning, two Millennials, Jessyka Albert, young adult pastor at the Boulder Adventist Church, and Katie Morrison, Rocky Mountain Conference communication intern, joined Rajmund Dabrowski, Mountains Views editor, and looked at the broader picture of "young adults in the church" theme, as well as ways to undertake embracing them in the church.

RD: Millennials, are they a problem or a solution?
JA: It depends on your relationship with them, I think. It depends on how you're engaging with them. If you aren't engaging with them, they could be a problem. Maybe what we view as a problem is actually the solution.

RD: Is it important to know who is asking the question? From time to time, you hear somebody say, “Oh these young people are bringing this and that into the church. They are creating a problem for us,” some Adventist old-timers say.

JA: We forget that young people founded our church, and that generation grew up and it kept growing up. It got stuck in an older rut. We look at young people and see the church for tomorrow. We say, ‘Get ready! You’ll be in charge someday!’ instead of saying, ‘Hey, would you like to be in charge of something now, learn how to do it, get your feet wet?’

RD: And also make mistakes and learn from them.
JA: Right! I feel like that’s a lot of pressure on young people to think that when it’s our turn, we need to have it all figured out and not make any mistakes.

RD: Sometimes this seems like an academic question because that’s how it gets treated! Church leaders ask for professors in our universities to provide answers. Surveys are conducted. We ask them to create what it is that we ought to be doing. Is this the way we should be approaching the youth church involvement? In my view, there could be issued a simple invitation to the young people: Help us with the conundrum.

KM: A lot of it comes down to attitude. Many young people have this jaded view of the church -- from what they’ve seen growing up - - but have this glamorized view of the outside. They think they can have abounding success if they get outside the insulated Adventist world. Friends of mine are constantly leaving Adventist schools because they’ve been in Adventist education all their lives and they don’t want to limit themselves. I see their point. I wonder the same thing about myself, with getting this internship [at the Rocky Mountain Conference] and only getting professional experience in the Adventist church. Is that going to limit me?

For the entire conversation and more thought-provoking comments, look for this piece in the next issue of the Mountain Views, coming out in September 2015.

Communication Intern, Katie Morrison, Shared Fresh Outlook with RMC» A first glance at Katie Morrison’s letter inquiring whether the RMC office offered internship opportunities in communication said more than just expressing interest in spending ten summer weeks in a professional, work-related environment.
Katie knew well why she wanted to come to Colorado. She wrote: “Being able to work with the Rocky Mountain Conference in any capacity, would be an amazing learning experience.” She wanted to have “the opportunity to grow as an individual, and … develop [her] skills in every area possible.” And she wanted to be close to her family, too, as her dad, Wayne Morrison, is a pastor in Brighton, located north of Denver, and 28 miles away from the RMC office in South Denver.

She came, and she conquered, I could say. August 6 was her last day with our team. As part of her responsibilities, Katie did news writing, and plenty of it, including 20 major stories, edited the NewsNuggets, prepared items for the upcoming new edition of the Mountain Views, assisted us with social media, and related online tasks, and was involved with marketing aspects of our communication programs. [more]

This is a continuation of last week’s, “Nine Traits of Church Bullies.”

**Nine Ways to Deal With Church Bullies »**

In my post on Monday, I dealt with the traits of church bullies. I now move from descriptive to prescriptive. How do we deal with church bullies? What can we do to prevent such bullying? Here are nine of my suggestions:

1. **Fight bullying with the power of prayer.** The most common targets of church bullies are the pastor and church staff. I encourage everyone in vocational ministry to ask humbly for people to pray for them daily. In two of the churches where I served as pastor, I had as many as 100 or more people committed to pray for me daily. They typically prayed for me for only two or three minutes each day at noon. Their intercessory prayers for me were brief, but they were powerful!

2. **Seek to have an Acts 6 group in the church.** I am specifically referring to the manner in which the Jerusalem church dealt with murmuring and complaining. They appointed a group to take care of the widows who were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The seven who were appointed to the task were thus not only to do that ministry, but they were also to preserve the unity of the church. Churches need either informal or formal groups that see their ministry as dealing with conflict, complaints, and dissension so that unity is preserved.

3. **Have a high expectation church.** I have addressed the issues of high expectation churches and low expectation churches many times on this blog. Higher expectation churches tend to be more unified, more Great Commission focused, more biblically defined, and more servant oriented. Stated simply, high expectation churches don’t offer an environment conducive to bullying. [more]

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**Invitation from Children’s Ministries!**

Invite and bring your Children’s Ministry team to the Children’s Leadership Conference at the Mid-America Union Office in Nebraska, October 9-11. “Our goal for this weekend of learning and idea sharing for children’s Sabbath school teachers is, “Bringing Children to Jesus,”” says Patricia Rivera, RMC coordinator for Children’s Ministry.

Registration and more details, including prices are at plusline.org or 800-732-7587.

**Upcoming Concerts:**
We want to share your news! » If you have a ministry or evangelism story to tell, please email it 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 if possible, a photo and the name of the photographer. Please consider time constraints and send in stories that are fresh.

News Nuggets is your publication. Let us know what you think!

For changes of email or physical address, please send a note to nuggets@rmcsda.org so that you won’t miss out on any Rocky Mountain Conference news.

Share the News Nuggets 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.