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Our school website—[www.mca-sda.com](http://www.mca-sda.com)

## HIS Hands

Rick Hoffer – Math and Home Tech teacher at MCA

This year at Minnetonka Christian Academy we've had the opportunity to offer a unique class. With a desire to teach students practical home repair and remodeling skills, we introduced "Home-Tech." The class is designed to afford the student hands-on practice with hand and power tools while learning basic concepts of the construction and finishing process.

I had been talking to our principal, Ken Rannow, about finding opportunities for our class to use our skills to serve the community. A few weeks later I attended a constituency meeting as a matter of course. At the end of our meeting, a gentleman from the church asked to address the constituents. Don spoke of a friend whom he and his wife had been transporting to and from church for many Sabbaths. "Fran is 102 years young, and until now has been able to walk on her own. Recently she has been confined to a wheel chair. She will no longer be able to enter her house, because of the stairs to her entry." Don went on to plea for anyone who could help design and build a wheelchair ramp for Fran. After a few glances and a 'thumbs-up' between me and Ken, he stood up and proudly announced that there was a group of students at the school well suited for such a mission. Applause and cheers erupted.

After spending a few weeks in planning, designing and some pre-building, we spent our first day on site: digging holes for footings, placing and leveling the main deck, and attaching the ramp that extended to the driveway. The

platform was fully decked by the end of the first day. A week later we returned to add curbs and handrails and safety strips for traction. The students enjoyed working with their hands and being part of a service project.

I'll conclude by quoting an excerpt from the thank-you card sent to my class: "A sincere and excited THANK YOU... to your students who answered our prayer for a special friend and church family member. Interacting with the students was a precious blessing for both Fran and her daughter Lee. They could not believe all the work they did and their cheerful words and happy smiles."

What a blessing it was for the students and me to literally be "HIS HANDS" serving one in need.



SHERMAN McCORMICK  
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

BENJI FERGUSON  
PASTOR FOR YOUTH & WORSHIP

KEN DEDEKER  
PASTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION

KEN RANNOW  
PRINCIPAL OF MCA

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church is to passionately KNOW God as our personal friend and intentionally SHARE God as caring disciples.

## VISION STATEMENT

Our response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ compels us to become a growing Adventist congregation.

We will impact our community through God-directed worship, selfless service, and a culture of active participation by every member.

## Minnetonka SDA Governing Board

- Heidi Abramovich
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- Dale Williams
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## Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church Minnetonka Christian Academy

# Good News!



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## Dusting Off the Basics, 3

By Pastor Sherman McCormick

I want us to imagine that we are sitting in your living room. It's Sabbath afternoon and we have just shared a most delicious meal together. We are enjoying a pleasant conversation, and as a part of our discussion, you ask me about my attitude toward Ellen White and her writings. The question is non-controversial. You merely ask. Let me share with you what I might say in response to that question, without trying to "prove" anything—just to address the question you have asked.

First of all, I would affirm that I believe her to be part of God's special gift His end-time church. I believe her ministry to be a partial fulfillment of God's promise in Joel 2, that in the end of time the gift of prophecy will be restored to His church. I believe her ministry to have been of inestimable value to the church as an historic entity and to me personally.

Even as I believe that the Adventist Church was raised up by God to take His end-time message to the world, I believe that God used Ellen White in those early, formative years to guide and encourage the church. Later, I believe that her blessings in those areas did not diminish, but we have the added blessings of her writings. I value her today as a guide as I seek to apply biblical principles to my life. Notice that the operative concept here is "biblical principles." The Bible is, and will ever be, the Christian's only source for doctrine and lifestyle standards. However, I find her to be of great help as I seek

to walk the middle road, avoiding errors to the right or to the left. A lot of people have suffered spiritual abuse as they have been "hit over their heads" with her writings. Such spiritual attacks, no matter how good the intentions may have been, are totally out of character with Ellen White's ministry.

From time to time, I hear of individuals describing her as rigid and legalistic. Yet, as I have read and listened to testimonies of those who knew her, even lived with her, the consistent report is of a little lady who loved Jesus, took an active interest in her neighbors, and always had time for the children. Consistently, wherever she was, her neighbors loved her. Have you ever heard of Ellen White having a pillow fight with her grandchildren? How about the hot chocolate she served at breakfast when her grandkids were present? What about the time she instructed her cook to serve white bread when she knew her guest did not like whole wheat bread? No wonder she was loved!

The best thing Ellen White does for me is to make Christianity real and positive. As I read such books as *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, or *Christ's Object Lessons*, I find the story of Jesus coming alive.

I am well aware of the critics. I've read the articles. I've watched the videos. I will tell you that I have heard or read of no new criticism.

**Good news!** Our church's pastoral search team is pleased to announce that **Elder Doug English** has accepted the Minnesota Conference's invitation to be our Senior pastor. Doug has served for the last 9 ½ years as the pastor of the Sunnydale Academy Church in Centralia, Missouri. Prior to serving in Centralia, he was a pastor in Michigan and Indiana. Doug, and his wife Susan, are excited to make the move to Minnesota as soon as possible. The timing of their move is not certain, however, they are hoping to be moved to Minnesota sometime between late June and the end of July.

Susan English is a teacher at Sunnydale Academy. In addition, the English's have two adult children. Their daughter is just now graduating from Southern Adventist University. Their son is also a student at Southern Adventist University. *Please watch your email inbox and US mail for more information.*

All of the objections were raised—and answered—even during her lifetime.

If you have reservations, why not read her again for the first time? Start with a book like *Christ's Object Lessons*. It's a great read and application of Jesus' parables. Try the Bible test, "Taste and see" (Ps. 34:8)

I'll be interested in your impression.



# MINNETONKA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Principal Ken Rannow

# DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Sherman McCormick

