On Aug. 12, against a backdrop of tighter finances and dwindling enrollments at Adventist colleges and universities in North America, school administrators and church leaders voted overwhelmingly in favor of forming a “strategic alliance” to strengthen the overall educational system. The four-day summit was held in Chicago after the NAD Teachers' Convention. MORE

Altamonte Springs-based Adventist Health System, one of the largest faith-based health care systems in the U.S., with nearly 50 hospital campuses and more than 80,000 employees, today announced that it will soon become AdventHealth. With the name change, the health system will move to being one consumer-centric, connected and identifiable national system of care for every stage of life and health. MORE
Engaging, friendly, wonderful, and fun were words used by exhibitors at the NAD Teachers’ Convention to describe their interactions with attendees. Throughout the four-day convention in Chicago, 6,000 participants engaged more than 200 exhibits that featured Adventist college and university opportunities, educational products, Adventist ministries, and innovative programs. MORE

Nearly 6,000 Adventist educators gathered in Chicago last week for the 2018 NAD Teachers' Convention. Those gathered for the convention had many opportunities to learn, network, and worship together. WATCH a short summary video of the event; and CLICK HERE for a video news report from the Pacific Union.

Loma Linda University Medical Center has been recognized as a Best Hospital for 2018-19 by U.S. News & World Report. Ranked as the No.

On Aug. 7, most of the nearly 6,000 educators expected to attend the 2018 NAD Teachers’ Convention were checking in while Monte Saxby, math, physics, and computer
1 hospital in the Riverside and San Bernardino metro area, LLUMC was also nationally ranked in gynecology and recognized as “high performing” in seven other areas. MORE

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

Chicago Conference Draws Thousands of Seventh-day Adventist Educator (Ill.)

Adventist Health Bakersfield Offering Scholar Program for Med Students (Calif.)

Seventh-day Adventists Open New Educational Facility (Okla.)

Puppies from Yucaipa Animal Placement Society Visit Cancer Patients at LLU Children’s Hospital Clinic

Two Local Churches of Different Denominations have Bonded Together for Mutual Benefit (Mass.)

Free Clinic Offers Medical, Vision, and Dental Services at Portland Adventist Academy (Ore.)

Understanding Alzheimer’s Event Co-Hosted by Adventist Health Lodi Memorial (Calif.)

Awaiting "Glory" at the New Eden Adventist Church (N.J.)

Equal Justice Group Meets with Community at Compton Community Adventist Church (Calif.)

Gainesville Group Leads Women to Self-Sufficiency (Fla.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES

Time is almost up — August Deadline for Upgrading Church Websites! If your church is using Adventist Church Connect (ACC) website software, upgrade now to the new 3.0 system. ACC 3.0 offers new templates that work on desktop and mobile
devices, an online calendar that you can sync with iCal or Google calendar, and more. Churches that are not upgraded by August will be converted to a single page data-driven site. Upgrade Now

The Conscience and Justice Council (CJC) invites you to its 3rd annual conference, Sept. 13-16, in Houston, Texas, for a spirit-filled, provocative, and empowering convention exploring the freedom and equality issues impacting this country and the world. This CJC Freedom and Equality Convention will discuss mass incarceration, mental health, voting, immigration, persecution, evangelism, prophecy and more. CLICK HERE for more information.

Join in the EYE RUN, an eye health awareness event and fundraiser, on Oct. 7 at Holmes Lake Park in Lincoln, Neb., or wherever you are as a virtual runner/walker! Participants can select one of three events: One Miler Run/Walk (free), 5K Run/Walk, and 10K Run. Online registration is open now! Enjoy discounted registration when registering as a team. Registration is FREE for anyone who is blind and their sighted guide. CLICK HERE to learn more.

Register now to get the SAC early bird rate! You are invited to the 29th annual convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators, Oct.18-20, in Columbia, Md. Join us for three full days of engaging keynotes, workshops, local media tours, panel discussions, and networking sessions. Price goes up after Sept. 30! Register HERE.

Critical Components of Effective and Lasting Pastors. This course from ALC provides pastors with
the important components needed to maintain an effective and long-lasting ministry in the local church setting. Discover ways to improve preaching and pacing, with special attention given to strategies for pastors hoping to take better care of their own personal spiritual and emotional health during ministry. **CLICK HERE** for this 1 CEU course.

**The Appearing is coming this October!** On Oct. 11-15, churches across North America will present a new series from the Voice of Prophecy called *The Appearing*, hosted by Pastor Shawn Boonstra and local pastors. Following in the footsteps of the award-winning *Shadow Empire* and *A Pale Horse Rides* series, this five-part event will only be available in local churches and will combine cutting-edge media with Bible clarity to reveal what Scripture actually says about the Second Coming. To encourage your church to host the series, **CLICK HERE!**

**CALENDAR**

**August**

12-18  **Prayer Focus:** Southeastern California Conference
18  **Offering:** Local Church Budget
19-25  **Prayer Focus:** Southern California Conference
25  *editnow* Emphasis Day
25  **Offering:** Local Conference Advance

**August Focus:**

- Spiritual Gifts
- **Prayer Focus:**
  - Pacific Union

**September**

1  **Men’s Day of Prayer**
1  **Offering:** Local Church Budget
8  **Offering:** World Budget

**September Focus:**

- Health
- **Prayer Focus:**
  - SDA Church in...
ADVENTIST JOURNEY

Mission Upfront: "Strangers at a Funeral" by Andrea Keele, pp. 05

Feature: "Hearing Their Hearts" by Kimberly Luste Maran, p. 06-08

NAD News Briefs: "ACS Disaster Response Advisory Inspires Collaboration, Addresses Need; V. Bailey Gillespie, Adventist Educator and Valuegenesis Leader, Passes to His Rest; Andrews University Student Awarded Barry Goldwater Scholarship; Oakwood University Receives Crystal Apple Award; Rocky Mountain Conference Pastor Honored for Public Service; NAD Leader Becomes Highest Ranking Adventist Chaplain in U.S. Navy Reserve; Youth Distribute Petition Urging Fairness and Humanity," pp. 10-13

Perspective: "Learning and Loving for Eternity" by Larry Blackmer, p. 14

This magazine is mailed to Adventists in North America; click HERE to download the PDF.

VIEWPOINTS
"Become a student of your students. Study them like a missionary studies culture, language, heroes, symbols, rituals — humble yourself. And recognize that you are not normal. You were born in a very particular place in the world. In a continent, in a nation, in a state, in a city, in a neighborhood. You and I were born in a very particular point in history. You and I learned very particular patterns of thinking, of feeling, and patterns of behaving (culture); we learned these patterns from a very particular group of people so everything [we] do is culturally conditioned. ... Just because you're normal among the group of people that shaped you, don't make the mistake of believing that you are also the norm by which everybody else should be evaluated. Your normal is not everybody else’s normal."

— Manny Scott, on Aug. 8, 2018, during his address at the NAD Teachers' Convention in Chicago, Ill.