



BIG CONCERTS ANNOUNCED | PAGE 14



Help Metro Voice Celebrate
Pastor Appreciation Month in
October! Details below, left

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 9

September 2013

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localnews

Capitol Briefing for Pastors
and Ministry Leaders

Pastors and ministry leaders (and all believers) are invited to a briefing Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at First Southern Baptist Church in Topeka. Led by David Barton of Wallbuilders and Neil Mammen, author of 40 Days



Toward a More Godly Nation, answers will be given to such questions as: What is the Biblical role of government? What is the Church's role in government? Whose job is it to take care of the poor and oppressed? Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. For info: cultureshield.com or call 316-516-0777. (See pg 2)

Win your pastor a vacation!

October is National Pastor Appreciation Month. The Metro Voice will again hold a contest and you are invited to share with us a short letter explaining why you have the world's best pastor! Keep it to 300 words or less (we know, your pastor is so great you could write a book!). Send your entry to us by Sept. 24 and we'll publish them in our October issue and announce the winning pastor. You could win great concert tickets! Mail your letter to Metro Voice, PO Box 1114, Lee's Summit, MO 64063 or email the paper at Dwight@metrovoicenews.com.

It's never too early to plan the perfect retreat

Big or small, these tips will help any size group find rest

by Dwight Widaman

With church and family budgets tight, folks planning retreats, reunions and other gatherings are looking for just the right place—close to home, affordable and memorable.

Metro Voice has put together our Fall

Retreat Guide with tips on planning your gathering as well as the stories behind the retreat facilities we recommend.

Inside you'll find options near Kansas City to just a morning's drive away. All offer top-notch facilities and unbeaten hospitality.

See RETREAT page 9



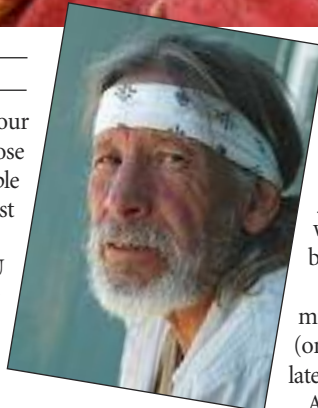
Advocacy photography
project brings Lakota
plight to believers

Vicki Brown | Special to MV

BOLIVAR, Mo. — A chance statement four years ago has led to a broken heart, a purpose and a lifelong commitment to the Lakota people for Kurt Caddy and now for Southwest Baptist University (SBU) students.

The director of university ministries at SBU in Bolivar, "always had sort of an affinity" for Native Americans, he said. During one summer break while in college, he worked with the Eskimo in Alaska, and he put himself through seminary by creating Native American art.

One day about four years ago, he made a chance remark to his staff about his earlier connections and wondered aloud about life for Native Americans today. A staffer did an internet search for the topic and found "The Arrogance of Ignorance: Hidden Away, Out of Sight and Out of Mind" by Stephanie



Photos by Kurt Caddy

Schwartz, about conditions on the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Reservation in South Dakota.

As he read the article, Caddy said, "I was just stunned by the problems. I remember when putting it down, I said, 'Lord, I need to be there.'"

Unable to get the Lakotas' plight out of his mind and heart, Caddy traveled to Pine Ridge (one of seven Lakota reservations) about a year later to see the conditions himself.

An avid photographer, he had taken his camera along. "I had a burst of creativity that I hadn't had in a long time," he said.

God used the beauty and the misery to trigger that creative spurt. "The beauty and the pain were all close together. It is a

See PHOTOGRAPHY page 23

Ministry leaders
see film's potential

Area pastors echo
national response

by Dwight Widaman

Does every individual have God-given ability that most often goes untapped? A new movie [see the Aug. Metro Voice] puts that notion to the big screen and it's getting both national and local ministry leaders to lend enthusiastic support.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of successful entrepreneur/NASA scientist, Harold L. Finch, Ed.D., the movie Unlimited is set to premiere in Kansas City on October 10, at Cinemark Palace at the Plaza.

Through the inspirational message and stories of life and success, viewers will embark on a life-changing journey as they discover the secrets of reaching one's greatest potential.

"This movie is about the unlimited potential that I believe everybody has — and that almost everyone misses out on," said Harold Finch, who has spent much of his life encouraging, mentoring and training others.



See SUPPORT page 8

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~ 2013 CHURCH RETREAT GUIDE ~

WINDERMERE PERFECT FOR ONE TO HUNDREDS

Whether you're planning as an individual, family or for a conference of 1,500, we invite you to experience the relaxation and fun of Windermere, a Christ-centered resort and conference center located in central Missouri. Imagine yourself surrounded by a 300-acre nature reserve while gazing at one of the most beautiful coves on the premier lake destination in Missouri, Lake of the Ozarks. Conveniently located in the heart of Missouri we are a year round retreat center just minutes from world-class boating and fishing, shopping and dining.

Hear the giggles now from your family as they jump on our water trampolines, ride the giant aqua teeter-totter or climb to the top of the 2 story iceberg. Then slip to the other side of the full-service marina to spend a few minutes canoeing or riding the paddle boats. Maybe your clan would rather climb the rock wall at The EDGE adventure challenge course or ride the zip-line down from the 35-foot tower. Perhaps a round of disc golf, mini golf or a quick sand volleyball game fits the bill for your entertainment. Or just a quick cool down in our swimming pool after a day spent in the sun might sound more relaxing to you. However you spend the day, end it with s'mores by the campfire and a peaceful sleep in one of our family cabins, dorm rooms or deluxe hotel rooms. Leave the meals to our full service dining hall that also provides catering services.

■ See WINDERMERE page 23



How to plan and host a retreat

by **Christine Kane** | Event Planner

If you're passionate about the work you do, you've probably considered offering a getaway retreat so your clients can spend some intense high-focus time with you and other like-minded souls.

Sounds amazing, doesn't it? It is!

My list has now grown so much that I no longer offer these more intimate retreats. Now, I meet many coaches, consultants, trainers and ministry leaders who want to host their own retreats.

If this sounds like you, here are some tips — straight from my personal "been-there-done-that" files — for how to plan and host your own retreats

1 - Build a List of attendees

It's one thing to have a great idea for a retreat. But it's a whole other thing to find people to come!

The great news about retreats is that your list doesn't have to be huge in order to fill the spaces. Many retreat centers offer options for 10-person retreats.

Still, you need to have a list — whether it's your client database, or your eZine list — in order to market your retreat.

2 - Name your Retreat

Give your retreat a name. This grounds your idea with a vision and purpose.

At first, I just called my retreat: "Women's Retreat." (Not particularly exciting, huh?)

When I finally created the name, "The Unstoppable Power of Intention Retreat," I was much more excited at the prospect of my retreats — and many more women expressed interest!

3 - Decide How Many People You Want at Your Retreat

My retreats had anywhere from 22 — 35 people in them. Many of my clients have offered retreats for as few as 6 people. The choice is yours. What is ideal for you?

4 - Choose a Time for Your Retreat

Retreats can range anywhere from one to nine days. Or longer! If you're just getting started, I recommend a three-day

format. This makes it easy for your participants to plan, to arrange travel, and doesn't require too many days off from work. Of course, this is also dependent upon the content you want to deliver.

5 - Choose a Location for Your Retreat

Where do you want to host your retreat?

First, let's start with region.

I recommend that, at first, you keep your retreat within easy driving distance.

It's great to have familiar surroundings and not have to travel far. If you want to consider a more exotic location, it will obviously take a lot more planning on your part.

Next, let's talk about choosing a retreat center.

There are many retreat centers that provide amazing options (see advertisers in this guide). Some facilities are more luxurious, some more simple — but they do allow for an affordable retreat experience for you as a host — and for your clients.

I recommend that you choose a space



that offers lodging and meals. Something special happens to a group of people when they dine and sleep on site — without the distractions of the outer world.

Take time to shop around and explore your options, review your pricing and weigh the pros and cons of each location.

6 - Price your Retreat

Putting a price tag on your retreat can bring up lots of stuff.

But you must challenge yourself NOT to play small. Low prices can position your retreat as low-value.

Also, do not price your retreat just above the per-person price you're paying the retreat center. You need to plan for cancellations.

I encourage you to stretch yourself. Crunch the numbers and make sure your expenses are covered.

■ See RETREAT page 10

TALL OAKS: MORE THAN JUST A PLACE FOR CHURCH CAMPS AND RETREATS

The Tall Oaks Conference Center is a year-round camp/retreat center owned by the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) of Greater K.C. It is located on 340 acres of mostly riparian forest 30 miles west of downtown Kansas City.

Over 300 groups use Tall Oaks each year, ranging from mostly youth groups in the summer to adult usage during the majority of the rest of the year. We host sixteen Disciples camps during the summer. Other groups who make Tall Oaks home for a short period are:

Seven special needs camps during the summer include: MDA (Muscular Dystrophy), ADA (Diabetes), 2 autism/Asperger camps, sickle cell anemia youth, foster kids and kids with grief issues.

Craft Groups: Many adult groups for quilting, scrap-

booking, photography, and creative painting workshops have found a home at Tall Oaks.

Educational Groups: Many public school and college groups use Tall Oaks.

Tall Oaks boasts two of the best educational and recreational programs in the area.

One is the OAKS Program. It is an experiential program challenge course which uses three different levels of activities to teach teamwork, bonding, problem solving and leadership. The first level is ground games which are activities that groups do out on a lawn or meeting room space. The second level has over 20 low ropes course elements that are done on low apparatus



and do not take special safety equipment. Then the high ropes course has 8 elements that are up in the trees and use harness, belaying ropes, helmets and concludes with a zip line ride.

The Tall Oaks Equestrian program is an education

■ See TALL OAKS page 23

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Tall Oaks has housing in adult style housing, like the LLC Lodge pictured above, for up to 64 persons in "hotel style" rooms. Also, 5 dormitory cottages will house up to 110.

- Meals of an excellent quality for any type of event. Chef Bill Breen & his staff can prepare anything from kids camp meals to 5 course banquet meals.
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Call or visit us online for more information!
Non-Y Members are welcome!

RETREAT

continued from page 9

7 - Outline the Content of Your Retreat

Create a structure or framework that will guide the flow of each day. There's probably a natural beginning, middle and end you will follow. In each element, map out the activities and teaching that will be included.

The key thing about content is this: Don't "over teach."

Retreats (and events, too!) are meant to get participants to actually experience the work they never get to do at home. This means you have to give them the space to learn and take part in activities.

8 - Commit to a Date for Your Retreat.

Many people play the "Ready Aim"

game. They never actually fire. In other words, they never commit.

Yes, it can be scary to offer your first retreat – but commitment and decision are half the battle. Choose a date. And start marketing in your church, organization or Christian publications.

Bonus Tip #1: Keep it simple

If you're just getting started, don't try to plan a retreat on that Greek island you've always wanted to visit. Retreats are about learning and experience. Though adventure can be a component, many times retreat hosts make it harder on themselves by being too aggressive with their early retreat goals.

(HINT: This is often because they fear that they themselves are not "enough" – so they try to superficially make the retreat

seem more exciting. Don't do this.)

Bonus Tip #2: Allow space

Many years ago, I went to a personal growth retreat that literally exhausted me. The hosts were obviously so frightened of not giving enough content that they dragged the participants around from one activity to the next.

The best thing about this retreat? It taught me what NOT to do when I was hosting my own retreats!

My retreats had lots of space built into them. Yes, it can be scary to allow space because it feels like you're not working! But the gift of holding space for your participants IS working. And it provides a great value. Be strong enough to allow for this.

FOREST PARK IS THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS

Though just a few blocks off I-70 and just five minutes from downtown Topeka, Forest Park Conference and Retreat Center, located on 45-acres in a wooded valley of a forest, features wildlife such as deer, foxes, geese and a variety of other animals. Spending time at Forest Park is a great and inexpensive way to unwind and relax in a secluded area. It's not unusual to see a family of deer stroll by. With such a rustic setting located in a thickly forested area, a person would not guess that they are so close to the city.

Even though it's so close to the city, Forest Park may be one of Kansas' best kept secrets. But being so close to the highway and everything the city of Topeka has to offer, makes it an ideal place to kick back, relax and spend some time with nature. And with its large meeting halls, a huge tabernacle shaped like a cross, and a commercial kitchen for use of guests, Forest Park meets the needs of a large variety of groups.



no proselytizing between groups is allowed, however.

O'Dell explains that a group can reserve the entire conference center if they wish, but because of the layout of the Lake Doniphan grounds, groups do not need to interact, other than to smile if they walk past each other. There are three lodges so groups can be housed in separate buildings. "It is wonderful to see the respect with which groups treat each other, regardless of their distinctly different beliefs. They have always been respectful and honored each other's times for worship, or prayer walks around the lake, or even for a special canoe race," she laughs. "I think it is because for so many of our guests Lake Doniphan has become sacred ground."

Lake Doniphan also hosts family reunions and secular groups just looking to get away, or to focus on a shared hobby such as scrapbooking, quilting, singing, or even karate. To reach O'Dell and see if your group might benefit from a retreat at Lake Doniphan call (816) 630-1523 or visit their website at www.lakedoniphan.com. Guests and past events are featured on their Facebook page at Facebook/Lake Doniphan.



TIME TO TAKE A BREATH AT LAKE DONIPHAN

Lake Doniphan Conference & Retreat Center is situated on 300 wooded, rolling acres surrounding scenic Lake Doniphan, just outside of Excelsior Springs. Primarily hosting retreats for Christian church groups, it also welcomes corporate entities looking for more affordable off-site business conferences or retreats.

"I've had guests exclaim over the amount of work they can accomplish in planning sessions away from normal office distractions," says Brenda O'Dell, Lake Doniphan's Business and Reservations Manager. "They also appreciate the peaceful setting for its calming effect and the chance to stop and breathe deeply, letting go of the normal stress factors in their lives. There is something healing and restoring about the woods and the lake that infiltrates even the busiest of people, if given a chance. Too many of us forget this, unless we deliberately schedule time apart such as a personal or group retreat."

Other groups visiting Lake Doniphan include people of other faiths. "We have had Jewish, Buddhist, Sufi and KriaYoga groups," states O'Dell. "Our mission is to provide a place of refuge and reconciliation for people from all walks of life and all faith traditions. We want to enable all our guests to find renewal and inner peace of mind and spirit, as they deepen personal relationships with their Creator and others in their lives. We don't limit this opportunity to just some, but welcome all who are seeking." She confirms that

ARE YOU LIVING YOUR DREAM?

In 1997 we bought the old house, having a dream of making it into a bed and breakfast retreat for people from all walks of life to get away from the crazy pace, to retreat, relax and refocus.

Seven years later, I gave up the dream due to life's unfair circumstances. It was then my life started going in a downward spiral. For the next two and a half years life was tough in every area. My passion for life, my marriage, and for God was near gone.

It was in my tough time that I also found out I had Hepatitis C. I knew it would take some heavy duty treatments for me to be healed and I would have to slow down my life for a good three to four months while going through the treatments. Someone once said to me, there are speed bumps in life and this truly was a speed bump in mine.

It was during my treatment time, that I again began spending time praying and reading the Bible. God in his tender way began speaking to my heart again about my dream (that had totally died). It was His dream for me and I will give an account to Him at the end of my life, whether or not I did what he wanted me to do. WOW!

I now have this passion to see God's people carry out His plan for their life. No matter what denomination you might be, or whether you know God in a personal way or not, He loves each one of us so much, and He has placed gifts in each one of us. He has a unique plan for each of us. Living out God's plan for us is what fuel's our life; it's what fills our tank.

We have gifts with-in our hearts not only for ourselves and for our families, but for others. We each have a part to play in this life, and it takes quieting our busy lives to retreat and listen to God's Spirit.

I will have to say it has not always been easy. Getting The Hiding Place retreat going took a while, but the rewards outweigh the hard times. I'm living my dream touching people. I once read somewhere that the graveyard is one of the richest places on the face of the earth because so many people take their dreams to the grave with them. Visit us at www.thehidingplacebnb.com



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Sky Ranch Cave Springs is located in the breathtaking surroundings of Northeastern Oklahoma, in the four-state area. This 1480 acre, non-denominational facility holds all the adventure of camping, as well as all of the comforts of home. Sky Ranch understands that purposeful and intentional planning is vital to providing an experience that is peaceful, meaningful, and beneficial to all guests. With years of retreat experience to draw from, the staff at Sky Ranch Cave Springs recognizes that a successful retreat begins the moment a potential guest makes an inquiry. With unparalleled attention to every detail, the heart of Sky Ranch is to provide excellent service, outstanding facilities, and unique opportunities for group members and leaders to connect, grow, and benefit from their time together.



Sky Ranch has the capacity to host groups of various sizes, from small family reunions to larger corporate or church retreats. A couple of different lodging options provide modern, comfortable sleeping accommodations for up to 400 guests. A variety of meeting spaces provides seating and gathering opportunities, complete with stages, a full AV inventory, and indoor/outdoor options. A brand new outdoor amphitheater provides a beautiful backdrop for an intimate time of worship for youth or church retreat groups or a fun twist on movie night!

While lodging and meeting spaces are crucial to retreat success, Sky Ranch knows that feeding group members well is equally important to an enjoyable event! A flexible menu plan and a fully stocked salad bar are just a few of the perks offered by the dining facility.

Open year round, Sky Ranch Cave Springs offers an excellent variety of activities - from energetic and challenging to more low impact options - providing entertainment, fun, and relaxation for all types of groups. Horses, paintball, swimming, volleyball, basketball, disc golf, skeet shooting, and a 2300 foot tandem zipline are just some of the incredible activities included in a Sky Ranch retreat.

The foundation of all Sky Ranch camps is to bring kids, parents and groups together and closer to God. Sky Ranch Cave Springs is committed to providing an environment where relationships are nurtured and strengthened - a place where guests and leaders can spend time investing in the group, rather than worrying with the details of the retreat. With the facilities, recreational options and amenities available, Sky Ranch Cave Springs is the perfect location for youth, ladies', men's, and family groups.

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Conception Abbey is located in Conception, Mo., an hour and a half drive north of Kansas City. It is a monastery of the Swiss-American Congregation of the Benedictine Confederation. It was established in 1873 when Abbot Frowin Conrad and seven novices



came from Engelberg Abbey in Switzerland to found a monastic house from which to serve the needs of the local Catholic community. Today, the spiritual descendants of Abbot Frowin provide pastoral care to 15 parishes, as well as hospitals, religious houses and schools throughout Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The Benedictine monks of Conception Abbey tend the abbey grounds, care for farmland and orchards, and run The Abbey Guest Center, Conception Seminary College and The Printery House. They are historians, writers, scholars, teachers, musicians and artisans. Through their various apostolates, the monks of Conception Abbey have made substantial contributions throughout the Midwest and beyond.

St. Benedict tells us that "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me." The Conception Abbey Guest Center provides simple accommodations in an atmosphere of quiet, perfect for private prayer and reflection. We invite you to stay in our brand new St. Gabriel Guesthouse and welcome your group small or large. Our facilities include, overnight

■ See ABBEY page 23

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Take a walk on the wild side during a unique experience at Hedrick Exotic Animal Farm. Whether it's petting a zebra, riding a camel or feeding a giraffe, this one-of-a-kind attraction offers the opportunity to come face-to-face with several unusual animals, including kangaroos. It's an animal adventure not to be forgotten and one that is truly unlike any other in the Midwest!

Come and stay in one of our many beautifully decorated suites, each with a hand-painted mural depicting special animals here on the farm. Each suite is complete with television and private bath. Stepping from your door to the wrap-around balcony is a relaxing way to enjoy the amazing view of the animals and the peace of a quiet Kansas evening. Special guest tours provide an intimate and unforgettable experience with more than 30 varieties of exotic animals.



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■ See KEENE page 23

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PHOTOGRAPHY

continued from page 1

hard place to do ministry but one of the most beautiful," he said. "I found myself able to see things through the lens."

Must tell their story

While the trip touched him deeply, he struggled with the realization that few outside the reservations were even aware of what has been happening. "When I came back, no one knew what I was talking about.... I felt overwhelmed that people didn't know...about their [the Lakota] plight," he said.

Caddy put together a display of Native American art, including his photographs from the trip. Then he invited David Johnson from Silent Images to speak in a chapel service. A not-for-profit, Silent Images recruits professional photographers to assist other nonprofits with "advocacy photography" to tell the stories of the voiceless or oppressed.

While listening to Johnson's presentation, Caddy thought, "Wow, this is what needs to happen for the Lakota."

Johnson suggested Caddy put together a photo team to tell the Lakota story. In the meantime, Caddy continued to head to South Dakota, taking student teams and his family with him on most of the nine trips he has made.

Last fall, he recruited a team of 13 students and two others, including Todd Walker, an SBU alum who had become a professional photographer, as a photo team. They met every week for 13 weeks beginning in January to learn about the

Lakota and plan the project.

"About half of the people I talked to knew about Wounded Knee" [site of the last major U.S. military strike to subdue Native Americans on Dec. 29, 1890, and called the Wounded Knee Massacre], he explained. "There is a huge need to let people know about their history, their struggles and their ongoing struggle."

The photo team spent from May 20-29 on the Cheyenne River Reservation, with their base at Cherry Creek. Most mission groups do not have the opportunity to stay on the Lakota reservations, instead sleeping elsewhere and returning for ministry each day.

Caddy connected with and is now partnering with Anthony Hanson, a Lakota and founder of New Hope Native American Mission in Cherry Creek.

Before the team could begin photographing the people and their daily life, members had to build trust with the community, Caddy explained. For about five days, team members did service projects, helping set up a community garden and presenting a seminar on growing and preserving produce.

They built a pavilion next to the cemetery as a place for the community to serve funeral meals. And they built 25 crosses for the cemetery to help replace those lost when a planned burn got out of control.

Then they took pictures — lots of them, Caddy said. About 5,000 that they are culling and editing and that will become the basis of two phases for getting the Lakotas' story out.

They have targeted November for the release of Phase I, a display of photos that Caddy hopes to be able to share, not only



Photo by Luke Caddy

at SBU, but also on other college campuses and in local churches.

Phase II will be producing and publishing a coffee-table book of photos, with the proceeds of book sales to benefit the Lakota.

Repairing damage

Getting their story told is important for a couple of reasons he said. First, in some ways Christians are still unraveling damage unintentionally done by early believers.

"The Lakota have had 500 years of missionary exposure. They have had access to the gospel...and have been exposed to the

gospel...but still less than 2 percent are Christian..." Caddy explained. "Right here in our own midst we have an unreached people group...."

"But there has been some really bad missionary practice," he added. He pointed out that the Lakota were forced to assimilate into European culture in many ways. They were forced to send their children to boarding school, and they were told not to speak their heart language.

The Lakota were among the tribes most able to sustain themselves, because they lived off the land. As Europeans took over prime lands and the Lakota were forced onto small reservations, the Lakota became less able to take care of their needs. "Now they are some of the most dependent people," Caddy said.

Ziebach County, part of Cheyenne River, is consistently first or second on the list of most impoverished counties in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 44 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2011.

He hopes to work with Hanson and New Hope's board to "do more to help them be sustainable," he said. The Lakota do "amazing" beadwork, but they have no Internet access from which to market their products.

Spread the gospel

Second, all people, including the Lakota, need to hear the gospel. Caddy said he always takes the teams he leads to

Wounded Knee because he believes it is a "spiritual stronghold."

But there is "an openness" right now at Cherry Creek, he said. "I would like to use it as a launching pad...a training center...to train the Lakota to reach their own people.... I hope it could become a place where a church planting movement would begin."

As long as the Lord will allow, Caddy plans to continue making treks to South Dakota and taking students with him. The first few times he went to Cheyenne River, he repeatedly asked God if he was supposed to move to the region to minister.

"But I realized that what I'm supposed to do is working with the next generation of world changers," Caddy said. "I felt very clearly...I'm supposed to be an advocate and spokesperson."

To anyone who asks why he goes, Caddy always responds: "It's a great place to go to have your heart broken." One reason he has taken hundreds of students to Cheyenne River is to have their hearts broken enough to allow them to think about God's purpose for them.

Most students who go are heartbroken, he said. When they query why they have "had it so good," Caddy tells them they are not asking the right question.

"The question is: What are you going to do with your life, your possessions, your degree?"

— Vicki Brown is the Associate Editor of *Word&Way*

WINDEMERE

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