Pastors Discuss Ministry of Reclamation and Creating Healthy Churches at RMC Pastors' Meetings

Interest in personal and church growth was predominant during the RMC Pastors' Meeting that brought fifty ministers to Glacier View Ranch March 18-21. The meeting was first for the new RMC ministerial director, Mickey Mallory, as its organizer. Detail oriented, Mallory brought in a welcome change by including several RMC pastors as presenters.

"The exciting part of the ministerial retreat this year was that we had some of our very own pastors teaching some of the breakout sessions," Mallory said.

"When we plan a ministerial retreat, we aim to put together a program that provides a variety of topics that are relevant to pastoral ministry. Our hope is that each pastor who attended will go back to their church feeling challenged and encouraged," he added.

Commenting on the meetings, Lee Lee Dart, lead pastor of The Adventure Church in Greeley, said she "appreciated the opportunity to connect with our conference pastors. I was able to talk with a few pastors that helped me process some issues I have been going through and give me some spiritual perspective and encouragement. I was also able to do the same for a few pastors as well."

It was "such a needed time of reciprocity of grace," she added.

The morning sessions featured several presentations, including such topics as the reclamation of former church members.

"I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I wish to be. I am not what I hope to be. Yet I can truly say, I am not what I once was. By the grace of God, I am what I am."

-- John Newton
members by James Black, North American Division prayer ministries director; a continuing education program by Adam Fenner, director of Adventist Learning Community at Andrews University, and prayer ministry by DeeAnn Bragaw, RMC prayer ministry coordinator. In the afternoons, breakout sessions included, among others, such topics as “Being a Hero: Lessons from the Exponential Church Planting Experience” by Dave Kennedy and Edwin Vargas from the Newday Denver church plant; “Advertising Your Church on Facebook” by Jamey Houghton from the Franktown Church; or “How to Grow your Church” by Reginald Sibanda, a church planter from Zimbabwe.

Commenting on the meetings, Ed Barnett, RMC president noted two particular areas being addressed — conversations held throughout the meetings on soul winning and building the Kingdom of God. “When we concentrate on making our church a healthy church, we will be fulfilling our commission,” he commented. He also noted interest in reclaiming those who left our church and church planting as topics that permeated the conversations among pastors.

Pastors and RMC administrators also discussed practical ways and methods they have found successful in reclaiming former and inactive church members. Following a discussion and the listing of components of a healthy church, the pastors are being asked to prioritize the top ten qualities of making a church healthy. The initial list included some 50 suggestions from the pastors.

It was also reported that the conference is off to a strong tithe start in the first two months of 2018. For the month of February our tithe was up 22.22 percent, which gives us a very strong 14.20 percent tithe increase year-to-date through February. Rocky Mountain Conference Advance was also strong, being up 13.36 percent year-to-date.

George Crumley, RMC VP for finance said, “We praise the Lord for His faithfulness and the faithfulness of our members.”

He commented on the meetings, saying that he continues, “to be impressed and moved by the commitment and quality of the pastors we have within the Rocky Mountain Conference.

There was a strong emphasis on prayer and planting churches along with the continued emphasis on reclaiming our missing members. I know that the Lord worked through the different presenters and organizers to orchestrate an encouraging and special time for all.”

--Text and photo by Rajmund Dabrowski

Colorado Springs Town Hall Meeting Looks at State of the Church and Holds Training Sessions

Upcoming Events

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Colorado Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the first of seven Town Hall meetings organized by Rocky Mountain Conference, March 17. The event included six training events which attracted more than three dozen participants interested in such topics as "How to Give a Bible Study" [pictured below with Ed Barnett as presenter], training for elders and deacons, how to combat diabetes, communication, and considering first impressions of the church. These training sessions were presented by RMC leaders and departmental directors.

The evening Town Hall meeting featured a State of the Church in RMC presentation by RMC administrators. Part of the presentation was a report on church growth by Eric Nelson, VP for administration, with a substantial increase of more than 500 new members in 2017, giving a total membership of more than 18,200. George Crumley, VP for finance, spoke about RMC's positive financial health with an increase in tithing of 1.77 percent. Ed Barnett, president, reported on the results of the recent Denver evangelism, as well as plans to address the issue of member reclamation in all RMC churches, along with the establishment of church plants and the creation of a "welcome to all" message by congregations. "My vision is to see all churches be truly welcoming places for all who come in," he said.

In a Q & A portion, one participant commented on the need to train church members with a "user-friendly approach when..."
interacting with interested guests, part of a follow-up to programs offered for the community.

Another participant asked if a special evangelistic outreach series could be planned for Colorado Springs, a city, he claimed, is the largest in Colorado. His proposal will be considered but would require detailed planning. The next Town Hall meeting is planned for March 24 in the Denver South Church.

--RMCNews; photos by Rajmund Dabrowski

Kuda Vana Children’s Home » Sometimes God asks us to do extraordinary things so that we can learn to trust Him and so His glory might be revealed. This was definitely the case when a small group from LifeSource Adventist Fellowship traveled to rural Zimbabwe seven years ago to see how they might help a struggling orphanage. Fast forward, this little orphanage, now called Kuda Vana Children’s Home, has a brand-new campus and worship center and offers holistic care for more than 50 orphaned and abandoned children to ensure the most vulnerable children of Zimbabwe don’t just survive, but thrive.

The impact of stepping out in faith like this can have is best told in the story of little Ropa. One year ago, Ropa was abandoned as an infant, and was not expected to survive. She was brought to the hospital, where it was clear something was very wrong. Doctor’s determined that she had Patent Ductus Arteriosus, essentially a hole in her heart. Corrective surgery was possible, but expensive, and there was no one to step up for little Ropa.

Luckily, Social Services knew that Kuda Vana had a nursery, and Ropa was brought to her new family. Just a week later, three-month old Ropa underwent corrective heart surgery and the almost immediate transformation in her appearance and manner was a miracle. Kuda Vana is hopeful that one day Ropa can be adopted, but in the meantime, she has a family who loves her deeply. Currently, Zimbabwe does not allow international adoptions, and some research shows that on average, the country processes only 15 adoptions annually, out of the more than one million orphans within its borders. This is why Kuda Vana exists – to

Kuda Vana partnership

Kuda Vana Children’s Home

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stand in the gap for children like Ropa.

Little Ropa is now a year old, and is walking, talking and learning quickly. She has a chance at a bright future because, in the words of author Bruce Wilkinson, “God’s people were willing to attempt something large enough that failure was guaranteed, unless God stepped in.” Kuda Vana is the defining ministry at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship, and it has been amazing to watch God work through them.

If you would like to learn more about how you or your church can get involved with Kuda Vana, visit www.kudavana.org or contact Tara Petersen, Director of Development at tara@kudavana.org or 720-515-5148.

-- Tara Petersen; photos supplied by Kuda Vana Partnership

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Refu-Jesus is All About Making a Difference

» Real World Learning at Mile High Academy takes students from the textbook to engaging and authentic, real-world tasks that ask big questions and require critical thought. Currently, students at MHA are involved in a number of RWL classes from gardening in the lower school to entrepreneurship in the upper school. Every classroom is engaged in one way or another in community-based problem solving.

One of the RWL classes from Middle School that has inspired students and parents is the “Refu-Jesus” class led by Russell Palmer in which students are asked to investigate, solve issues, and communicate solutions regarding the refugee crisis in the Denver area. They represent grades 6-8.

Taking on the role of facilitator, Palmer asks the students to explore the crisis for themselves.

Through research, they have found several refugee centers in the Denver area that host and provide necessities to refugees. They visit these centers, talk with refugees, clean

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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 by noon.
the facilities, donate items, raise funds, and communicate needs.

With the help of our Director of Innovation, Jamie Frain, the class has invited guest speakers to discuss their own experiences with the students. From community leaders to local authors, the guests share personal experiences with the students engaging them in the topic through storytelling.

One such guest was Helen Thorpe, author of *The Newcomers*, who spent a year in the Denver South school helping with and investigating the plight of displaced refugee children.

This touched a nerve with our own students who could picture themselves in the same situation, away from home, unable to speak the language, without friends. Our students already knew the statistic, that 50 percent of refugees are children. However, having Thorpe speak about her own experience with these children made the subject come to life.

And that’s what RWL is all about. It’s not reading a book or memorizing facts, though the students certainly do that, but it’s experiencing the reality of the facts they read. It’s meeting the people behind those facts.

Or as one student put it, “The need is huge, I just can’t believe it every time we go to the Mango house, there are people there needing things. It makes me want to help, keep helping.”

Our students will also have the tools needed to continue helping even after the class is through. Mr. Palmer has a guest coming that will provide training for the students to become Refugee Ambassadors. This means students will be able to go into the community with the skills they need to help, create awareness, and communicate for a crisis that so far hasn’t slowed.

-- Agape Hammond; photo by Jamie Frain

**Campion Students Combine Mission and Pleasure on Senior Trip**

Campion Academy's senior class returned home after a two-week trip to Belize and Mexico in early March. Although the trip began and ended with relaxation and sight seeing, the main portion of the trip was spent doing mission work at a small Adventist school in Ladyville, Belize.
Because the main task set aside for the group was to aid in the addition of a second floor to one of the school’s buildings, most of the seniors and sponsors worked in construction. This included preparing, cutting, and building the wooden supports that the concrete for the second floor would rest on. With this being the main project, many had the chance to work extensively with measuring boards and poles, cutting those boards and poles, and nailing it all together.

The seniors worked five days, with a day off in the middle to recuperate and rest up for the remaining two days. During the workdays, students fully applied themselves, and at the end of the week, the group had completed their tasks ahead of schedule.

Knowing the work being done was for a good cause, senior Jordyn recounted, “Helping build the school was extremely rewarding knowing that kids would soon be able to learn about Jesus and different subjects there.”

Students who didn’t work in construction blessed the local community in other ways. A small group spent time painting at a different location and Lauren led out in an evangelistic series at the nearby church. While talking about the subject of sharing God in a different environment, she commented, “Preaching for my first time in a foreign country was an amazing experience. I was so happy to share my love for God to people that I had never met before. They were so kind and friendly, and I will never forget their own passion for their faith.”

The seniors went on this trip with the expectation of impacting others, yet many weren’t prepared for the way in which it would affect them. Simply being around the kids and building with the knowledge that the finished product would improve their lives had a lasting effect on some.

Others were changed in different ways. “Living with some of your closest friends for two weeks in a different country can really change a person,” Carter commented.

While the senior class trip is over, the impact it left in the lives of the seniors and all the people they were able to bless
Aurora 1st Church Opens Food Pantry and Open Closet  » Efforts by Aurora's community to help those in need are being supported by two new Aurora 1st Seventh-day Adventist Church ministries. Their Dorcas and Women's Ministry groups each opened new outreaches this month to help with community food and clothing needs -- Food Pantry and Open Closet.

Operated by Aurora 1st's Dorcas ministry, it is open to the community, The Food Pantry receives food supplies from The Food Bank of the Rockies. It's soft opening yielded a few families and individuals who came to utilize the facilities and allowed team members the opportunity to reflect on what they can do better going forward. Information will continue to be placed on Facebook and in the church bulletin and announced from the pulpit. They will further promote it by placing a banner on the street corner inviting the public to come in.

Also open to the community, Open closet, a Women's Ministry effort, collects new and gently-used clothing to help the less fortunate in their neighborhood and community. Donations are welcome.

Both ministries are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the third Sunday of each month in the school building adjacent to the church."

For more information on "Food Pantry," contact Dorcas leader, Ana Cruz at 303-903-8136.

For more information on "Open Closet," contact Women's Ministry leader, Connie Davis at 815-670-5411.

-- RMCNews with Joanne Smith
the very beginning," said Martin. "I'm really excited about the passion he brings and appreciate his approach to youth ministry. He sees the youth as not just tomorrow's leaders, but today's church. He will bring a lot of energy to our staff."

**Jackie Dunkin Joins RMC Family**  
A member of the Brighton Church, Jackie Dunkin began work as a Human Resources clerk at the Rocky Mountain Conference on March 5. She brings with her an extensive HR background and has a passion for the church and its ministries.

"We are delighted to welcome Jackie as part of the HR team and look forward to working with her to support the personnel activities in our conference," said HR Director Danielle Toddy.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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Save the date! The Rocky Mountain Conference Music Festival is March 22-24. Students from across our conference will join together for music clinics on Thursday and Friday in preparation for a sacred and secular concert on March 24.

The festival will highlight choral, orchestra, and handbell music under the direction of three local clinicians. Clinton Anderson, Assistant Music Teacher at HMS Richards Jr. School, will direct our Festival Choir. Miki Shockley, Director of Amadeo Music School in Loveland, returns to direct the Handbells, and Yves Clouzet, Music Director at Campion Academy and Festival Organizer, will direct the Strings Orchestra.

Sabbath morning church service and sacred concert takes
place at 11:00 a.m. in the Campion Academy gym. The secular concert will begin immediately following vespers that evening at 7:00 p.m.

A special addition to this year’s festival is a Sabbath afternoon concert by violinist, Jaime Jorge. Jaime travels the world sharing the ministry of music and will perform at 2:30 p.m. in the Campion Church.

The Rocky Mountain Conference Music Festival is a highlight for many of our students across the conference. We look forward to seeing you at one or all of our concerts on March 24.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Yellowstone National Park Sabbath Services**  » Join us for worship at Yellowstone National Park every Sabbath from **Memorial Day through Labor Day**. Led by Rocky Mountain Conference pastors, the services begin at 10 a.m. in Old Faithful Lodge.

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**Fire Rekindled 2018**  » The Golden, Lakewood, and Denver West churches join together to present Fire Rekindled 2018. These meetings begin **March 16** and continue **through April 27**. For more information about speakers and dates, call or text 970-485-3613 or visit www.goldencosda.org

**Denver West Church**: 290 S Quitman Street, Denver 80219.

**Lakewood Church**: 8001 W 23rd Ave, Lakewood 80214.

**Golden Church**: 3101 S Golden Rd, Golden 80401.

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**Jaime Jorge in Concert**  » World-class violinist, Jaime Jorge, will be performing at the Campion Church at 2:30 p.m. on **March 24**. Born in Cuba and raised in a communist country, Jaime has a passion for proclaiming the gospel through his music. His gift of musical interpretation brings new life and excitement to every song. You will be inspired by his music and blessed as he shares his testimony.
Save these dates for a diabetes prevention and reversal program presented at the Twin Peaks Adventist Church 9696 Paschal Drive, Louisville CO 80027.

**Sunday, March 25**, 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
**Monday evenings, March 26 through April 23**, 5:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

*The $149 registration fee includes:

- Media presentations by Dr. Wes Youngberg, author of *Goodbye Diabetes*, and dietician Brenda Davis, author of *Defeating Diabetes*
- *Plant to Plate* cookbook
- Workbook and handouts
- Online extended education
- Glucometer and Hemoglobin A1C test
- Plant-based food recipes and sampling
- 8 Laws to a Better, Longer Life DVD

*Early bird registration fee is $139 if completed by March 11. Registration closes March 18. Program size is limited to 10 persons and their spouses. Contact Rosemary Cook 303-465-4010 for more information and to reserve your spot for a new lease on life.

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**Children's Ministries Certification and VBX Training in Grand Junction**  
Join us for Children's Ministry Certification Track 2 held from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at the Grand Junction Church, Taught in both English and Spanish, this training will cover Track 2 of the Children's Ministries certification. Grand Junction Church is located at 550 25 1/2 Road, Grand Junction CO 81505-6122. Register at rmcyouth.org/children or email Patty Rivera at pattyr@rmcsda.org, 303-910-1614. Registration deadline, April 19.
The Journey to the Cross and Beyond  » Coming March 31 from 1 to 6 p.m., The Journey to the Cross and Beyond is an important outreach which will lead into evangelistic meetings. Our community is waiting to be invited to know more about Jesus. You can do three things to help make this major event a success:

**Pray** for its success and that people will be drawn closer to Jesus.

**Bring** your neighbors, family, and friends. It will not be an effective outreach without guests.

**Get involved** yourself. There are still plenty of positions that need to be filled. Some are behind the scenes and some up-front where the fun is. To get involved, contact Dick Stenbakken at 970-667-0866 or any of the Campion Church pastoral staff.
Academy Days at Campion  »  Academy Days at Campion is designed to give prospective students in grades 7-11 the opportunity to visit classes, stay a night in the dorm, eat "cafe" food, tour the campus, make new friends and "get a feel" for academy life.

Academy Days 2018 is scheduled for April 13 and 14. Under the theme “The Ultimate Treasure” visiting students will enjoy a Ninja Warrior Course, an ice cream outing,
"Behold, He Comes" Concert, April 21  » Please invite your family and friends to this dynamic and biblical choir/orchestra/drama program, a Denver South Church outreach to the community. This 7:00 p.m. program is not to be missed. Please contact Missy Wherley at 720-985-8949 or branchofthevine@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Canon City Church  » "The Shadow of His Wings" is the title of a dynamic series presented by Pathway to Paradise Dr. Tim Rumsey. Beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, April 27, the series continues through Sabbath, May 5. All meetings are at 7 p.m. except for two Sabbath morning services.

More than 3,000 years ago, God gave His people a blueprint revealing the mysteries of Salvation. Today, the sanctuary message retains its potency and power. "The Shadow of His Wings" takes a fascinating and compelling look at the sanctuary message for today.

For more information, go to www.PathwayToParadise.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

H.O.P.E. Prayer Summit  » Featuring James Black from NAD Prayer Ministries, this prayer summit will be held September 7-9 at Glacier View Ranch.

Annual RMC Women’s Retreat  » Heather-Dawn Small, GC Women’s Ministry Director will speak at the annual retreat September 28-30 at Glacier View Ranch.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Women’s Ministry Coordinator  » The Rocky Mountain Conference has an immediate opening for a part-time Women’s Ministry Coordinator position (approximately 10 hours/week). The Women’s Ministry Coordinator is responsible for building a community of godly women within the Rocky Mountain Conference. For more information about the position, essential tasks, expectations and how to apply, please see the following posting on our
Fort Collins Christian School » The Fort Collins Christian School will start a state-licensed Preschool (ages 3-5) and is seeking a part-time preschool teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Candidates with a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Family and Child Development, Child Psychology, or an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education will be considered. If you are interested in this position, please contact Keiko Breese at keikonagasawa821@gmail.com or call her at 970-222-6347 for more information.

Mile High Academy ESL Teacher Needed at 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 Vuileva at tvuileva@milehighacademy.org for questions or to submit your resume.

Student Literature Evangelist Coordinator » Joe Martin has announced that he will be retiring this June. "We’re sorry Joe is retiring," said RMC President Ed Barnett. "He has big shoes to fill and we are looking for someone to fill them. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our office at 303-282-3635 and ask for Human Resources.

Glacier View Ranch » has the following employment opportunity available:
Support Personnel position. This is a part-time (28 hours/week) position with housing provided on site. The employee will perform a variety of tasks, assisting in multiple operational functions around the Ranch. For a full description of duties, including physical demands and working conditions, please review the job description on our website at http://www.rmcsda.org/hr-gvrsupportpersonnel where you will also find information on how to apply.

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

NewsNuggets Archive Now Online » The NewsNuggets archive is now online, and can be found...
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.
- 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
Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement
Tagline:

*Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known*