



news nuggets

Friday, November 2, 2018

Campion Academy Builds Partnerships in Kunming, China »

Campion's vice principal, Dean Helm, and English language teacher, Jill Harlow, spent one week in Kunming, China meeting with government officials, schools, and English teachers in order to form partnerships for educational and cultural exchanges.



Denver and Kunming have officially been sister cities since 1986 through the organization, Sister Cities International, which seeks to promote peace and diplomacy by building relationships between cities. Campion Academy recently became a member of Denver Sister Cities International as a partner for educational exchange.

During their visit, Helm, Harlow and their Chinese business partner, Niu Ben (Paul), head of Eagle's Nest International, met with the Kunming City Deputy President of the Foreign Affairs Office, Wang Hao, and Deputy Chief, Cheng Hanjun, presenting information about Campion Academy and the international student program with the broader goal of creating friendship and understanding between our countries and specifically, our regional cities. "I was very impressed with the openness of the government to pursue cultural exchange relationships with Campion Academy," commented Helm.

Within hours of the meeting, Wang Hao had contacted the Ministry of Education in Kunming and had arranged meetings

"Living is not a private affair of the individual. Living is what man does with God's time, what man does with God's world."

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

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with principals at the Kunming Number 1 High School and C&F English School, the largest private English training institute in Kunming. As a result of these meetings, short-term educational and cultural tours based out of Campion will be promoted to the students of these schools. These two-week tours will allow Chinese students to experience the American educational system and gain a better understanding of our culture. This will be an excellent opportunity for students interested in studying at Campion long-term to see if it will be a good fit.



On the other hand, a group of current Campion students is making plans to visit Kunming for a cultural exchange and relationship building trip in June 2019. The students will have a chance to try their hand at different types of Chinese art, get an introduction to Chinese language, and visit unique and historical sites. They will partner with a class of Chinese students learning English to help them practice the language and develop friendships.

On the last day of the trip, Harlow presented teaching strategies at an English teachers' training conference with nearly 400 teachers in attendance. Top English teachers from around the province were selected to give presentations on various pedagogical topics and Harlow was asked to speak on phonics and reading instruction in the United States. She featured video clips of local HMS Richards Elementary School teachers and Patricia Torres, Learning Resource and ELL teacher at Campion. The Chinese teachers were very impressed by their teaching styles and strategies and many expressed a desire to visit our schools for further observation and training. As a result, Campion is pursuing inviting a small group of Chinese teachers to also join in on a two-week exchange at Campion.

Kunming is known as the City of Eternal Spring because of its mild and pleasant climate. Located in the Yunnan Province in the Southwest part of China, this province is known for its clean air, mountains, lakes, and as the largest exporter of flowers in Asia. It is also known for its diversity as

Upcoming Events

Hispanic INTEL Class

November 2 - 3

Hispanic Marriage Retreat

July 21, 22

Hispanic Pastors Meeting

November 5

Hispanic Lay Leaders Training

November 11

Staff Meeting

November 20

Thanksgiving -- Office Closed at Noon

November 21

Thanksgiving Day -- Office Closed

November 22

Hispanic INTEL Graduation

Sunday, December 2

Staff Meeting

December 17

GVR Board

December 18

RMC Property and Trust

9:30 a.m. December 19

Pastors Meeting

January 6 - 9

NAD Adventist Ministries Convention

January 16

Executive Committee

9:30 a.m. January 22

Wyoming Taskforce Meeting

February 19

it is home to 26 different Chinese ethnic groups. “The beauty of the city, the people, and the culture is something that our own students will appreciate as we continue on this journey with the Kunming area,” explained Helm.

Another highlight was meeting with family members of Campion graduate, Jerry Wang (2018), who comes from Kunming. His great-aunt, who worked as a journalist all of her life, sat down to talk with us about the history of the American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers, in the Yunnan Province, which was documented in a book she edited. People in Kunming and across the Yunnan province remember and value the historical friendship they have had with Americans since the Flying Tigers came as volunteers to help them during the Japanese invasion in 1941. The Flying Tigers were a group of American pilots who volunteered to help the people of the Yunnan province by flying in supplies, attacking the Japanese air force, and reopening the essential supply route, the Burma Road, which the Japanese had blocked, prior to the United States officially joining World War II. In the spirit of the Flying Tigers, Campion Academy and the people of Kunming are eager to continue to develop friendship and cooperation between our regions of the world.

-- Jill Harlow; photos by Dean Helm and Jill Harlow

Hispanic Youth Gather for Annual Youth Congress, Elect New Leadership »

Nearly 150 Hispanic youth from around the Rocky Mountain Conference gathered for the Hispanic Youth Federation (FEJA) congress at Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado October 26-28. FEJA's annual youth congress provides a space for young people to grow spiritually and to fellowship together.

Pastor Elden Ramírez, president of the Montana Conference, shared inspiring messages under the theme, "Encounters," highlighting encounters Jesus had with others during His ministry and encouraging the youth to develop a personal encounter with Jesus.



A Mexican Fiesta themed social event concluded the event



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.

with many dressed in traditional Mexican attire, including famous Mexican historical and entertainment figures such as Frida Khalo, India Maria, and the cast of the well-known Mexican television sitcom, Chavo del Ocho.

New leadership was elected during the event from recommendations made by the nominating committee comprised of current youth leaders from each Hispanic local church. Pastor Samuel Bustamante chaired the committee.

The following recommendations, made and accepted, will serve for the next two years:

President: Cecilia Chavez, Montrose Hispanic

Vice-President: Jorge Aleman, Denver First Hispanic

Audio Visual Coordinator: Abner Martinez, Aurora Hispanic

Communications/Public Relations: Vanessa Rivera, Boulder

Devotionals Coordinator: Kenia Fabian, Central Hispanic

Music Coordinator: Milca Espinoza, Montrose Hispanic

Recreation Coordinator: Jonathan Espinoza, Montrose Hispanic

Secretary: Ashley Gonzales, Denver First Hispanic

Treasurer: Cande Martinez, Brighton Hispanic

Youth Evangelism Coordinator: Daniel Bustamante, Denver South Hispanic/Northglenn Hispanic

Thank you to the FEJA leadership team for their service over the last two years.

A special thank you goes to outgoing leader Ruben Lopez for his service for the last four years and Nancy Quiñonez for the last five years. FEJA was blessed by their vigorous dedication and commitment to serve.

For any questions or further information regarding FEJA, please contact Vanessa Rivera at feja.rmc@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.rmcsda.org/feja>


-- Vanessa Rivera; photo by Elden Ramirez

Churches Recognize Their Pastors » Throughout the month of October, local church ministers were given special recognition from their parishioners. *NewsNuggets* received reports from four churches – Colorado Springs Central, Greeley, Elm Haven, and Boulder – with examples of how pastors were celebrated by their church members.

Friday, October 12, 2018

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."

— Oswald Chambers

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Upcoming Events

**Hispanic Women's Retreat
-- GVR**

October 5-7

GVR Board

October 16

RMC Property & Trust

October 17, 9:30 a.m.

Hispanic Youth Congress



On the evening of October 1, Pastor Jason Logan of the **Greeley and Elm Haven** congregations received an unexpected knock on his door. When he opened the door, nobody was there, but a gift had been left on his doorstep. It was a knickknack that said “Yay” and taped to the front was a handwritten note that read, “Yay, you’re our pastor.” That was just the beginning.

Every day during the month of October, Pastor Jason received a gift at his front door. If a day was missed, two were delivered the next day. The month of October is recognized as pastor appreciation month and it has been a special one for the Logan family. The gifts have been fun with very clever sayings attached. Some of the gifts have been silly, some have been useful, and some have been yummy, comments Grace Logan, pastor’s wife.



The whole family has enjoyed trying to catch the culprits. Not only have they received gifts at their doorstep, but they’ve also been given cards and gifts from members throughout the month. The last Sabbath of October, the Greeley church recognized them from up front with a card stuffed with handwritten notes from their members.

“The gifts have been a blessing,” said Grace, “but even more special have been the words of encouragement that we’ve received. Sometimes you feel like you’re not making a difference, but to read all those loving and supportive words gives you fortitude and strength to keep going.”

October 26-28

Hispanic INTEL Class
November 2-3

Hispanic Pastors Meeting
November 5

Hispanic Lay Leaders Training
November 11

Executive Committee
November 26

Hispanic INTEL Graduation
Sunday, December 2

Executive Committee
9:30 a.m. December 4

GVR Board
December 18

RMC Property & Trust
December 19



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Commenting on the experience, Jason Logan said, "The Greeley Church made this past month a very memorable one. It was fun for the whole family to never know when the next gift was coming and to speculate who might be bringing it. They have definitely made us feel very appreciated and loved."

Following an October 14 Appreciation Dinner at the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in **Colorado Springs**, Mike Maldonado, his wife Brenda, and son, Elijah wrote in an email to their church family.

"The love and appreciation showed us by the church family was over the top! Never has a pastoral couple felt more loved," commented Mike Maldonado.

"How can we possibly say 'Thank You!' adequately enough, or reciprocate your loving acts of kindness and service towards us, including Elijah? We are overwhelmed by your love and goodness to us and we praise God for His many blessings through each and every one of you. We are humbled and blessed by the beautiful flowers (that continue to be beautiful even a week later), by the generous gift from the church/church board ... as well as numerous gift cards, baskets of fruit and monetary gifts by so many church members. It is truly overwhelming to feel so much love and appreciation by so many!," the Maldonado Family wrote.

From **Boulder Church** comes another report. Master carpenter Phil Smith and his trusty sidekick Diane Johnson dropped by the the home of Pastor Japhet de Oliveira on Wednesday, October 31, to install a gorgeous, custom-built medicine cabinet in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month. The De Oliveiras, who until now have lived in a medicine-cabinetless house, were delighted by the beauty and functionality of the gift. The cabinet includes four adjustable shelves.

Mickey Mallory, RMC ministerial director, commented, "With the many challenges pastors and their families face these days, it means a lot when church members show appreciation. By doing so, they give a boost to their pastor."
-- RMCNews with Mickey Mallory; photos by Grace Logan and Marcia Armstead

Boulder Church Members Serve in Belize as Part of Medical Mission »

Gordy and Jan Gates and Mark and Diane Johnson joined a group of medical and dental professionals for the Belize Mission Project October 19-27. What was originally known as the "Fishin' Mission" began in 1993 when a dentist from the U.S. (Dr. Frank Whipps) noticed the need for medical and dental care in the country while he was there on a fishing vacation. He invited dentists and

notable events, as well as experiences of church members.

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physicians and other healthcare professionals to join him each year during the month of October in what has come to be known as the Belize Mission Project.

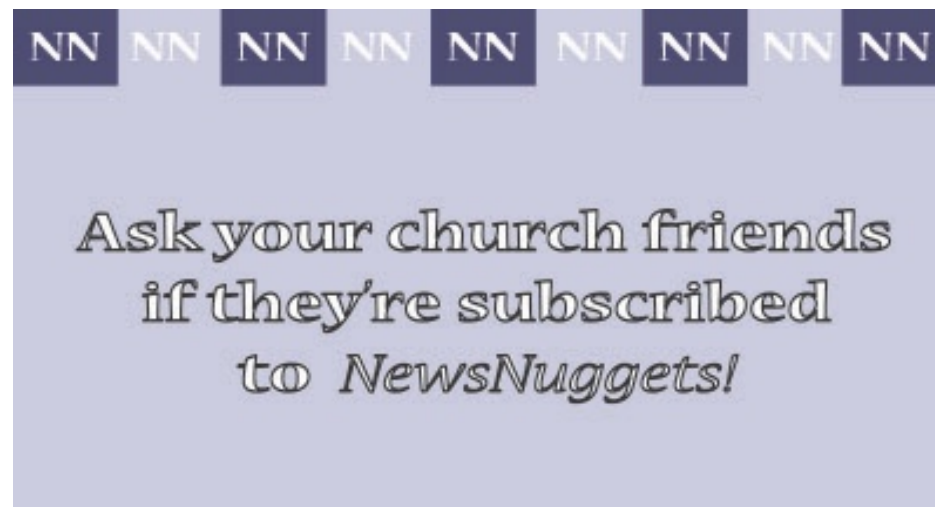


The project has grown to include more than 50 dentists, medical doctors, hygienists, audiologists, lab technicians, and non-medical volunteers who travel to Belize each year during the same two-week period to provide clinical services including restorative dental care, cleanings, oral health instruction, partial dentures, medical exams, audiology evaluations, speech therapy, hearing aids, and fluoride treatments to low-income Belizean families, along with immigrants from Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Many Belizeans look forward to the visit as the only care they receive during the year.

Gordy is a dentist and his wife Jan is a dental hygienist. Mark is a physician and his wife Diane is a nurse. The two couples have been traveling to Belize with the mission project for 16 years.

For the last two years, Gordy has taken the leadership role in planning and facilitating the growing group of volunteers from across the U.S. and Canada. Plans are in the works for the 2019 Belize Mission Project. [Find out more.](#)

-- RMCNews with Becky De Oliveira. Photos supplied



Click on this link to take you directly to the subscription page: <http://www.rmcsda.org/nuggets>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRECTIONS URGENTLY NEEDED » We all know it's frustrating when published information is incomplete or inaccurate. We constantly encourage our pastors and clerks to update their information for eAdventist because if we in the office don't have accurate phone numbers, websites, addresses, and meeting times, we can't keep the public informed. Both member and church information can be updated on eAdventist or by contacting Kelly Waller at kellyw@rmcsda.org.

Denver South Church » International Sabbath is coming to Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, **November 3** at 11 a.m. The service will include a celebration of cultural diversity as well as a Parade of Nations. Join us for an international feast with foods from all around the world following the church service. Please come dressed with cultural attire and let's celebrate God's love for our world.

HMS Richards School » HMS Richards Elementary school and Champion Academy invite the community to join them for a carnival of food, fun, and games at the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, **November 3**, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Champion Academy gym. Dress in your coolest tropical attire and get ready to do the limbo (yes, literally)!

Denver West Church » The Women's Ministry at Denver West Church invites you to attend their annual luncheon from 1-3:30 p.m., Sunday, **November 4**. Our speaker is DeeAnn Bragaw, director of women's ministries for the Rocky Mountain Conference. The luncheon is free. Dress is casual. For more information, contact Mona Fellers at fellers.ma@gmail.com or call 303-903-1526. The church is located at 290 S Quitman Street, Denver.

Brighton Academy » The school's 3rd annual Holiday Craft Bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **November 4** at Brighton Adventist Academy gymnasium. It's your one-stop holiday shop for homemade crafts, decor, fashion, jewelry, wood crafts, baked goods, and much more! Admission is free. Open to the public. Food and drink available for purchase all day. For more information, call 303-659-1999. Brighton Adventist Academy is located at 820 South 5th, Brighton CO 80601.

Vista Ridge Academy » Join us for a fun family evening on **Saturday, November 10**, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., as Vista Ridge Academy presents its popular annual Fall Festival. Lots

of great food, fun activities for all ages, and quality items at the silent auction. Enjoy yourself and help support the school!

Denver West Church » The Sabbath School program at Denver West SDA Church at 9:30 a.m. on **November 10** will honor veterans ahead of the official Veterans Day. We invite you to join us and to bring a photograph of your veteran that can be displayed on a table. Please bring a place card identifying name and branch of service. A delicious fellowship meal will follow the church service. Please join us. Email Patricia Armijo at parmijo07@hotmail.com. Denver West Church is located at 290 S. Quitman Street, Denver, Colorado.

Mile High Academy » Mile High Academy invites you to Fall Festival. Come out on **November 10** from 6-9pm for an evening of fun with friends and family. Booths are sponsored by a different class or group. Whether you have a favorite student or a favorite food, it all goes to a great cause, Christian education at MHA. Mark your calendars and plan an evening with us.

Fort Collins School » You are invited to *Fort Collins Christian School's Fall Festival* on Sunday, **November 11** from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Come join us for great food, fun games, a baked good auction, and fellowship as we celebrate Fall and the beginning of the holiday season! We will serve vegetable sushi, egg rolls, vegetable stir fried noodles, fried rice, Mexican food, pizza, nachos, ice-cream, and more! Tickets can be purchased at the event!

If you would like to see our brand-new school and church building, we would love to give you a tour – just let us know! Our new school and church are located at 2040 Nancy Gray Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mile High Academy » Mile High Academy has immediate openings for the 2018-2019 school year for two part-time drivers for our transportation routes. Qualified candidates will be at least 21 years old, possess, or be able to obtain, a current Colorado driver's license (Commercial Driver's License not necessary) have no more than two traffic citations and no at fault accidents during the last three years. Candidates must also possess current U.S. work authorization. While maintaining the dignity and respect for all students, the driver's primary responsibility is the safety of students while transporting them to and from school. To apply, please send an email to Noemi Borjon to request an

application (noemib@rmcsda.org) or contact her by phone at [303-282-3653](tel:303-282-3653).

HMS Richards Elementary » Part-time preschool teacher needed at HMS. We are growing and looking for an enthusiastic teacher to lead our preschool program. Must be ECE teacher certified. Do not need to be director certified. Please contact Davin Hammond or Kari Lange for more information @ [\(970\) 667-2427](tel:970-667-2427).

Vista Ridge Academy » Seeking candidates for a **Part-time Extended Care Supervisor** (8-10 hours per week). Candidates must be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and available to work after school. For more information, please contact Sandy Hodgson at 303.828.4944 or shodgson@vistaridge.org.

ESL Teacher Needed for Mile High Academy Sister School 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 Vunileva at tvunileva@milehighacademy.org for questions or to submit your resume.

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



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Let's Pray for our Pastors and Let Them Know They're Appreciated.

Marriage Seminar Held for Hispanic Members » "At first, we thought the project would be a failure because the applications coming into the Conference office were few," said Frank Wilson, RMC pastor. "There were only five couples who had initially registered for the marriage seminar in Colorado Springs," he added.



The hotel reservations were made, the speakers were poised, the banquet was planned, the flyers were waiting--everything was ready. But after learning that the couples retreat was not going according to plan, their hope dwindled and planners began to think that they might have to cancel.

But, God had another plan. "When we learned that our initial plan wouldn't work, our Hispanic coordinator, Ruben Rivera wondered if we could put into motion Plan B, which would change the event from retreat to seminar, and invite all couples from the metro area," said Wilson

"As soon as people got wind of the change, the applications poured in," Wilson added, "going from ten to twenty, to forty to fifty-one."

Pastor Wayne Morrison provided the group with a beautiful

place for the seminar, the annex of Brighton English Church.

All 51 couples who attended heard timely and much-needed messages given by Pastor Trino and Luz Marina Aparicio from Chattanooga Tennessee.

-- RMCNews with Frank Wilson; photo by Frank Wilson

Numbers Grow at Glacier View Ranch and Mills Spring Ranch »

What would it take to qualify seven days as the highlight of your year? For many kids it's a week of summer camp at one of the Rocky Mountain Conference camps – Glacier View Ranch or Mills Spring Ranch.

The summer began in early June with close to 80 dedicated young adults coming together for a week of staff training, mentoring and bonding at Glacier View Ranch. The theme that would infiltrate every aspect of camp was "I Am". Out of that one week of training came seven more power-packed weeks of adventure, fun, activity, friendship and learning to establish their identity in Christ.



Comments from campers and parents at the end of the summer spoke to the efforts of the staff and the prayers of many:

"This year camp was as good as last year, if not better! I loved my cabin and my camp counselor!!"

"The interaction between [the] staff and my child made her feel comfortable in a new situation."

"GVR is the highlight of my summer. Every year it gets better. And the thing I love the most is the friendships I made."

Camper numbers at GVR held steady despite summer camp dates changing and other minor structural changes, due, in part, to new Colorado Childcare regulations. At Mills Spring Ranch, however, camper numbers jumped from 32 last summer to 70 this summer, bringing our overall camp numbers to nearly seven hundred. This was due largely to "some awesome marketing and shuttling in campers by the then MSR camp director, Matt Moreland," said Shannon Werner, Student Evangelism and Programs Coordinator for

RMC.

At the end of GVR Teen week, with all of camp standing around the lake singing, five campers, Marina, Cecelia, DeeDee, Tatum and Hannah, committed their lives to Christ in baptism. As a memento to the occasion, each of the five young ladies received a package filled with items to encourage and support them in their new faith journey: a student study Bible; a copy of Steps to Christ; a notebook to record special verses, prayers and thoughts; Gummy Bears to remember that life with God is sweet; Sour Patch Kids because when life gets sour, God is still sweet; a water bottle to remember to stay hydrated with H2O and the Living Water; Legos as a reminder to always build with God; and Play-Doh to remember to always keep your heart soft so that God can continue to mold you.



Camp directors and staff rejoiced at the decisions made by the five teen campers to publicly declare their love for Jesus.

The lake-side celebration was a fitting conclusion to a summer of fun that was packed with new experiences, friendships, and opportunities to actively engage with the love of Jesus in the camp community.

-- Shannon Werner and Kiefer Dooley; photos by Kiefer Dooley and Spencer Stock

Alumni Reunion at Campion Academy Reconnects Old Friends »

If you missed alumni weekend this year, you missed a good one. I watched as friends reconnected, hugging and laughing with each other, even if they hadn't seen each other in decades. I observed their children becoming friends. I watched with sadness as the class of 1953 remembered their fellow classmates who are no longer around to celebrate these occasions and was reminded that there's a heavenly alumni reunion coming soon when we'll all celebrate together.



The weekend was filled with worship beginning Friday evening when we listened as Richard Lawry ('73) reminded us that if we miss Jesus, we miss it all. During Sabbath School, we heard reports on mission trips Campion students have recently taken, as well as the student-led evangelistic crusade called Wildfire. It was inspiring to hear how Campion students are not only participating in but leading out in evangelism.

In the worship hour, a quartet from the class of 1968 blessed us with special music. They were followed by our featured speaker Harold Alomia, whose sermon reminded us of the value in community. And really, isn't that what Campion is all about?

Saturday night, Union College led us in worship with a variety of fabulous musical groups and selections.

Throughout the weekend, Campion students led out in praise and worship. "I am always in awe of what a great job young people will do when given the opportunity to lead. Campion's musical groups sounded wonderful all weekend with bells, choir and orchestra," said Codi Jahn, Campion Alumni Board President.

-- Codi Jahn

Campion Students Pray With Their Community » As part of the Wednesday night Fusion at the end of September, students took to the streets of Loveland with an offer to pray with anyone who needed it. Divided into three groups, they stood on busy streets, including in front of the Loveland Church, Chick-Fil-A, and in front of campus.



“I know that people struggle during the day, so we were hoping that we could catch even just that one person who’s ready to give up, and pray with them,” explained Pastor Esequias Perea.

Milka Mendoza, sophomore at Champion, was part of the group that stood in front of Chick-Fil-A. “A lady stopped to talk with us, and she just started telling us about some of the struggles she had that day, and we were able to pray together,” she commented. “It was a really nice experience because we don’t do that on a daily basis, but we got to see God working in our lives. I got to share God’s love with someone I didn’t even know, and we got to pray together.”

At Champion, Wednesday night worships, called Fusion, are a break from sports and study hall and are meant to be a mid-week time to reconnect with God. Students can meet in small groups led by different staff members or join in outreach activities planned by Pastor Perea. “This year we are trying to do more things for the community outside of campus, to help students see the need there is in the community and to broaden their view of ministry,” he elaborated.

Champion’s spiritual theme this year is “Behold and Become.” Getting out to reach people in our community is part of that. “We are becoming Christ to the community,” Perea commented.

-- Jill Harlow; photo by Esequias Perea

Practices for Adventist Ministry -- Statement from Adventist Women Clergy »

In anticipation of the upcoming General Conference Annual Council, many women of the church, and many women who serve the church, are sensing themselves to be powerless, and disrespected as partners in the membership and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our presence and our voice are largely absent from this conversation, even though we note one of the proposed compliance subcommittees is clearly about us. As a group of approximately two hundred professional women clergy, we share the conviction that nothing ought to be about us,

without us.

Additionally, we share a consensus of concern over proposals regarding governance that do not represent the heart of protestant faith, biblical fidelity or authentic Adventism; a document that advocates an overreach, if not abuse, of power that obviously misunderstands our unique governance system.

As professional clergy, we listen to, and pastor a North American Division membership concerned and troubled by this proposal. We appeal to our elected leaders (i.e. the following groups: General Conference Administrative Committee, General Conference and Division Officers, and the General Conference Executive Committee) for a careful assessment and even spiritual accountability of how this proposed compliance process represents best leadership practices for the Adventist Church. The proposed compliance committee process will take us far from our roots as a movement.

We remain in prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we continue to uphold the mission of our church.

Speak to the Earth, and it Will Teach You » It's about this time of year, when the air gets a hint of chill in it and the trees start to turn red and gold, that my mind and heart wander back to Yosemite Valley where I spent the first four years out of college teaching outdoor school. This was my favorite season in Yosemite—a season when it seemed all nature breathed anticipation—every leaf gloriously present in the moment but eagerly hinting at what was to come. Time spent there in the Valley restored my soul. *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”* (Psalm 19:1)

I'm currently reading the book, *The Nature Fix: Why nature makes us happier, healthier, and more creative* by Florence Williams. What's interesting is that a lot of the concepts shared in this book are principles the Bible has been telling us for centuries.

In her book, Florence writes about how nature affects our bodies through our different senses. She shares how psychology studies using birdsong consistently show improvements in mood and mental alertness.



Job says to ask the birds and they will tell you that life and breath come from God's hands. (Job 12:7-10)

Natural killer immune cells (a type of white blood cell that protects us from disease agents) are boosted by "aromatic volatile substances", otherwise known as "nice tree smells". These are essential oils emitted by evergreens and many other trees.

David sings of how God restores his soul in green pastures and beside still waters, anointing his head with oil. (Psalm 23:1-6)

Nature views are shown to support increased worker productivity, less job stress, higher academic grades and test scores and less aggression in inner-city residents. One researcher went further, proving that easy-to-process scenes such as those found in nature trigger the release of natural opiates in the brain. Studies show that when people walk in nature, they obsess over negative thoughts much less than when they walk in a city.

All those years ago, Jesus said if you're anxious to just consider the lilies, how they grow without toiling or stressing, yet even Solomon wasn't arrayed as gloriously as one of them. (Matthew 6:28-30)

Psychologist Roger Ulrich found that surgery patients who were assigned to a room with a window view of trees needed fewer postoperative days in the hospital, requested less pain medication and were described in nurses' notes as having better attitudes than those patients with window views of brick walls. Years before him, Florence Nightingale wrote, "*It is the unqualified result of all my experience with the sick, that*

second only to their need of fresh air is their need of light.”

Japan, a country with the third highest suicide rate in the world, has begun using the practice of *Forest Bathing* as standard preventive medicine. This method supports healing and wellness through immersion in forests and other natural environments.

Within 200 milliseconds, people react positively when they see images of nature. Within 4-7 minutes in nature, you experience a decrease in heart rate, facial muscle tension, and changes in skin conductance. Within 15-20 minutes, you experience lower blood pressure, lower circulating cortisol and improved mood. At around 45-50 minutes of being in nature, many people show stronger cognitive performance as well as feelings of vitality and psychological reflection.

Martin Luther once said, *“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”*

On our last day of Outdoor School in Yosemite Valley, students do a solo hike through the meadow. Before I would send them off to soak up their surroundings, (and hopefully not get lost), I would read them one of my favorite passages from Steps to Christ: *“God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green – all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy.”* (Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ)

When we spend time in nature, I believe we experience God in a way that we can’t sitting in a pew or reading a book. There’s something special about feeling God’s love reflected in a golden leaf or the piney scent of the forest.

So why not step outside today, breathe in the fresh air, walk through the crunchy leaves, listen to the birds singing and see how God wants to restore you?

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:19-20)

-- Shannon Werner; text and photo

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APPEARING » Attend **THE APPEARING this weekend, and invite a friend!** The ancients predicted it. Millions of people can't stop talking about it. And even though global unrest and natural disasters indicate it will happen soon, few agree on exactly how or when it will happen. Is it possible that many people are making a mistake about the Appearing — an event mentioned more than 2,500 times in the Bible? Don't miss THE APPEARING, hosted by Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director Shawn Boonstra and local pastors. It all begins this week (Thursday or Friday) at a church near you. [Find a host location near you and test your knowledge about the Second Coming at appearing.org.](#)

Campion Church » The LOVE REALITY tour is coming to Campion Church **October 15-20, 6:30 p.m.** Join this seminar to experience the freedom and joy of learning who you really are in Jesus. Explore your identity, purpose, and worth. Free nightly refreshments. Childcare provided. For more information or to RSVP, call 970-667-7403. Campion Church is located at 300 W 42nd Street SW, Loveland.

Colorado Springs Central » "Preparation for the Second Coming Through Prayer and the Holy Spirit" is the title of the week of prayer being held October 20 - 25 with Roy Rugless as speaker. A former conference director, he is a revivalist and evangelist. The meetings will begin with the Sabbath church service at 10:45 a.m. The Sabbath afternoon program will begin after lunch and weeknight meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. Note that a potluck lunch will be held between the October 20 church service and the afternoon meeting. Also, a free dinner will be served each weeknight beginning at 5 p.m. Programming available for children. For more information, call the church office at 719-578-5616. Colorado

Springs Central is located at 1305 N Union Blvd., Colorado Springs CO 80909.

ACS Disaster Response Training » Become certified in Donations Management and help people in need during a disaster like Hurricane Florence in North Carolina from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., **October 21** at Campion Church. The \$25 charge covers your manual, lunch and photo ID.. This training is recognized by FEMA and the State of Colorado Emergency Management.

Instructor Cathy Kissner is the Rocky Mountain Conference Community Service Director. She is certified in NAD ACSDR, FEMA, and Colorado Division of Emergency Management to be a training instructor in Donations Management. For pre-registration, email cathyk@rmcsda.org. Spanish manuals are available.

MHA Bring a Friend Day » Mile High Academy is hosting "Bring a Friend Day," Thursday, **October 25** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students in all grades can bring a friend to school to experience student life at MHA and to join in the activities planned for the day. Along with Bring a Friend Day, families interested in finding out more about the school are welcome to attend the Open House, held concurrently with Bring a Friend Day. Your child will love interacting in the classrooms with peers, teachers, and friends. A pizza lunch is included. RSVP at ahammond@milehighacademy.org.

The Adventure » Join The Adventure Church as they celebrate 20 years of existence on Sabbath, October 27. Sabbath School (10:00 a.m.), Special Worship Service (11:15 a.m.), Soup/Sandwich Potluck, Afternoon Program/Open House (2:30 p.m.), 20s-Themed Dinner (5:30 p.m. - location TBD). Come see the newly-renovated church at 4100 W. 20th Street, Greeley, Colorado. RSVP for dinner to cher@theadventure.org

Mile High Academy » It's time for the event of the year. Join Mile High Academy on Sunday, **October 28** for ***Eat, Mingle & Give***, our annual auction event benefiting MHA's Annual Fund. Hosted at the Centennial TOPGOLF, you can play a round or two of golf or simply sit back and enjoy catching up with friends. Dinner will be served followed by the ever-eventful live auction. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m., dinner and golf held from 4 - 6 pm and live auction begins at 6 p.m. The cost is \$85 per person. Reserve tickets now at <https://events.readysetauction.com/milehighacademy/mha201> For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jocelyn Aalborg at jaalborg@milehighacademy.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mile High Academy » Immediate openings are available for substitute teachers for all grade levels at Mile High Academy. Applicants should have experience working with children and be able to maintain a positive classroom environment while carrying out the teacher's lesson plans in classrooms as assigned. High school diploma required. Bachelors or some college preferred. Days/hours are on an as-needed basis. For more information, please contact Brenda Rodie at 303-744-1069. For an application, send an email request to HR@rmcsda.org.

HMS Richards Elementary » Part-time preschool teacher needed at HMS. We are growing and looking for an enthusiastic teacher to lead our preschool program. Must be ECE teacher certified. Do not need to be director certified. Please contact Davin Hammond or Kari Lange for more information @ [\(970\) 667-2427](tel:(970)667-2427).

Vista Ridge Academy » Seeking candidates for a **Part-time Extended Care Supervisor** (8-10 hours per week). Candidates must be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and available to work after school. For more information, please contact Sandy Hodgson at 303.828.4944 or shodgson@vistaridge.org.

ESL Teacher Needed for Mile High Academy Sister School 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 Vunileva at tvunileva@milehighacademy.org for questions or to submit your resume.

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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