Grand Junction Church and Maranatha Volunteers Offer Transformative Experience  

Grand Junction Seventh-day Adventists have a heart for children. Between the two schools in Grand Junction–Intermountain Adventist Academy (K-8) and Little Lambs Learning Center (6 weeks – Pre-K)--more than 100 children receive a Christian education each year.

To stay ahead of the many needs and mission outreach efforts, the current church and school property, which are old and tired and no longer meeting growth requirements, have been sold to Colorado Mesa University. A new ten-acre property has been purchased and plans for a fine campus have been submitted to city planners and building departments.

Over the next year, three separate two-week building projects will take place, the first beginning on April 30. This is a great opportunity for mission-minded folk to become involved in a Maranatha mission-building project in your own backyard. You can sign up for this opportunity on Maranatha’s webpage by going to https://maranatha.org/volunteer-opportunities/ and choosing the date that fits with your schedule.

"Marti and I have discovered," says Bernie Hartnell, Grand Junction church member, “that it’s never the volunteer tasks of nailing one board to another, cooking, or hoisting walls and setting them in place [that brings about a transformation]. “The transformation occurs as the Holy Spirit directs our hearts away from self in acts of submission to Him and for others.”

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. 
Proverbs 4:23
You are invited--along with, perhaps, a group from your church--to experience the fun, work, fellowship and two or three character-building events each day as you contribute to this mission project. Enjoy staying in our homes or in the RV parking we provide. Enjoy three excellent meals each day. You can also enjoy one of our guided excursions to places like Grand Mesa with its 300 lakes, Arches National Park in Moab, Utah, Colorado National Monument, just minutes from Grand Junction, or see cliff dwellings or petroglyphs left by the Anasazi.

Even better, catch a glimpse of a new purpose and experience a transformation, which you can find on a Maranatha mission project right here in Colorado.

Groundbreaking festivities for the new facility will take place at 2 p.m., March 26.
[Bernie Hartnell]

**Aurora First Church Ladies Observe Red Dress Sabbath**  
The ladies of Aurora First Church observed National Heart Month on February 11 by holding a Red Dress Sabbath. Wearing red to church, their hope was to increase awareness of the disease that claims the lives of nearly 500,000 American women each year.  
[Photo by Mel Cabandon]

**HMS Richards School Obtains Preschool License, Opens Doors for Round-up Day**  
HMS Richards School invites preschool and kindergarten students to experience a day in the classroom during their annual Round-Up Day on Friday, March 3.

With a state preschool license acquired last September, HMS hired Miranda Gomez, a highly qualified and experienced preschool teacher, as its Preschool Director.

“Working with the children and teaching them is my passion, “says Mrs. Gomez. “I love walking in the door every day to see the children’s smiles and their eagerness to learn.” She works closely with Kristie Smith, who directs the kindergarten

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**Upcoming Events**

- **President's Day Holiday Office Closed**  
  *February 20*

- **Executive Committee**  
  *February 21, 9:30 a.m.*

- **GVR Board -- Conference Office**  
  *February 23, 9:30 a.m.*

- **Town Hall Meeting WY**  
  *March 4 -- Casper Church*

- **Town Hall Meeting NE CO**  
  *March 5 -- Campion Church*

- **Kaleo Mission Trip**  
  *March 9 - 20*

- **Executive Committee**  
  *March 21, 8 a.m. - Noon*

- **Town Hall Meeting SE CO**  
  *April 1 -- Colorado Spr Central*

- **Town Hall Meeting Denver Metro**  
  *April 2 -- LifeSource Church*

- **Town Hall Meeting NW CO**  
  *April 8 -- Gr Jnctn Church*

- **Town Hall Meeting SW CO**  
  *April 9 -- Pinon Hills Church*

**Find out more...**  
[Click here](#) for info on any of
program and also helps to design and teach the preschool curriculum in the combined classroom.

The number of families interested in preschool at HMS has increased dramatically in recent years, and the state license allows the school to include a greater number of three and four-year-olds in its program. The licensing process included making sure every aspect of the program meets the highest standards. One visible change at HMS is the fencing of the playground to keep the children safe during play.

As with other multi-grade classrooms at HMS, the preschool program shares a room and is often combined with the kindergarten class. Mrs. Gomez and Mrs. Smith are able to partner together to meet the needs of individual students. The individualized curriculum the teachers create meets each child at their own level of learning. “My favorite part about teaching this age group is that they love to learn,” says Mrs. Smith. “This particular class is very inquisitive and are constantly asking me how to spell things and love learning about letters.”

Learning in the Preschool and Kindergarten classroom is hands-on and full of playful experiences. They have been spotted exploring the Campion Academy campus and church on a “letter-walk,” where they search for things that begin with the letter of the week. The children love craft time when they can use their creativity and develop fine motor skills. Their frequent field trips have included a fishing trip that completed their science unit on fish. Project-based learning has incorporated the children’s interests. They have designed their own pizzeria and developed and sold their own chocolate bars.

The most important aspect of the preschool program, true of all the classes at HMS Richards, is its Christ-centered focus. Mornings begin with worship and Bible stories are daily taught that fit the theme of Super-Heroes of the Bible. They are reminded each day how much Jesus loves them and how they can learn to always show love to others. Mrs. Smith finds, “The children in this class are very loving. They are constantly giving hugs and I love how sweet they are.”

Currently there are 15 children enrolled in preschool and kindergarten. Since many of the children are part-time, current openings are available on specific days and the school offers flexibility to help meet the needs of parents. Currently, the program for three-year-olds is offered for half-days (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.), while the four-year-old and kindergarten program may be half or full days (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Parents may choose the number of days per week they would like to send their child.

If you are interested attending Round-Up Day with your child on March 3, or if you would like to learn more, call our office at 970-667-2427 or email hmsrichardselementary@gmail.com.

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**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. Please consider time constraints and always send in fresh new stories instead of outdated ones. Submission deadlines are Wednesdays.
Independent Living Class Designs Kindergarten Sabbath School Lessons  As part of Kathy Binder’s Independent Living class, seniors at Campion Academy designed a backdrop and nature lessons about Arctic animals to present to the kindergarten Sabbath School class at Adventure Church on February 4.

Completed in conjunction with a unit on child development, the students used their classroom knowledge to create age-appropriate activities for the Sabbath School class. The project included a paper mache igloo and whale, and a painted landscape of the Arctic, including scenes of polar bears, Arctic wolves, rabbits, and a penguin. The seniors went to The Adventure Church earlier in the week to set up the room for the children, then taught Sabbath School the following Sabbath.

Mrs. Binder told the children about the history of the igloo, senior James Ortega told his story of the Arctic wolf, and then senior Steven DeMaio talked about the paper mache whale, real whales, and the story of Jonah. The Kindergartners got to build a whale using googly eyes and paper plates.

“The kids loved it. They were so excited to see such an interesting room,” says Kathy Binder. “They had so much fun, they were laughing and touching the whale,” remembers Steven DeMaio. “Even kids from other classes had to come and go inside the igloo.”
Not only will the Kindergarten class enjoy their Arctic scenery this week, but the Sabbath School teachers will be able to use 15 lessons over the coming Sabbaths—all designed by the Campion students.

[Jenny Sigler and Steven DeMaio; photos by Kari Geiger and Kathy Binder]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Castle Rock Church Plant VisionVespers**  As the new Castle Rock church plant is preparing for its opening Sabbath, April 8, God is placing a burden on people's hearts to be part of this mission adventure in some way. All are welcome to join us for the second of our pre-launch monthly vespers gatherings--5-6:30 p.m. Sabbath, February 18, at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital (Gateway Mesa Conference Room). VisionVespers is a time for worship, prayer, and visioning as we share plans and dreams for the Castle Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church. You'll have a chance to give feedback, ask questions, and meet others interested in being part of what God is up to here in Castle Rock. Find out more at castlerockadventist.church or facebook.com/castlerockadventist.

**Safety Sabbath and Your Church**  Your church is invited to join other churches in the North American Division and Adventist Risk Management, Inc. in making Adventist churches secure by holding a safety drill. Schedule Safety Sabbath for March 25 on your church calendar. Register your church to hold an Active Shooter or Fire Drill and access free videos, guides, children's activity sheets, and more emergency
Planning resources at SafetySabbath.com. Once you register, you will receive free Safety Sabbath 2017 resources.

**Naturally Gourmet Vegan Cooking Class**  » Learn new and creative ways to make tasty, healthy recipes that naturally boost your immune system. Held at 5 p.m. Sunday, February 26, at the Franktown Church, it will be taught by Karen Houghton, R.N., author, and TV host and health educator featured on the DIRECTTV series, Naturally Gourmet. The cost is $10 and pre-registration is appreciated. Call 303-688-8687. The church is located at 905 N Hwy 83, Franktown, CO 80116.

**Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program**  » The Durango Church is holding a depression and anxiety treatment program which offers non-drug solutions designed to combat depression through improving energy levels, sleep quality, mood, relationships and emotional intelligence. The eight-week program begins January 23 and continues through March 20 at the church, 1775 Florida Road. For more information, call Marley at 970-749-1860.

**Rocky Mountain Singles**  » All singles are invited to attend a RM Singles Ministry social on Sabbath February 18 at the Chapel Haven Church. Vespers will begin at 5 p.m. with Pastor Ed Barnett, followed by a light meal of pizza and salad. A time for mixing will precede a business meeting to fill open offices on the Singles Ministry board. For questions or to RSVP, call Mary Lou Bowers at 720-416-8462 or Alice Ray at 303-332-2595.

**Health Partner Training Retreats**  » Be part of the revolution in health ministry reflecting Christ's character. In just one weekend, you can become a Health Partner and experience a transformation in your own health and in your evangelistic programs. Learn how to help people move from information to real-life changes through effective coaching skills. Form a group of 10-15 from your church, or join another group and gather with us to enjoy a weekend retreat in beautiful Silverthorne, Colorado, while learning, practicing new skills, relaxing, hiking and fellowshipping. Contact Rick Mautz for available dates for 2017 at 303-909-8274 or at rickm@rmcsda.org.

**Diabetes Undone**  » The new Castle Rock church plant is holding an eight-week Diabetes Undone program on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. continuing through March 14 to help stomp out this medical epidemic. Held at the Douglas County Library in Castle Pines, it is open to all -- those with
diabetes or pre-diabetes, those who want to prevent it or have friends who want to prevent it, or those who want to learn how to organize their own event. The cost is $15 with optional workbook and cookbook available for $45. For more information, call Rick Mautz at 530-521-7429 or send an email to rickm@rmcsda.org. Visit our website at http://castlerockadventist.church.

Children's Leadership Conference » The Mid-America Union invites you to the Children's Ministries Leadership Conference beginning at 7 p.m. March 3 and continuing to 11:15 a.m. March 5, in Lincoln, Nebraska. To register, visit www.plusline.org or call 800-732-7587. Register before February 23 to get the early-bird rate.

Mid-America Union Conference is located at 8307 Pine Lake Road, Lincoln, NE 68516.

Kindergarten Round-Up and Visitation Day » Bring your Grade K-8 student(s) to experience a day-in-the-life at Springs Adventist Academy! Your children can mingle with our current students and check out the classrooms while you have a chance to visit with the teachers and staff. Students pre-registered by February 24 will be entered into a drawing for one free month's tuition.
Celebrating Life in Recovery » Twin Peaks Church is holding a 14-week program presented by Cheri Peters to help with recovery from domestic abuse, perfectionism, alcoholism, drug addiction, anger, dependency, and so much more. Join this FREE program at 7 p.m. Thursdays beginning February 2 and continuing through May 11. Preregister at clrlouisville@gmail.com. For questions, call 720-890-3767. The Twin Peaks Church is located at 9696 Paschal Drive, Louisville, CO.

Mile High Academy Summer Camps » MHA’s Kids University Camp is a great way to keep your children engaged and active all summer long. From a half-day sports camp to full-day weekly camps, we have choices for everyone. Each camp includes special activities, art, outdoor play and dynamic learning. Our special pricing is available until March 10. You can find out more by going to milehighacademy.org/summercamp or by calling 303-744-1069. We can't wait to have fun this summer!

The Colorado Chorale Collaborates with Denver Pro Chorale » Greek treasures . . . Many of us picture the same scenes when imagining Greece—the Acropolis, toga-wearing gods and goddesses, the black sands of Santorini and sunshine glistening off the crystal blue water. But what about the music? The Colorado Chorale presents a concert featuring Greek music and composers. Join us as we collaborate with the Denver Pro Chorale, leaving you with the enticing and hauntingly stoic sounds of ancient and modern Greece. Tickets: $17; Seniors $15; 21 years and under Free Group discounts available. Concert Location: Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2675 S Downing Street, Denver CO 80210.

Women's Ministries Leadership Certification » Women are invited to attend a Level One Leadership Certification Seminar beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, and continuing from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sabbath, April 8 at the Rocky Mountain Conference Office Meeting Room, 2520 S. Downing Street. Carla Baker, Women’s Ministries Director for the North American Division will conduct this seminar along with her
team. Two meals will be provided on Sabbath. Any woman desiring to enhance leadership in ministry should attend. It will include a series of sessions on subjects such as “Principles of Effective Leadership”, “Visioning and Goal Setting” and more. Each woman completing the seminar will receive a certificate. There is no charge to attend. You are responsible for your own lodging. Registration is essential. Contact Ginger Bell at 720-980-9006 or rexngingerbell@msn.com by March 31.

**Women's Ministry Retreats 2017**  » RMC Women’s Ministries is excited to announce the Area Women’s Retreats for 2017:

**Wyoming:** *Seaside Escape—a study of Sarah and Hagar*
Mills Spring Ranch on Casper Mountain
Fall (date announced soon)
Contact: Rhonda McDonald: 307-259-8147

**Colorado Western Slope:** *Falling in Love Again*
Speaker: Darla Sherman
Mountain Top Retreat (15 miles from Montrose)
October 6-8
Contact: Linda Johnson: 970-245-2294

**Colorado Metro, NE/SE:** *The Best Is Yet To Come*
Speaker: Jaclynn Huse with daughter Shelby-16
Location in Metro area (announced soon)
September 17
Concert: Jaclynn/Shelby, Saturday Eve, Sept 16
Contact: Ginger Bell: 720-980-9006

**VBX Training 2017**  » You're invited to the RMC's VBX training from 2-3 p.m., April 1 at Denver South Hispanic Church. Learn the details of the new theme, *Cactusville: Where Kids are Called to Follow Jesus*. Please RSVP to Patty Rivera by March 15 at rivera710@msn.com. The church is located at 2005 S Lincoln Street, Denver 80210.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Voice of Prophecy is looking for a digital content specialist/webmaster to work at the ministry headquarters in Loveland. For more information, visit [http://vop.com/jobs](http://vop.com/jobs).
H. M. S. Richards Adventist School is looking for a full-time teacher for Grades 3-4 who can also lead out in the music program for Grades 1-8 for the 2017-18 school year. Send resume to Diane Harris at dianeh@rmcsda.org by January 23.

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.

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
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.

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**Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement**

**Tagline:**

*Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known*