Churches Share Worldly Goods With Their Sisters and Brothers in Need » With temperatures beginning to dip into the low 30s and snow in the forecast, it's no time for anyone to be sleeping outside.

The Metro-Denver Homeless Initiative's last Point-in-Time survey estimated there are 6,130 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Denver-Metro area on any given night. Across Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico, there are many thousands more.

The reasons for so much homelessness are many and varied, but the need for safe housing remains. While our churches cannot wipe out the problem, they can do something to alleviate the need in their communities.

Several of our churches are doing just that. As early as 2001, the Golden Church began hosting homeless guests in their gymnasium for a one-week period. When Faith Lutheran Church joined them in hosting a second week in the gymnasium, it allowed guests to stay in one place for two weeks. Working with Family Promise, a national organization created to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence, the Golden Church houses up to five families during their rotation feel safe and welcomed. They set up an elaborate array of tarps to provide individual
family rooms and collaborate with eight Golden area churches to offer their guests showers and a washer and dryer.

During the two-week period that the homeless guests sleep in their gymnasium, members of the Golden Church, along with other area churches, provide dinners each night. They also provide breakfast foods and lunch items which the guests prepare for themselves.

According to Betty Pelley, coordinator of the program at the Golden Church, the families are given the opportunity to refine their employment skills, apply for jobs, move into stable housing and focus on other goals.

“Guests document goals with weekly updates," shares Betty, "and they also document the jobs they've applied for." Family Promise also "offers classes on budgeting, being a tenant, parenting skills, and other topics," according to Betty.

Vivien Vasquez, conference worker and wife of the Golden pastor states, "We feel blessed that we have the opportunity to serve these people and to work with other denominations who are also doing the same work to help our community."

The Boulder Church provides a once-a-week shelter for the homeless in the downstairs of their church. Through Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow (BOHO), they open their doors to 35-40 people every Tuesday night.

Other area churches act as hosts in their own facilities, covering different nights of the week and BOHO busses the homeless from one place to another.

While the churches supply the evening meal, BOHO takes care of everything else, even supplying staff, bedding and toiletries. This frees up time for the Boulder Church members to interact with their guests. "The group of homeless people we work with are absolutely delightful," shares Becky De Oliveria, a Boulder Church member and wife of Pastor Japhet. "They are funny, bright, interesting, and gracious. My two boys (ages 11 and 15) help each week and we have a lot of fun talking to the people."

Boulder Church also operates a year-round Residents Shelter for a small group of long-term homeless individuals with a history of good behavior.

LifeSource Fellowship works with Urban Peak, an organization that helps youth ages 15 through 24 who are experiencing homelessness, by preparing a meal for the youth the first Monday of every month.

Pastor Dany Hernandez loves to cook shares Colleen Ordelheide, church treasurer, and "the kids love it when he comes," she continues "because he's such a good cook and he..."
We salute these churches for taking to heart John’s statement in I John 3:17, “If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart to him, how does God's love abide in him?” [Carol Bolden]

**Journey Through Decades of Popular Music Delights Campion Audience »**

Presenting music from past decades on October 31, Campion Academy's music groups delighted their audience with nostalgic hits from Copeland, Simon & Garfunkel, Gershwin and Billy Joel during their "A Sentimental Journey" music presentation.

A challenging Beatles medley, performed by Junior Natalie Boonstra, along with The Campanas handbells, included "Yesterday," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and "Long and Winding Road". We enjoyed the Beatles piece a lot," states Ms. Boonstra, "so we were motivated to work harder because we were having fun," she explained.

"We accomplished some difficult things in a short amount of time," remarked orchestra director Yves Clouzet after the percussionists outdid themselves during their performance of Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" and "Soul Bossa Nova."

Campion's music department designed the program to expose its students to some arrangements of older music, give them the opportunity to learn some jazz elements, and showcase their talent.

Parents and other family members traveled from around the Midwest to experience the musical production.

"It was nostalgic for the audience," said Alyse Maxwell. Senior Gabrielle Williams, soprano in the choir said, "A woman from the audience came up to me and said she played "Autumn Leaves" when she was in high school," Gabrielle reported.

The concert gets only about four weeks of practice according to Yves Clouzet. He intentionally chose more challenging orchestra pieces and discovered that the students worked well under pressure.

Audience members expressed their appreciation for the music they heard by donating almost enough to purchase a new baritone saxophone. The music department will perform its Christmas concert on December 12. [Jenny Sigler]
Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference, discusses the NAD Statement on Human Sexuality during the NAD Year-end Meeting held October 30, 2015. ©2015 NAD Communication/Dan Weber

The North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church proposed a “Statement on Human Sexuality” at their Year-end Meeting on Oct. 29, 2015. After more than two hours of discussion, several revisions were incorporated into the statement, and the statement was approved on Nov. 2, 2015, by a vote of 74-17.

“Practical and compassionate theology,” was the description given by one executive committee member. The document states that the Adventist Church in North America seek to “follow the model of Jesus” and offer “unconditional love and compassion to everyone.”

The statement declares that the NAD stands in full support of the General Conference (GC) guidelines regarding human sexuality, marriage, family, homosexuality, and same-sex union. The GC guidelines, released in spring 2014, address how the church responds to “changing cultural attitudes regarding homosexual and other alternative sexual practices.”

The statement is “presented not as a theological document but as one drawing from biblical teachings, some practical understandings and guidelines for the Adventist Church in North America.” (A copy of the statement is available here.)

During the late-morning presentation on Oct. 29, Kyoshin Ahn, NAD associate secretary and chair of the human sexuality committee, referenced the GC guidelines, introduced the committee and process, and presented the human sexuality statement. Ahn explained that the committee recognized that the church should “follow the model of Jesus Christ in the way we treat people. No way can we handle every situation; we wanted to set a direction.”

Committee members took turns reading sections of the four-page statement, which was read in its entirety. The statement, after final revision on Nov. 2, addresses 12 topics: biblical principles, orientation and practice, nature and nurture, church attendance and Christian fellowship, church membership, leadership roles, employment, educational institutions, facilities use, marriage ceremony, healthcare ministries, and transgenderism. Committee members, including Ahn, Larry Blackmer, Claudio Consuegra, Marcus Harris, Heather Knight, Grace Mackintosh, Alan Parker, Katia Reinert, and Gerald Winslow, answered questions and listened to concerns during the discussion periods.

While a few spoke on how the document was “a good start” but wondered “how much was based on real-life conversations with people who are in the categories listed,” comments from the NAD constituency were appreciative and generally favorable.

One executive committee delegate thanked the NAD for the statement, saying it was caring and biblical, and that “Jesus was crucified in the middle—where truth and love connect.”

Before NAD presented the statement, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, shared a 21-page position paper on “An Understanding of the Biblical View on...
Homosexual Practice and Pastoral Care.

According to Jiri Moskala, Ph.D, dean of the Adventist Theological Seminary, "The [Andrews] document is very balanced . . . it combines love and grace together. In this, it is very Adventist." The document uses Scripture to show the "Biblical teaching on sin and how our sinful inclinations can be controlled by the Holy Spirit, by God's grace." (To read the Andrews document, visit https://www.andrews.edu/sem/statements/seminary-statement-on-homosexuality-edited-10-8-15-jm-final.pdf.

By Kimberly Luste Maran, writing for the Office of Communication

WORDS TO PONDER

"If you're going to plant churches that don't love all sinners, that don't care about what happens outside walls of the building, whose only purpose is to change the religion of people and judge their behavior, then don't plant churches. We have enough churches like that already. But if you're going to plant churches that are centered on the salvation of God and compassion of Jesus, churches that will be agents of transformation in the community, then don't plant one church, plant 1000 churches." --José Cortés Jr. Associate Director, NAD Ministerial Association

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FROM THE EDITOR

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--Editor

Share the News Nuggets with your congregation » Add a note to your church bulletin or newsletter with the following URL: www.bit.ly/RMChnews

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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Responding to Human Needs Essential to Spiritual Leadership » During the month of October one-hundred and seventy-one years ago, a group of young people experienced a great disappointment. Their names are recognizable, but their ages are quite surprising. Ellen Harmon, founder of our church, was just 16; J.N. Andrews, who played a pivotal role in the establishment of Adventist theology, was 15; Uriah Smith, editor of the Review and Herald, was 13; George Butler, General Conference president, was 10. These young people, along with a number of others near their ages, became the backbone of the fledgling Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The church's youth today, many Seventh-day Adventist believers will attest, are no less talented and no less passionate than those of the 19th century. However, you will find that half of our
young people are slipping out the back door. Although they may have a heart for God, they haven't found a place in the church where they belong, nor have they found a place where they can make a difference.

When Ron Whitehead was youth director for the Rocky Mountain Conference (1987-1996), he realized that the young adult ministry was not thriving despite his best efforts to build it up through programs such as Winterfest and international camporees. He began to envision churches of refuge where young people could feel safe and welcomed. He realized the youth department couldn’t do it all and that the local church could do so much to encourage and build up their youth who could, indeed, carry leadership roles.

By 2005, he had designed a training program centered on nine values important for becoming a Church of Refuge (COR). These churches are congregations that welcome and empower youth and young adults for spiritual leadership. To date, there are 24 churches of refuge in North America and 130 in two divisions in Europe. Whitehead lists these COR values as essential to build the Church of Refuge:

- Sabbath: COR is committed to providing a meaningful Sabbath experience
- Discipleship: COR is committed to discipleship through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Acceptance: COR is committed to accepting people just as Jesus did
- Community: COR is committed to building community
- Support: COR is committed to supporting young adults with their life challenges
- Service: COR is committed to demonstrating God's love through acts of service
- Leadership: COR is committed to young adult leadership
- Budget: COR is committed to investing financially in youth and young adult ministry
- Change: COR is committed to change that leads to improved senior youths and young adults ministry

The Brighton Church became the most recent Church of Refuge in North America when they hosted Ron Whitehead for the weekend of October 16 and 17. Through a Friday evening casual social, COR representatives, along with the pastor and elders of the church, had the opportunity to hear what the youth and young adults had to say and to become better acquainted. The Friday night social was followed by a Sabbath message presented during the worship hour by the COR director, Ron Whitehead, who cast a vision for being a church of refuge.

The afternoon training session, presented by the COR team, explained the importance of incorporating the nine COR values in youth and young adult ministries, values that youth and young adults look for when they attend church.

"Young people want to go to a church that doesn't just talk, sing, and pray about the poor. They want to DO something for the poor," explains Ron Whitehead.

"Christ met people's felt needs," states Whitehead. "That's what we're trying to do for young adults."

"When I was in Minnesota at the Hutchison church," says Wayne Morrison, pastor of the Brighton Church, we became a church of refuge, so when we came here, I wanted to do the same. I hope to do that at every church I pastor," Morrison finishes.

"The responses I've gotten from our members [after the COR
weekend] are extremely positive," Morrison explains. "They want to move ahead in being intentional about giving young adults power in the church."

The Brighton Church has young adults as elders, others leading in ministry, one as a finance chair, another as school board chair and several young adults on the nominating committee.

"Not only do we want them here, but we want to give them leadership roles. I'm very excited about where we are right now," exudes Morrison. "It will make a huge difference in the next three to four years."

For more information about churches of refuge, go to the Center for Youth Evangelism (cye) at http://www.cye.org/article/116/cye-ministries/church-of-refuge

[Carol Bolden with Heidi Littell]

"Own It" Youth Event Inspires RMC Young Adults to "Own the Church"

Boulder Adventist Church hosted the Rocky Mountain Conference's first Young Adult Day, October 24! About 50 Adventist young adults from numerous congregations of the conference joined activities and presentations throughout the day.

Reporting on the event, Jessyka Albert, young adult pastor from Boulder, said, "We worshiped and sang with one another, ate, and fellowshipped together. Consequently, we realized the importance of owning our church with one another."

Paddy McCoy, our speaker for the day and lead chaplain at Walla Walla University, challenged the group to start owning their faith and owning their church by, "Being the church you wish to see in the world." His message was a call to start being, start doing, and start living out our faith.

Throughout the day, young adults not only had time to listen, but also to respond. After church, the young adults broke into groups of 5-7 and discussed the message and the challenge posed by Paddy. They were also able to voice their questions to a panel of leaders in the Rocky Mountain Conference that resulted in great discussion and ideas for how the conference can better connect with the young adults from around the conference.

Several participants said the event, co-hosted by the RMC Youth Department and the Boulder Church Young Adults Ministry, provided a valuable day for them as it provided time to reflect, connect with one another, and start showing their presence in the church. Commenting on the "Own It" gathering, one anonymous participant stated in a survey, that "the speaker made me really think about taking ownership in my church."

Jessyka, commented on what inspired her most, "was what this day represented. On Saturday, I saw the church reaching out to its young people and the young people reaching out to their church. What we saw here at Boulder was the body of Christ exercising together."
Organizers and participants expressed hope this was only the beginning of what is to come as they pull together as a church and as the body of Christ.

“It’s time to stop standing alone, and time to start standing together,” Jessyka stated. [Jessyka Albert; photos by Shannon Werner (top) and Heidi Littell]

**Campion’s Art Department Receives Donation, Plans Art Installation »**

Campion’s art department received a $3,500 donation from the Loveland Sculpture Group, October 27, enabling art teacher Jamie Autrey to design a student art installation in the school hallway. Victor Issa, a former Campion art teacher and current president of the group presented Autrey with a check during art class.

The gift was a surprise to Autrey. “I was flabbergasted. What a blessing from God!” he said. Besides paying for tools and materials, the money will go towards installing a ceramic tile installation in the hallway outside of the art classroom. His second semester clay class will begin working on the project.

The Loveland Sculpture Group sponsors the Loveland Sculpture Invitational Show and Sale, which has featured over 300 artists at a time. Over the years they have donated 25 sculptures to the city of Loveland and $200,000 to school district art programs. After 23 years, the group is disbanding. Their donation to Campion is one of their last actions. [Jenny Sigler; photo by Steve Eickmann. Pictured, Don Reeder, Victor Issa, president of the Loveland Sculpture, and Jamie Autrey]

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SCHOOLS**

Spud-gleaning and fundraising have become part of the curriculum at **Sunshine Elementary School** in Alamosa. And the students have become adept at both.
To honor Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September, students held a 5K fun-run and designated 50 percent of their earnings to a local public school third grader, Peyton Sanchez, who is fighting a brain-stem tumor.

When the money came in, Sunshine School staff, along with the families of a few of the students were able to present Peyton with a check for $4,000 to help with his transportation costs to and from treatment. They also had the privilege of surrounding Peyton and praying for his journey through treatment and recovery.

Sunshine Elementary has been involved in other outreach projects as well. Now in its fourth year, spud-gleaning has become a tradition at the school. Nearly 600 pounds of potatoes were gathered in early October by students, staff, parents, and homeschool friends at Sunny Valley Farms in Center, Colorado. This truckload of potatoes was then donated to the Alamosa Food Bank and La Puente Shelter. "Our kids really enjoy collecting the potatoes," says Sue Kanen, Sunshine supporter. [photos by Jenn Heisey]

Discover School in Farmington, New Mexico, spent four days at the Crow Canyon Archeological Center in Cortez after they were given a grant for this learning experience.

They were treated to four days of programming, along with food and an overnight stay, all included in the grant.

The archeological site is a 170-acre research center and living classroom offering experiential education programs for kids and adults interested in studying archeology and Native American cultures. The 13 students who attended were able to stay in hogans, visit Indian ruins, handle ancient pottery, and experience their own archeological dig. They also learned about the ancestral puebloan people and heard
NEW PASTOR

Steve Nelson is the new pastor for the Worland, Ten Sleep, Cody and Powell churches in Wyoming and will begin his service December 1. Pastor Steve has served in Iowa-Missouri for the past four years in Council Bluff and New Bedford. Before his time in Iowa-Missouri, he served three years in the Illinois Conference. He brings unique skills in using technology and the web as an evangelistic tool. He is also certified in counseling and as a family life professional. Steve’s wife, Samantha, directs Hope for Survivors Ministry that supports victims of clergy sexual abuse through biblical counseling and support services. Welcome to Rocky Mountain Conference, Samantha and Steve!

OCTOBER BAPTISMS

Aspen Park: Randy Kuta
Campion: Antonio Pastrana Jr.
Carbon Valley: Mary Gonzalez, Theresa Varela
Chapel Haven: Doug Ellis, Jeanie Ellis, Chuck Vanstromk Marcia Mares, Frank Ricardo Pena, Rosalind Vanstrom

RMC EVENTS
NAD Sabbath School Investment Program » The Sabbath School Investment Program has gone through some changes that will be of interest to participating churches and church that may want to get involved.

- Kellogg's is no longer affiliated with the labels program. The new company in charge is Atlantic Natural Foods (ANF).
- NAD has voted that every conference that participates in this program will keep the funds generated and distribute them at it discretion.
- Every participating church should send the labels and required paperwork to its local conference. Each conference will then send the documents to ANF.
- The guidelines and forms can be downloaded from this link: http://www.igivesda.org/article/27/tithe-offerings/investment-forms-atlantic-natural-foods-labels

ANNOUNCEMENTS

La Vida Mission » In order to safely transport very young Navajo children, La Vida Mission needs ten booster and car seats for their vans at the cost of $50 each. If you would like to help with this need, mark your donation "Car Seat". Or, if you have questions or a new car seat you would like to donate, call 505-786-5539.

Campion Academy Music Department » Campion's music department presents their fall concert, A Sentimental Journey at 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening, October 31, in their gymnasium. The concert will feature favorites from throughout the decades, including hits from Gershwin, the Beatles, Billy Joel, and Simon and Garfunkel. All groups are participating and everyone is invited!

Arvada Church » Jaime Jorge will be in concert at 6 p.m. this Sabbath, October 31, at the Arvada Church at 7090 W 64th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80003. For more information, call 303-549-6217.

Brighton Academy » Come to a Christ-centered, family-friendly "Fall on the Farm" Fall Festival at 6:30 p.m. Saturday night, October 31 to enjoy food, games and other activities. A 5:30 p.m. vespers will take place at the Brighton Church with K-6 grades presenting the musical drama, "What's Up, Zak? -- A Musical Encounter with Jesus."

Littleton Church » Hear Jaime Jorge, violin virtuoso, in concert October 31 at Littleton Church during the worship service. He will captivate you with his story and music.

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Twin Peaks Fellowship (Louisville)  »  A free concert with Jaime Jorge will take place at 5 p.m., November 1. Jaime has played in a high school setting as well as Carnegie Hall. He has played on six continents and in more than 40 countries. His music and personal story of God’s leading will captivate.

The Adventure Church  »  The Breathe Free program will be offered for several days beginning at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 4, at The Adventure Church, 4100 W 20th Street, Greeley, CO 80634. If you know someone who could benefit from this potentially life-changing and life-saving event or if you want to register, contact Sheri Troedel at 970-238-0985 or sheritroedel@yahoo.com.

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NOTICE

Notice of Constituent Church Meeting for the Denver Adventist Community Services Center (The Lift)

DATE: Sunday, November 1
TIME: 9 a.m. to noon
LOCATION: Porter Adventist Hospital, Twin Peaks Conference Room
REQUEST: Each church to send delegates to participate in this important business meeting and to vote on the updated Constitution and Bylaws

The Denver Adventist Community Services Center (now known as The Lift) is holding a Constituent Church business meeting. This meeting will focus on:

• Providing important updates about operations and finances
• Voting on a revised Constitution and Bylaws
• Establishing stronger relationships with Constituent Churches
• Helping the Board of Trustees and staff make decisions about the future of the organization

The Lift has been undergoing an important transformation over the past few years to better meet the needs of the community and clients we are here to serve and to make Christ the visible reason and purpose for all we do. However, over this same time period, we also have experienced a “perfect storm” of events and circumstances that have resulted in a very serious financial situation. Additionally, our base of both institutional (church) and individual (church members and others) donors has declined substantially in numbers and in dollars contributed.

Simultaneously with the drop in our income, we have continued to experience increases in client needs across all of our programs. If we are to remain a viable organization in our community, we must ensure more stable, steady and diversified revenue streams.
sources of income. This includes rebuilding relationships with our Constituent Churches and their members, as well as partnerships with area hospitals, other community service organizations and foundations.

We need each church in the Denver-Metro area to participate in our Constituent meeting on Sunday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Twin Peaks conference room at Porter Adventist Hospital. We are asking pastors and church boards to identify delegates to participate in a discussion and vote on important organizational business. Our current Constitution and Bylaws allow for churches to appoint one delegate for every 200 members or portion of 200. (For example, if a church has 250 members, it would appoint 2 delegates.)

For questions related to the Constituent meeting or The Lift, or to get copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws, please contact Executive Director Debbie Jackson or Board Chair Stephanie Denning or see linked documents below.

We prayerfully request your engagement and look forward to meeting with you!

Stephanie Denning

Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws
(http://www.rmcsda.org/amended-and-restated-constitution-and-bylaws) of Seventh-day Adventist Services of Denver Doing business as "The Lift"

Application for The Lift Constituent Church Membership
(http://www.rmcsda.org/application-for-the-lift-constituent-church-membership)

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