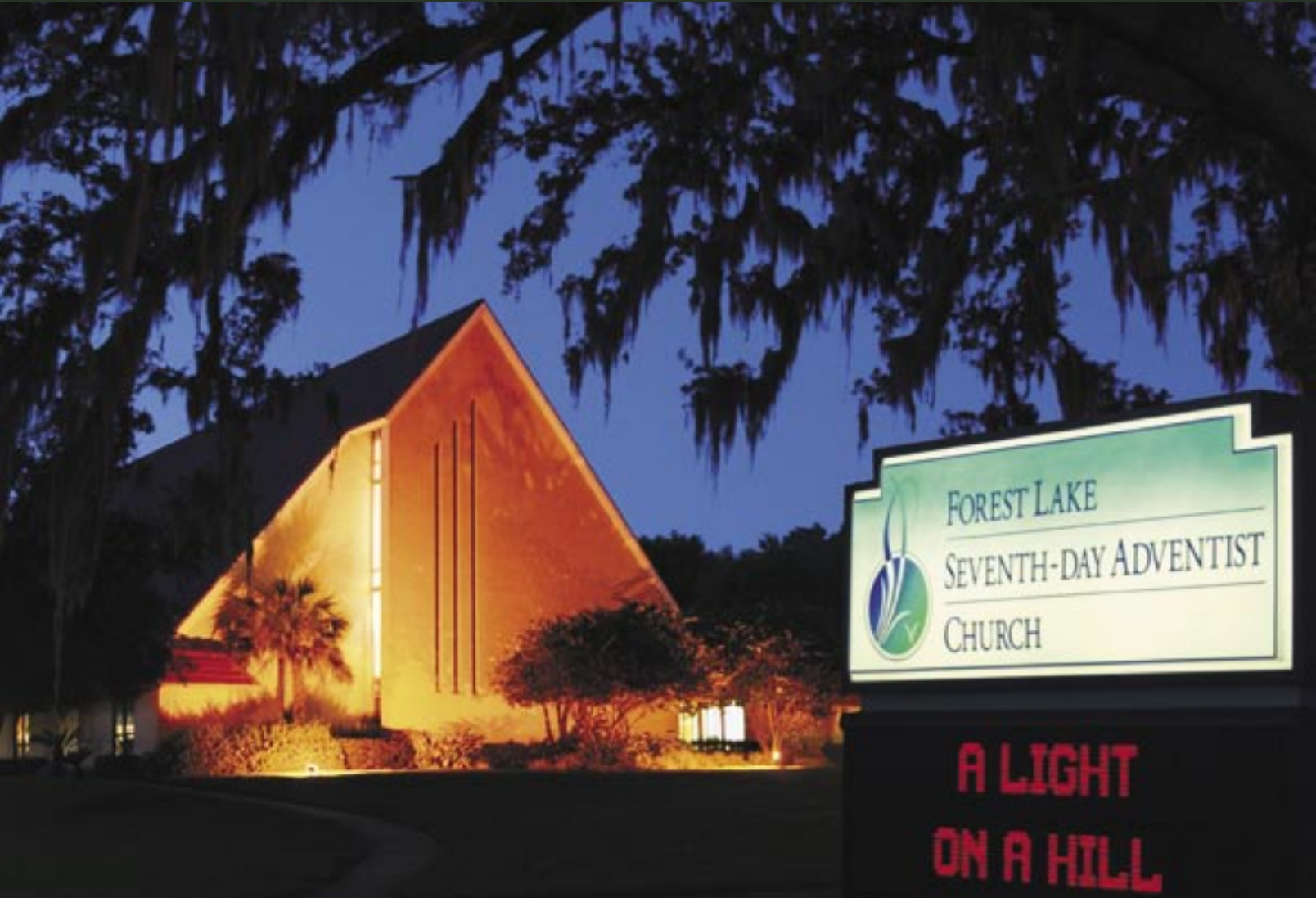




T SOUTHERN

# TIDINGS

*Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family*



## Forest Lake Church

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# Gentle and Humble in Heart

While Jesus referred to Himself through metaphor as the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the I Am, and the Bread of Life; there is only one time that Jesus gave a clear personal description of Himself.

Of course we have many words to describe Jesus—Love, Grace, Truth, Peace, Holy. Songwriters tell us Jesus is the Sweetest name, and He's just the same as His Holy name. We sing *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, and *Fairest Lord Jesus*, and *His Name is Wonderful*, all attempts to describe our Lord and Savior. Someone is humming "Rock of Ages cleft for me," or "The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide, a Shelter in the time of storm."

Bible writers say He's Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace. He is Alpha and Omega, Savior, Redeemer, King. Some see Him as the Lamb of God or the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is Creator, Servant, Lord, Messiah, Master, Prophet, Priest, Judge, and Great Physician. He is the Resurrection and the Life. Angels announce the Baby should be called Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. John the Revelator reports that angels call Him Worthy, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Jesus talked about His kingdom and the values of His way of life, and about His Father and what He was like. He focused on describing what His followers are like.

But, one time He made it plain, He opened up to a clear description of Himself: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:28-30*

Did you see it? "I am meek and lowly in heart." Other translations say, "I am gentle and lowly in heart," or "I am gentle and humble in heart." He is approachable and likeable. He wants to know what's going on in our lives. He is gentle toward us when we disappoint Him and make mistakes. He wants us to ask forgiveness when we sin, and He will guide us gently toward a better way of life. Jesus is gentle and humble in heart and wants to give you and me a new heart that is gentle and humble.

Come to Jesus, He is gentle and humble in heart.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." *Hebrews 4:15,16*



**Gordon Retzer**  
*Southern Union*  
*President*

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COVER PHOTO RON QUICK



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Cover: A light to the community—day and night. Forest Lake church's state-of-the-art digital sign proclaims the Gospel to thousands of motorists traveling State Road 436 in Apopka, Florida. See cover story on page 4.



The cover photo for the May 2006 SOUTHERN TIDINGS was incorrectly attributed; the photo of Desmond Doss was taken by Ron Quick.



# A Light On a Hill

BY TERRY HALL

Forest Lake church members in Apopka, Florida, marked a special milestone on April 8, 2006, as they celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Located on an eight-acre knoll of land west of Forest Lake Academy, the church began with 14 members worshipping in a small Victorian farm house in the spring of 1926.

Today, the church encompasses 3,000 members, seven full-time pastors, and four church services. In its history, Forest Lake has been the parent church to the Altamonte

Springs, Apopka, Markham Woods, and Winter Springs churches and, most recently, the Apopka Haitian company.

“Many would think Forest

Lake’s success is about the numbers,” says Derek Morris, D.Min., Forest Lake’s senior pastor, “but it’s more than that. I’ve been in ministry for the last 28 years. In all that

time, I’ve never seen a group of people more dedicated to move forward in the power of God—to spread the Good News about Jesus by their words and actions. It’s wonderful to see an individual on fire for God, but when you see a whole congregation experiencing that power—supernatural blessings are always the result.



Forest Lake’s pastoral and support staff strive to help the church be a “light on a hill,” a place “Where Hope Is Born.”

RON QUICK

I wake up with excitement every morning to see how God will use Forest Lake to touch the local community and the world with ministries that are truly evangelistic.”

### Touching the Local Community

Forest Lake currently has a number of ministries impacting the needs of the local community, including:

- Prayers and Squares, a quilting ministry, providing hand-made prayer quilts for people dealing with physical, spiritual, and/or mental challenges.
- Hearts and Hammers, a home repair ministry providing services—free of charge—to seniors, the disabled and the disadvantaged.
- Shepherd’s Hope, a free walk-in medical clinic, which provides health care for the uninsured of Central Florida.
- The Center for Drug-Free Living in Orlando, where Forest Lake volunteers give Bible studies and encourage women who are going through a 12-step program to get off drugs.
- Gift and Thrift, a store that sells clothing, furniture, and gift shop items, generating \$8,000 to \$12,000 a month in support of the different outreach ministries of Forest Lake.

“Forest Lake’s Gift and Thrift and Shepherd’s Hope medical clinic saved my life,” says Adrienne



Hope On Fire’s dedicated crew begins work on a television version of the program for the Hope Channel. Crew members include Sabine Vatel (left), Rick Mann, Lee Bennett, Patty Hofer, and Chris Lang at Forest Lake Academy’s television production studios.

Despres. “My husband, Lenny, and I were self-employed, we had lost our health insurance, and I was in the midst of a five-year battle with breast cancer. Times were tough. In March, 2004, I came into Gift and Thrift to shop for the first time. I was so impressed by the caring people there, I volunteered to help. But, it wasn’t long before they were tending to my needs.”

Despres says Patty Hofer, Forest Lake’s community services/programming and technology pastor, got her connected with the church’s Shepherd’s Hope medical clinic. “Since then, I’ve received free doctors’ care, medical tests, and hospital services

in my battle with cancer,” says Despres. “Gift and Thrift paid for repairs on my car when it broke down; they even helped my daughter and her five children living in Boston, Massachusetts, when they fell on hard times.”

Despres, a former Catholic, is now attending

church at Forest Lake. “This church is truly a light on a hill. They’re ministering to people just like Jesus did—meeting them where they are.”

Tracy Mowatt agrees. Mowatt is currently finishing up a yearlong drug rehabilitation program at the city of Orlando’s Center for Drug-Free Living. “When I started the program 10 months ago, I was lost, afraid, and pregnant with twin girls,” she says. “I didn’t know whether to keep the babies or put them up for adoption. Then I met Forest Lake member Dixie Sandefur, who began giving me Bible studies and taking me to worship services at Forest Lake. What a revelation. I’ve never seen so many wonderful, loving people in one place. I knew, then, I would keep my babies and that this would be our church family.”

Mowatt’s twins, Summer and Skyler, were born December 28, 2005, and were dedicated during Forest Lake’s worship services, April 1, 2006. “There was a hole in my heart until I came to know Miss Dixie and the Forest Lake Church,” says Mowatt. “Now my girls and I have a home.”

### Touching the World

Forest Lake is also reaching out to impact the world with the Gospel. Since launching its main web site in 2001 ([www.forestlakechurch.com](http://www.forestlakechurch.com)).



“My girls and I have found a church family,” says Tracy Mowatt. Dixie Sandefur (left) and Tracy hold Mowatt’s twin girls, Summer and Skyler, who were dedicated at Forest Lake church, April 1, 2006.



org), an exciting new field for the church has opened up with the growth of its web church via the Internet. Each week, hundreds of individuals around the world attend one of the church's live streaming worship services.

For some, it's the only way they can attend any kind of church. Many also download MP3 audio and video files of the services. In February, 2006, Delwin Finch was asked to become Forest Lake's first web pastor. Finch will minister specifically to those worshipping at Forest Lake via the church's web site.

Jack Self, a retired Baptist minister from Dalton, Georgia, writes, "I watch your [church] services via the Internet. Your teaching appeals to me because it is Biblical, scholarly, insightful, and easy to understand. God bless the Forest Lake church."

In 2005, Forest Lake began producing two radio programs. The first, *Message of Hope*, ([www.messageofhoperadio.com](http://www.messageofhoperadio.com)) features the church's worship services and is broadcast in central Florida, Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. on WHIM 1520



LEE BENNETT

Leading out at Forest Lake's Shepherd's Hope medical clinic are Darlene Pacamalan, RN (left); Iris Acevedo; Erma Webb, clinic manager; Chocko Mathews, M.D.; and Rose Beavers, clinic chairperson.

AM, and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. on WTLN 950 AM. The second is *Hope On Fire*, ([www.hopeonfire.org](http://www.hopeonfire.org)) a radio talk show for young adults.

*Hope On Fire's* 30-minute program airs locally in central Florida on WHIM 1520 AM, Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. *Hope On Fire* is also heard nationally on LifeTalk Radio ([www.lifetalk.net](http://www.lifetalk.net)) Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. LifeTalk is a 72-member radio station network affiliated with Voice of Prophecy Radio Ministries. *Hope On Fire* will also be produced as a half-hour television program to begin broadcasting

around the world on the Hope Channel in early 2007.

Forest Lake's *Life and Teachings of Jesus* class, taught by Derek Morris and broadcast live via the church's main web site from August 16–May 2, is now a 60-minute television program airing each week on the Hope Channel.

Tony Mariani writes from Zimbabwe, Africa, "Our land is torn by violence, hate, and racism... it is therefore refreshing to listen to your [*Life*

*and Teachings of Jesus*] series and hear doctrine pour forth as rivers of living water."

"God is opening new doors every day for us to spread the Good News," says Terry Hall. "This church has been 'a light on a hill' for the last 80 years. I believe as it looks forward to the future, it will continue to shine brightly—to be, as its motto says, a place *Where Hope Is Born*."

Terry Hall is the Forest Lake Church communications/public relations director.



RON QUICK

Some of the women involved in Forest Lake's Prayers and Squares ministry begin work on another prayer quilt. To date, more than 200 quilts have been made and given to people as close as Apopka, and as far away as Brazil and Iraq.



RON QUICK

Adrienne Despres helps a customer at Forest Lake's Gift and Thrift.



# Volunteers Bring Hope to the Mississippi Gulf Coast

BY REBECCA GRICE

Hope shone in the eyes of Melanie Mitchell as volunteers from Sunnysdale Academy in Missouri, Battle Creek Academy in Michigan, and Longmont, Colorado, cleared away the wreckage Hurricane Katrina had piled on the foundation of what had been her home.

The volunteers carefully searched for the family's personal belongings as they shoveled and hauled rubble to the street's edge. A childhood toy, a glass vase that had been given to her by a friend, a class ring, and other odds and ends pulled from the debris brought squeals of delight from Melanie.

"You have given me hope. How can I thank you?" she said, with tears filling her eyes, as the volunteers left at the end of the day.

Despair had given way to a flicker of hope for Jimmy and Robin Lamy a few weeks after water filled their home with black mud and muck.

Jimmy, food service director of the Hancock County Hospital, was asked to coordinate food distribution for the county. That's how Jimmy met Jim Ingersoll, a Southern Union

education associate, who was coordinating Adventist student groups coming to Waveland to help.

Jimmy's family had evacuated, and, with his emergency responsibilities, he couldn't check on their home until ten days after the storm. By this time mold had covered everything.

"I was told it should be torn down and rebuilt," says Jimmy, "but I couldn't do that because I didn't have any flood insurance." He and his family pulled out the soggy furniture and tried to wash away the mold—it was hopeless. That's when Ingersoll heard about the Lamys' plight. He immediately called his friend Ron Clark, who was at Bass Memorial Academy helping with repairs.

Ron and three friends headed for the Lamy home. In four days they had the home gutted. Ron kept in touch, and a friendship developed. During the week of Thanksgiving, Ron's family—along with 25 students from Auburn Academy in Washington and their principal, Keith Hallum—returned to finish the job. They joined a group of volunteers from another denomination and camped in the Lamys' yard.

"We'll never forget that Thanksgiving," explain Jimmy and Robin. "We all joined hands for prayer. Adventists and Baptists from all over the country were here to help me and my neighbors—and we're Catholic!" The Lamys were so impressed with the students from Auburn Academy, they are considering sending their daughter to Bass and have already met with the principal.

More than 6,000 Adventist volunteers have come to the



*Jimmy and Robin Lamy stand in front of their restored home.*

Waveland, Mississippi, area. They have improved more than a thousand homes and have helped 71,000 families. Immediately after the storm, they distributed emergency supplies to an average of 800 cars per day, seven days a week, for 12 weeks.

To restore the Mississippi Gulf Coast will take years, but the impressions made on the hearts of the volunteers and those they helped will last for eternity.



*Volunteers search the rubble for personal belongings.*



*Melanie Mitchell smiles as she holds a memory.*

## Moncks Corner Church Celebrates Grand Opening



Clouds filled the sky, but inside there was sunshine as the Moncks Corner church family welcomed more than 160 neighbors, family, and friends to the grand opening of their newly constructed church. Located on the outskirts of Moncks Corner, it is the first Carolina Conference church in Berkeley County, S.C. Jim Davidson, Conference president, conducted

the worship service and was assisted by various conference and local leaders who were instrumental in this project.

It was on November 27, 1999, when a small group of 17 members from the Summerville, S.C., church first met at the home of Shelvie and John Van Allen. Soon the group was so large they had to move to the Berkeley

County Middle School for services. With no pastor, worship services were conducted by the lay members of the church. The elders took turns preaching, and every member participated in some way to conduct meaningful and successful worship services. With such a small group, everyone held multiple jobs, but working together kept their faith alive that eventually they would leave the school for their own church facility.

The company was officially organized as a church on March 25, 2000, with 30 members signing the charter. In October, 2001, Pastor Mario and Teresa Munoz were sent to shepherd this assembly. God blessed them with a prime 10-acre tract of land just outside the city limits,

and the groundbreaking was held on December 11, 2004. Construction began in March, 2005, and they moved into the new facility on December 10, 2005.

History has been made in Berkeley County, and now the focus is on the future. Plans are under way for evangelistic meetings and other ways that this church can serve and minister to the community they now call home.

—BY BONNIE CONNELLY



*Jim Davidson, president, addresses the congregation.*

## Celebrating Milestones in the Carolinas



**Thompson**  
“A Tale of Two Lovers on a Quest for Gold” was the title of the speech

given by Glynn Thompson, M.D., honoring the golden wedding anniversary of his parents, Ron and Dawn Thompson. The celebration on January 7, 2006, simulated a wedding reception, replete with a wedding cake. Before a packed audience at the Myrtle

Beach church, Glynn recounted his tale of two lovers, centering around the metaphor of gold. Since the symbol for gold is Au, standing for the Latin Aurum, meaning “shining dawn,” he concluded with “your shining dawn of jubilee has arrived.” A speech was also given by Glynn’s brother, Lester Thompson, M.D.

Ron Thompson, of British descent, was born and raised in Zimbabwe. He retired in 1994 after 38 years in ministry, having served as a missionary in Uganda, a

pastor and Union evangelist in South Africa, and a pastor-evangelist in the U.S.

### Frame

Friends and family met on November 6, 2005, to celebrate two milestones in the lives of Robert R. Frame, and his wife, now retired in Hendersonville, N.C., after a lifetime of service for the Adventist Church.

On November 8, 1938, they were married in Sydney, Australia, and immediately set off by ship to serve in the Papua New Guinea Mission. Since then,

Bob has been a division secretary, associate General Conference secretary, division president, and president of the Adventist Media Center.

This event was to celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary and Frame’s birthday. He turned 90 years old on November 23, 2005. Their son, Peter, flew in from Sydney for the special occasion.

—BY HOWARD F. HAMPTON





## Carolina Conference Elders Meet at Nosoca Pines



Ralph Ringer, evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union, was the presenter for the annual elder's retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch, April 28-30, 2006. He is pictured here

sharing ideas with (left to right, sitting) Audrey Bodeker, Wayne Bodeker, Lola Lawson, Timothy Lawson, Robin Byrd, (standing) Sandra Boughman, Ernie Boughman, Alice Howell,

Vince Howell, and Ross Brisco.

Each of the more than 95 church elders in attendance were given tools and ideas for their ministry in the local church. The

messages were of spiritual awakening in these last days, and the role the elder plays in leading the church to revival.

## Ben Carson Visits Charlotte-Area Students

The ninth and tenth grade classes of Adventist Christian Academy were invited to Berean Junior Academy in Charlotte, N.C. to hear a speech by Benjamin Carson, M.D., on Tuesday, February 28.

Brian Wise, school board chairman of the sister academy, opened with a seminar on empowerment for today's youth. The main focus was on black history, with Wise encouraging the young people to realize their importance in the rich, historical past, to keep God first in their lives, and to stay in school.

Carson then shared valuable information with students about the goals he reached. He shared some of the struggles he had as

a youth, and empowered the young people to consider school as a priority.

Carson is a role model for young people. He has been the director of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins since 1984. He is a professor of neurosurgery, plastic surgery, oncology, and pediatrics. He is also the co-director of the Johns Hopkins Craniofacial Center. His practice includes traumatic brain injuries, brain and spinal cord tumors, achondroplasia, neurological and congenital



Dr. Ben Carson

disorders, craniosynostosis, epilepsy, and trigeminal neuralgia.

Carson has written more than 90 neurosurgical publications. He has been awarded 24 honorary degrees and dozens of national citations of merit.

He is the author of three best selling books, *Gifted Hands*, *Think Big*, and *The Big Picture*.

Most importantly, he maintained to the students that none of his success would have been possible if he did not have a relationship with God, whom he credits for all his success. Carson shared how much

he had hated being poor and had begun to re-align his goals for a brighter future. He challenged students to read up to five books a week. Before ending his time with the students, Carson offered to answer any questions they had.

Henrietta Bishop, Berean school principal and organizer of the event, honored Carson with a token of appreciation for his contribution to medicine and the Adventist Church, as well as for sharing his inspiration with the students.

Other schools in attendance included Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Academy of Winston Salem, and Vance High School of Charlotte.

—BY LAWANNA MCCOY

## Jewish Woman Baptized in Gulf of Mexico

Racquel Henderson-Park, a Jewish woman who lived in Israel for many years, was baptized on Sabbath, April 15, in the Gulf of Mexico by Florida Conference Pastor/Rabbi Jeff Zaremsky. “Racquel was immersed and raised to newness of life on the third day after the Passover on the feast of the wave sheaf offering,” says Zaremsky, leader of Beth-El Shalom congregations in New Port Richey and St. Petersburg.

Zaremsky and Barbara, his wife, met Racquel more than seven years ago, even before the New Port Richey group was established. “Some fruit take longer to ripen than others, and this seems especially true among the Jewish people; yet, patient endurance pays off,” Zaremsky says.

—BY JEFF ZAREMSKY



BRUCE HOFFMAN

*Jeff Zaremsky and Racquel Henderson-Park rejoiced over her resurrection to newness of life on the same April weekend that Jesus' resurrection was celebrated throughout the world.*

### Florida Outdoor Club Raises Money for Missions

Enthusiasm reigned, once again, as members of the Florida Outdoor Club held their annual blind auction for missions on a weekend campout in Groveland, Fla. The two-hour marathon raised \$2,000 from bidders on unknown contents in newspaper-wrapped packages.

The Florida Outdoor Club meets the second weekend of each month, except June, July, and August, for relaxation, fellowship, and mission-driven activities. New members are welcomed. For details, contact Les and Pat Randall at 407-774-8945.

—BY HERB PRITCHARD

## Five Earn Pathfinder of the Year Awards at East Pasco Church

During its annual Investiture Service, the Pathfinder club at East Pasco church in Zephyrhills, Fla., awarded five of its 17 participants with the Pathfinder of the Year Award. The five award recipients were Meghan Baranda, Lexie Center, Paige Shilling, Katelyn Welch, and Rachel Clark.

Tammy Shilling, Pathfinder club director, reported that Welch and Clark earned the required 10 or more hours of community service distinction by raising money for two separate projects.

Welch sold candy throughout the year, earning \$450. She presented a check to Penny Morrill,

chief executive officer for Sunrise of Pasco County, a nonprofit organization that helps meet the needs of abused women and children. Clark earned \$260 for blind children to go to camp by washing cars and holding shoelace decorating parties after school at East Pasco Academy.

—BY BETTY KOSSICK



KATHY WELCH

*Katelyn Welch, left, presented a \$450 check to Penny Morrill, chief executive officer for Sunrise of Pasco County.*



LOUANN CLARK

*Rachel Clark washed cars and raised \$260 to help blind children attend summer camp.*



## Grand Opening of Junior Academy Celebrated



STEPHEN STEWART

*William A. Kirlew Junior Academy's goal is to be used by God as a house of academic excellence and a beacon of Christianity in the community. Phase I of the new facility houses eight classrooms, a lunchroom, and administrative offices. Phase II will house an additional eight classrooms, the library and resource center, and the science lab. A gymnasium will be constructed in Phase III.*

Ten months after the foundations were laid, a grand opening of new facilities for William A. Kirlew Junior Academy in Miami, Fla., was celebrated on February 5 by Maranatha church members, dignitaries, and friends.

Sparked by the determination of Pastor Keith Harding and Claudette, his wife and principal of the Academy, members of the Maranatha church and the Home and School Association launched numerous campaign fund-raising efforts. Hundreds of individuals pledged to embrace a sacrificial church-wide giving plan.

The new state-of-the-art facility, with a capacity for 200 students, wasn't completed without setbacks, yet, they were overcome by prayer. God's faithfulness was proved repeatedly as it was manifested in the overwhelming support given by parents, church members, and the local community.

During the opening

ceremonies, Principal Harding reminded attendees of the school's beginning, which was a thought in the minds of former pastor William A. Kirlew and Sylvia, his wife. Together, they exercised faith in God as they advanced their own funds to purchase the additional land on which the new school is now located.

Principal Harding complimented those who helped to keep the dream alive—pioneers, church and community leaders, and ardent supporters. Special tribute was also given to the first principal of the school, the late Olive Hyatt, and her staff, who led the first group of youngsters and their parents into the original school. The late Carlton Anderson, pastor, and his wife, Doreen, were also remembered for their untiring hours given to the school during its infancy.

Those in attendance at the Sunday afternoon grand opening included guest speaker Ward Sumpter,



ROBERT GRANT

*Among those participating in the February 5 grand opening celebration are Ward Sumpter (left), Southern Union Conference secretary; Keith Harding, Maranatha church senior pastor; Evan Valencia, Florida Conference secretary (offering the dedicatory prayer); Sylvia and William Kirlew, former Maranatha pastor and his wife; Topaz Gayle (Kirlews' daughter); Claudette Harding, Junior Academy principal; and Theslyn Brown, school board chair.*

Southern Union Conference secretary; Evan Valencia, Florida Conference secretary; Jim Epperson, Florida Conference vice president for education; Cynthia Duncanson, Florida Conference church property development director; and city and state officials. Fire 'n Steel, a steel drum band from Walker Memorial Academy, Avon Park, under the direction of Leonard Cann, added to the atmosphere of harmony.

Sumpter challenged

the audience to continue investing in children, "because Christian education is an investment for the present and for eternity." He commended the Kirlews and other founders, "for their vision and invaluable contributions," and the current administrative team, "for their influential leadership that inspired members to carry the torch" and make the dream for a new school become a reality.

—BY LESONIE WALKER

## Fourth-Generation Adventist Minister Ordained

Following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and brother, Will Johns was ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist minister on Sabbath, April 15, 2006.

While Johns is a fourth-generation Adventist pastor, he says that's not what led him into ministry.



Will Johns, his wife, Lori, and their children, Bryn (two years old) and Noah (two months old), pose for a family photo after the ordination service on April 15.

"The call came more from my own spiritual experience, my own sense that that's what God wanted me to do. Sometime after I was baptized I began to sense—to think in terms that I would be a pastor someday," said Johns. "It was really in academy that I really began to sense it

really strongly. It started my junior year when I had opportunity to be a part of different ministries at Collegedale Academy, and by my senior year, when I was student chaplain, it was settled in my mind."

Johns was ordained at the Knoxville First church where

he serves as associate pastor. The service was truly a family affair with his wife, Lori; father, Jerry; mother, Clara Lou; father-in-law, Richard Cadavero; and brother, Rick, all having roles in the service.

While presenting his brother to the church for ordination, Rick Johns pointed out to the youth that his brother is an example of a person who has lived his entire life for Jesus. "Will shows that you don't have to go out and try what the world has to offer and then come back to Jesus to really understand the gospel and serve Christ," he said.

Their father is the pastor at the Columbus church in Georgia. Jerry Johns gave the sermon which was entitled, "A Father's Dream." In his sermon, he challenged his son to

remain faithful to Jesus and to be strong in ministry.

Stan Patterson, Conference vice-president for pastoral ministries and evangelism, offered the ordination prayer, and Ed Wright, Conference president, and his wife, Marilyn, welcomed Will and his family into ministry.

In the past, ordinations have occurred during the camp meeting held in Collegedale at the end of May, but Will says Knoxville First was the best place it could have been. "I very much enjoyed having the ordination service at my local church where I've pastored. Having all the members that I've been ministering to and interacting with and have been supporting me in my ministry...I wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

— BY KEN WETMORE

## Ranger Church Burns Mortgage

The Sabbath the Ranger, Ga., church burned its mortgage was a day when a "dream came true. It means that we can have some more funds released to do more community service projects," said Wendell Stover, pastor of the Ranger church. "We need to reach the community," said Stover. "That's where our real success is going to be." Several projects were initiated by retired pastor Deward Edgmon who spent much time and energy getting started.

The main presenta-

tion during the service was given by Stan Patterson, Conference vice president for pastoral ministries and evangelism. He stimulated the congregation to dream of a city in Heaven, built and paid for by God. The burning of the mortgage papers was performed by Charles Young, under-treasurer of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. A monetary gift was presented to church treasurer Jeanne Edmon.

The country-style Ranger church used to have two front doors, one for the

men and the other for the women. Its interesting history dates back to the early 1800s when the area was

a Cherokee Indian tribal ground.

—BY MARTIN KNOPPER

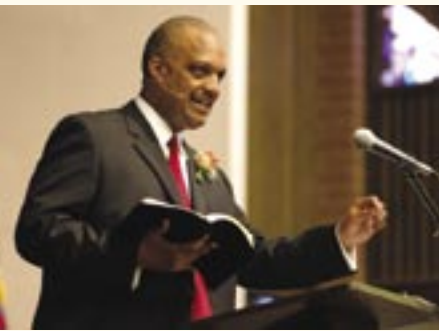


Church and Conference officials burn the mortgage at the Ranger church.



## Nixon to Serve as Collegedale's Senior Pastor

On April 8, John Nixon stood behind the pulpit as the new senior pastor of the Collegedale, Tenn., church. He comes to the 3,000-member Collegedale church, the college church for Southern Adventist University, after serving at the Oakwood College church in Huntsville, Ala.



*John Nixon preaches at the Collegedale church, April 8.*

Conference President Ed Wright welcomed Nixon and his wife, Januwoina (Javon-na), to the Collegedale church family. "This is the result of much prayer, much conversation, and much consideration," said Wright. "I just want you to know how grateful we are that you have heard God's call, and that you have responded to that call, and that you have come now to Collegedale. We believe that God has been leading in every step of this journey."

As Nixon spoke, he shared that he and Januwoina will soon celebrate 30 years of continuous ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He also shared that Georgia-Cumberland

will be the sixth conference they have served in, three of which have been regional conferences and three of which have been state conferences. "Here is what we have learned over the years," Nixon said, "People and their needs are precisely the same in regional conferences as in state conferences.... There is one humanity under God. And, there is one human condition that afflicts every race and every culture under Heaven. All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.... There is but one Savior sent from Heaven."

The Nixons accepted the call to Collegedale on February 10, 2006. "My wife and I are very excited about

joining the Collegedale family," said Nixon. "We have always loved the invigorating atmosphere of the Christian college campus and the challenge of ministry in new places...It is also a joy for us to join the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, which has a solid reputation for outreach, spiritual leadership, and Christian diversity—a leader among the conferences of the North American Division. Our desire is to help Collegedale and Southern Adventist University continue to lead the churches of this conference to fulfill the calling of God upon us for the last days of earth's history."

—BY REBECCA BAERG

## Samaritan Center Helps Dentists on Gulf Coast

Clearing out a loved one's home after death is a daunting task. The Samaritan Center operates partly on donations of used items, so it frequently gets calls from families needing to dispose of the accumulation of someone's life.

Recently, a woman was faced with clearing out her late husband's belongings. As a practicing dentist for the last 40 years, her husband had a dental office full of equipment that was no longer needed. Normally, equipment of this nature gets passed on to third world missions, but in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Coast area needs assistance as much as many areas overseas.

The Samaritan Center discovered a dentist in Brookhaven, Miss., who is using an airplane hanger to collect and distribute dental equipment and supplies.

Don Doty, D.D.S., in cooperation with the Mississippi Dental Association, is appealing to dentists and suppliers to donate to dentists on the coast that are rebuilding their offices and restocking their clinics. Upon showing proof of need, the donated equipment and supplies are available at no cost.

The Samaritan Center oversaw the project of transporting the dental equipment to Mississippi, making sure things ran smoothly. Nashville

Dental Incorporated owner Mike Brown offered his company's expertise and assistance in getting the equipment dismantled and shrink-wrapped for transportation. Terry Haight, coordinator for ACS/Disaster Response, helped pack and transport the equipment to Mississippi. On March 17, the Samaritan Center's truck arrived at the Brookhaven Airport. Libby Hewitt, assistant for Doty, said it would find a new home within a week.

As one practice has closed, others have been able to start over. Rather than being an end to a life's work, one dentist's legacy continues to care for and serve other communities.

This donation means several Gulf Coast dentists can resume practice, provide for their families, supply jobs, and attend to the needs of patients. The equipment, tools, and supplies have found other homes.

—BY LINDA SNEARY



*Terry Haight unloads the dental supplies and equipment in Mississippi.*

## Huntsville Central Youth Lead



Youth from 23 different schools attended the rally.

The youth and young adults took the lead in the fourth annual Cross eXamination youth rally at Big Cove Christian Academy in Huntsville, Ala. All who were up front leading the program—except for guest speaker Jeff Wood, youth director for the Gulf States Conference—were under 30 years old.

“This event was planned completely by young people, and the kids responded. I want to say a huge thank you to the youth leaders and support team who were willing to take a risk and allow their kids to

express their faith,” says Wood.

Mandy Evans, the chairperson, began the year in January by arranging a

pizza planning session with youth and young adults along with Jeff Wood, Rick Norskov, and Chris Barr, pastor of the Huntsville Central church.

Students spent several nights before March 11 decorating the gym, while another of their group, Carson Alan, constructed an elaborate audio and video system.

Sixty high school- and college-age young people from 23 different schools attended. Promotional tables for several Adventist academies, including Bass Memorial, were set up.

Camp Alamisco and Southern Adventist University also had displays, and Eileen Kaminsky (one of the adult support staff) coordinated a booth from *Advent Source*, which donated more than \$100 of books to give to youth leaders. Rick and Kelly Riley directed the food service.

The day’s highlights included a spirited song service and icebreaker activities. Wood focused his presentation on how to “Renew the Journey, A Road Trip with Christ,” which was the theme for this year’s rally.

After lunch students participated in outreach activities such as singing, giving coloring books to the patients at the pediatric hospital, helping at the animal shelter, and making cards for

servicemen and women. Another popular outreach activity was the Video-in-the-Park, where participants interviewed strangers and filmed the interviews on camera. The question this year was, “What does the cross mean to you?”

The Sabbath closed with a sharing time and a devotional by Wood. Pizza and root beer floats, along with a basketball game, drew the day to a close.

—BY RICK NORSKOV



“What does the cross mean to you?” was the question asked by the youth for the video in the park activity.

## Pathfinder Clubs Meet for Area Investiture

On Saturday, April 1, the Sand Mountaineers Pathfinder Club hosted the Huntsville and Decatur clubs for the investiture service. Thirty-three Pathfinders received various class pins and honor awards. Stellarae Dorman was invested as a Master Guide, and Ethan Reeves received his TLT (Teen Leadership Training) pin, badge, and red cord.

Bob Kimbro, area Pathfinder coordinator and chairperson for the

Gulf States Pathfinder Council, was the speaker for the worship service.

After visting with friends from other clubs while enjoying a delicious fellowship dinner, the Huntsville and Sand Mountaineer Clubs went to the local nursing home and sang for the residents.

—BY RHODA FYRNN STEARNS





## Conference Holds 30th Constituency Session



Delegates elected officers and departmental leaders and voted in five new churches. Three of the new churches were Hispanic.

April 23 was a busy day for delegates throughout the Conference as they gathered at the Montgomery First church for the Gulf States Conference 30th Constituency Session.

Besides electing officers and departmental directors to serve the Conference for the next five years, the delegates listened to reports of the progress made since the last Session. They voted

Conference goals and welcomed into the Conference five new churches.

Mel Eisele, Conference president, reported that in the past five years the membership gains represent a 15.4 percent growth. The membership is now 9,054. There was a 24.8 percent tithe increase for the past five years, which is an average gain of 4.95 percent per year.

Eisele was reelected as president; Leslie Louis, who has been the superintendent of education for the past four years, was elected executive secretary; Troy Peoples, who has served as assistant treasurer for the past 14 years, was elected treasurer. Louis fills the vacancy left when Fred Rimer accepted a call to pastor in the Carolina Confer-

ence, and Peoples fills the vacancy left when Dennis Millburn accepted a call to serve as the under treasurer of the Southern Union Conference. All department directors were reelected. The executive board and personnel committee will choose a new superintendent of education and an assistant treasurer.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Newly elected Conference officers and spouses are Troy and Karen Peoples (left), Mel and Phyllis Eisele, and Leslie and Carol Louis.

## Miracles Continue at Bass Memorial Academy



Miracles continue to happen at Bass Memorial Academy (BMA). On March 27, volunteers with

Maranatha arrived and began work on two new, large, classroom buildings. These structures will

replace five smaller buildings damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

During the course of the next two weeks, more than 80 men and women arrived from around the country to help with the construction.

Marlin Schwartz and his son, Terry Schwartz,

both businessmen from Lincoln, Neb., were the construction directors.

“We’ve been blessed with carpenters and other skilled laborers,” explained Terry Schwartz. “The weather has been excellent and the team spirit has been tremendous.”

At the end of two weeks, the walls of the buildings were up and the roof was ready for shingles—one more miracle for BMA in a year that all will remember.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## Conferences Demonstrate a Spirit of Unity



*Partners pray together before washing each other's feet.*

The weekend of March 31-April 2 was an historical landmark and, hopefully, the beginning of a new era. Representatives from the Kentucky-Tennessee and the South Central conferences converged upon Indian Creek Camp near Liberty, Tenn. The occasion was the first-ever prayer conference bringing the two conferences

together in one event.

The plan, initiated by the officers of the Southern Union and the local conferences within the union, was to conduct five such prayer conferences concurrently across the union territory.

Members of the South Central Conference from churches in Kentucky and Tennessee joined with members of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for one of the five prayer conferences.

Gail McKenzie and Roy Rugless, prayer coordinators for the Kentucky-Tennessee and South Central conferences, respectively, worked together in planning the special weekend emphasis on prayer and

unity. Featured speakers included LeClare Litchfield, chaplain at Collegedale Academy, and Kenneth Mulzac, professor of religion at Oakwood College. Time was spent in Bible study, workshops, and group prayer.

A highlight of the weekend proved to be the communion service held on Sabbath afternoon.

There was truly a bond of brotherly love and unity of fellowship as brothers and sisters from both conferences washed one another, prayed for one another, and exchanged hugs.

"I think everyone that attended the prayer conference would agree that it was a highlight of their spiritual experience," says

McKenzie. "There was such an attitude of unity and prayerfulness that it felt like a piece of Heaven on earth. Besides making new friends, the best part of all was the Spirit-filled presentations and music. We all knew, when we were ready to leave on Sunday, that we had been with Jesus."

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN



*Ken Mulzac spoke on Sabbath and Sunday mornings.*

## Auditorium at Highland Receives a Name

While all other buildings on the Highland Academy campus are named after someone, the gymnasium-auditorium has remained nameless until recently. From time to time over the years, names have been suggested for the gymnasium, but none seemed quite appropriate.

Early this year, a pro-

posal came to the Highland Academy Executive Committee and Board to name the gymnasium in honor of Raphan Ley, and it just seemed right.

During the past 20 years, Ley has donated more than 8,000 hours of his personal time to help coach the gymnastics team at Highland Academy.

Many of those hours include traveling with the team for performances. More valuable than just the hours is the positive role model Ley has been to all the students and members of the various teams over the years.

On Saturday night,

April 29, Ley was honored during the Gymnix home show. Highland Academy head coach of the team and principal, Don Mathis, presented Ley with a plaque honoring his commitment to the school and to the gymnastics program. Surprisingly, the presentation was kept a surprise. "I should have known something was up," said Ley, "I haven't seen some of these people since they were students here." He was referring to the many former students he had helped coach who were present for the occasion.

A plaque will hang in the foyer of Raphan Ley



*Raphan Ley*

Auditorium honoring the commitment of a man who has demonstrated his love and commitment for the youth who have attended Highland Academy during the past 20 years.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN



*The 2005-2006 Gymnix Team*



## Starship Ecclesia Wins Award

The Lawrenceburg church recently received word that it had placed second in a national photo contest for church-based computer labs. Sponsored annually by Sunday Software, a Christian software producer, the contest drew entries from individual churches and various denominations across the country.

“Lawrenceburg’s second-place entry demonstrated something we had never seen before—multiple keyboards and mice connected to one main computer which was projecting over their heads in their Starship Enterprise-like lab, allowing several students to

navigate the Bongo Bible game together,” commented a Sunday Software representative.

Used by the junior Sabbath school division and the Pathfinder club, the lab features a network of several computers set up to resemble the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise, complete with “windows” on the cosmos and a video projector powered “viewport” to zoom in on the subject under discovery.

Named “*Starship Ecclesia* (Congregation)” the students use various programs to learn memory verses, play quiz games, explore Bible locations and events, research the Bible and Ellen

G. White writings, and watch videos and DVDs. They can study their Sabbath school lessons using PowerPoint presentations developed by the General Conference children’s ministries department for the PowerPoint’s Grace Link curriculum ([www.gracelink.net](http://www.gracelink.net)).

They can complete CD-ROM-based lessons like Amazing Facts “Panorama of Prophecy” and “Final Events” resources, and access 3ABN programming, as well as generic Bible lesson



*It’s a busy flight deck on the Starship Ecclesia.*

programs from developers like SunSoft.

There is never a dull moment in this class as the young people “explore the universe of God’s Word.”

—BY ALAN SALHANY

## LJA Sponsors Science Fair

Louisville Junior Academy’s annual science fair was another success. In previous years, the presentations were limited to illustrating the scientific process, along with presenting scientific concepts such as how crystals grow. This year, the exhibits included PowerPoint presentations, research papers, and observational reports on family pets.

Excitement was high with family members— young and old—present to view the exhibitions. Just the fact that friends from three other local churches came together for this event made it memorable.



*Mager Jewel’s Oak Island archeological display was the grand prize winner.*

All contestants were given recognition in the form of ribbons. Some students were recognized for their scientific insights, some for their neat presentations, others for their careful attention to details, and still others for their creativity.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER

## Clarksville Breaks Ground for New Church Home



On a sunny April evening, members of the Clarksville, Tenn., church gathered on a vacant building site to break ground for their new church. Also present were Wayne Harrison, city councilman; Mike Boisseau, the contractor; and Marvin Lowman, executive secretary of the Conference. Having sold their former church, the congregation has been worshipping in the Madison Street United Methodist church. According to the pastor, Bob Wint, the new sanctuary will have a seating capacity of 260 and is projected to be completed by the end of this year. The new church facility will be located just off Exit 1 of Interstate 24 in Clarksville.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

## First Church Celebrates Fifty Years



*Harold Thomas, III, pastor*

September 24, 2005, the First church of Dublin, Ga., celebrated its 50th anniversary. The day was filled with music and praise. It began with the New Life band of Warner Robins, Ga., providing music for Sabbath morning

worship services.

Guests included the singing group “Soulace” of Atlanta, Ga., rendering two selections for the divine worship service. The keynote speaker for the hour was South Atlantic Conference President Vanard Mendinghall, whose sermon was entitled, “The Cutting Edge.” The day concluded with a musical concert.

First church is full of rich history, courage, determination, and dedication. It was started by Sarah Pilcher, who, for 10 years, was the only Seventh-day Adventist in Dublin.

Pilcher longed for a church to be built in her city, so she washed clothes, sold sandwiches, and rented rooms in her house to earn the money to have a church built. She saved \$500 from her various fundraising projects, and in 1955 she sent the funds to the pastor of the Macon, Ga., church, Ralph Hairston, Sr., to see if he would conduct an evangelistic meeting.

Hairston accepted the challenge, and in August of 1955, he went to Dublin and pitched a tent on Glenwood Avenue. From that meeting 27 individuals were baptized and First

church was born.

Between the years 1955 and 1964, serving as pastors were R. E. Totress, Walter Darby, and Paul Monk, and serving as head elder, Solomon Pittman.

Today the church is under the leadership of Harold Thomas, III, since August, 2002. Under his leadership an evangelistic tent meeting was conducted by Nathaniel Hollis and Calvin Watkins. These meetings resulted in 33 baptisms.

The church has also incorporated an Hispanic congregation, and this union has been a blessing.

—BY DAVID BELL

## Maranatha Deaconesses Provide Faithful Service



*Pictured are some members of the deaconess board of the Atlanta-Marannatha church.*

Living for Jesus has never been more challenging—busy schedules, career pressures, sudden tragedies, and seemingly unanswered prayers. Many times evidence of God’s

actions are difficult to see, but not for this all-star team. Relying on trust, discipline, teaching by example, and encouraging each other in the Christian life, these women proclaim

the good news of salvation.

The Greek verb diakonia means, “To serve.” And, the deaconesses at Maranatha church in Atlanta, Ga., do just that and so much more. Dedicated to the call, they provide spiritual care, by visiting the sick, teaching faith through action and attitude, and reaching out to those who have special needs. Resilient and dependable, the deaconesses are led by Frances Strozier. Getting stronger and growing in number, this has been a stellar year for new members. Their mission and values have created a bond that says service is an opportunity to be patient, enthusiastic, creative, and share a desire for strong

worship.

They assist Maranatha’s church family in discovering ways to strengthen the church by partnering with other auxiliaries to promote special events with noteworthy success. They also are often called upon to share wisdom and know-how with sister churches. And, if you happen to stop by on a particular Sabbath, you just might be the recipient of the tastiest little loaf of homemade bread.

What is the reward for displaying this kind of behavior? The best kind—the world becomes a better place. The deaconesses at Maranatha in Atlanta are truly an all-star team.

—BY GWENDOLYN CLAYTON



## Hallelujah Night Draws Church Youth

The East Market Street AYS department offered the surrounding churches and community an alternative to Halloween on October 29, 2005. On this particular Saturday night, East Market Street hosted an indoor fair two nights prior to Halloween.

The church's AYS leader, Shanel Cordew, worked feverishly with her staff to get game stations ready for the start time. There were 20 stations to choose from, each of which were stocked with a wide variety of prizes for any participant that successfully won a game.

Upon entering the gymnasium of the N.B. Smith Family Life Center, there were dozens of sites and sounds to grab attention. There was cotton candy; a large, inflated, jumper-room castle for youth to practice their summersaults and cartwheels freely; and a basketball shoot game where toddlers and teens could perfect their "hoop" capabilities and work up an appetite for the popcorn, cotton candy, nachos, and slushies being sold in the kitchen.

The majority of the games were Bible-based, highlighting a story to

underscore to the youth that the Bible is filled with adventures worthy of feasting attention.

Descriptive signs beckoned visitors to come "Crown King Solomon," "Fish in Galilee," and "Move by Faith." There were plenty of prizes awarded to all participants, courtesy of Kadis Hull, who made an outstanding contribution to the event. It was a fun-filled, morale-building

event that many will remember for years to come.  
—BY LILLI HOWELL



Many young people participated and enjoyed the events.

## Victory Liquidates Mortgage



Pictured are David Smith, pastor (left); former pastors Walter Boyd and Samuel Dade (top back row); Linwood Stone, treasurer of the South Atlantic Conference; and the Victory church family.

The members of Victory church in Reigelwood, N.C., celebrated the much anticipated event of burning the mortgage on their church home on the weekend of February 4, 2006.

The small company of approximately 15 believers held the ground break-

ing ceremony on March 18, 2001. The group was organized into a church by David M. Jones, former pastor, on January 25, 2002. The church held the grand opening of its new facility on February 2, 2002, and less than four years later (the fall of 2005) made the final payment on

the \$350,000 cost of their new church.

The celebration began Friday evening with Jones, vice president of the South Atlantic Conference, as the speaker for the service. The Sabbath school was taught by the conference treasurer, Linwood Stone, and music

provided by the pastor, David Smith. The speaker for the divine worship service was former pastor Samuel Dade.

During the divine worship service, plaques were given to Shirley Williamson and Christopher and Maria Clark for their generous contributions which enabled the congregation to liquidate the debt in a relatively short time.

Others who received plaque awards were Linda Brown, Patricia Williamson, Michael Buie, and Kathryn Patrick. A concert was given by "The Twins," Nancy Wallace and Betty Bellamy, from Charlotte, N.C., who also provided music for the Friday evening service and divine worship.

—BY DAVID SMITH

## 103 and Counting



In September, 2005, Clara Belle Rogers turned 103. She was born in South Carolina and later came to Greensboro, N.C., on her way to Philadelphia, Penn. However, she was "swayed" to remain in Greensboro by her aunt. She got a job as a nanny, and later joined the East Market Street church where she faithfully served as a deaconess since 1946, and as an usher as well. She has two daughters and three grandchildren.

—BY LILLI HOWELL

## Conference Leaders Train Preachers

March 3-6 was the beginning of something groundbreaking in the Southeastern Conference.

The Young Preacher's Institute, a concept that has been thriving in the north, was introduced by Sherwin Callwood, pastor and youth director for the Conference.

Invitations were sent to the local churches, and 27 men and women registered

for the event.

In his opening remarks, Callwood stated, "We are not here to make you preachers, but to equip you with the tools to finish God's work."

The facilitators for the weekend were Callwood; Robert Henley, Conference communication/technology director; H. Brewer and V. Dehm, II, (Cocoa church);

Barry Bonner (Progress Village church); and T. Taylor (Poinciana church).

They presented different topics such as "Technology," "Presenting with Visual



SHERIE BARTON

*Robert Henley discusses the use of technology in preaching.*

Aids," and "How to Develop a Note-Free Outline."

The seminars were rotated hourly, allowing attendees to get the benefits of each workshop.

The attendees not only received hands on training, but they had to present a five-minute sermon using the information they had learned from the workshops they attended.

As the weekend came

to a close, they were given a closing charge to put what they had learned into practice and to never pass up the opportunity to witness.

The attendees became excited about sharing God's words and gained the knowledge they needed to get started in proclaiming the good news.

—BY SHERIE BARTON



ROBERT HENLEY

*Participants developing PowerPoint presentations to be used in their sermons.*

## Tallahassee Maranatha Burns Mortgage

The Tallahassee Maranatha church, under the leadership of Caesar Robinson, recently held its mortgage burning ceremony.

Former pastor Tyrone Boyd, who pastored Maranatha from 1981-1991, was the divine worship service speaker.

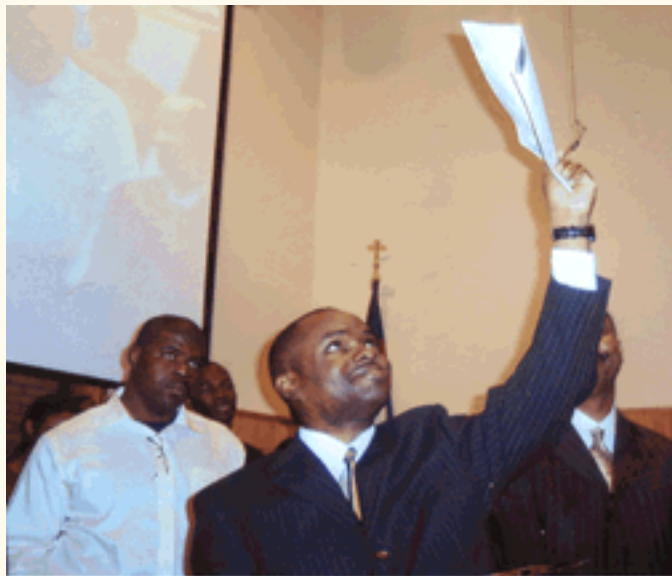
The church was built under his leadership in July of 1989. Also in attendance was Herman Davis, Sr., Conference stewardship director and former pastor of Maranatha from 2001-2004.

Boyd admonished the church members to put on the full armor of God, so

they will be able to stand against Satan. They are fighting, not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Boyd praised the members for their faithfulness. He stated, "You have been raised up with Christ in heavenly places, you have been exalted above the angelic of Christ, and you have been given legal authority over Satan. Therefore, you can say in the name of Jesus, 'get away from me Satan.'"

— BY PHILLIPPA JAMES



*Caesar A. Robinson, pastor, burns mortgage papers.*



## Perrine Conducts S.A.T. Test Preparation Class

The Perrine church education department recently conducted an S.A.T. training session.

The annual event is organized by Richard Smith and Millicent Taylor, along with assistants Giselle Holness and Victor Morgan.

Thirty-four students participated in the training session which is conducted for grades six through 12. The free 24-hour course

was held in the church fellowship hall on Sundays.

The objective is to make sure each student has the opportunity to earn the best possible score on the S.A.T. whenever they take the test.

The materials and curriculum are provided by the College Board, which is the entity that develops and administers the S.A.T. through the office of the Florida

Education Fund.

The students who attend our sessions know that a score of 1270 in math and critical reading wins

100 percent Bright Futures scholarship, and a score of 970 in the same two sections wins them 75 percent Bright Futures scholarship as long as their G.P.A. is 3.0 and above.

Thirty-four students eagerly attended the sessions every Sunday, many without missing one session.

Students were given a pre-test and drilled in key preparation tips, as well as exposed to the kinds of test questions which might be on the S.A.T. They were engaged in learning strategies to master the test.

On the final day of the session, the students were given a post-test. This test revealed that many students had made gains of 100 points or more.

Kristal Taylor stated that techniques she learned helped her do well on an I.T.B.S. test that she recently completed.

She added, "The math questions were easier to answer."

Matthew Hudson-Vassell declared that "attending the S.A.T. classes helped me to understand what the questions were asking and how to answer the questions."

The parents were enthused about their children attending the classes.

The next session will be in February of 2007. It is planned to get additional students as well as more community involvement.

— BY MILLICENT TAYLOR



Richard Smith, pictured above, proctoring the post test.

## Southeastern Hosts Early Childhood Workshop

The Southeastern Conference education department recently hosted an early childhood education workshop that was conducted by Tamara Libonati, director of early childhood education for the Southern Union.

Early childhood program directors and pre-kindergarten teachers from both the Florida and Southeastern conferences were in attendance.

The workshop was the first of a series designed to align the early childhood programs within the Southern Union with the Southern Union Adventist EDGE initiative.

"Specifically, this series

will educate those who work with children, birth to four years of age, to understand and work with each child's learning styles, physical, emotional, and behavioral developmental levels, as well as to design instruction and use curriculum that is developmentally appropriate," said Libonati.

She added, "It's fascinating

stuff. What research has revealed within the last 10 years regarding the brain is amazing—what a phenomenal

Creator we have."

The initial workshop featured Eugene Brewer, Ed.D., development specialist for the Southern Union.

He lectured on the physiological development of the infant and rapidly growing child's brain and how what happens in this development period impacts memory and learning.

The next

few workshops will cover the following topics: diverse learning preferences, techniques for building social skills, language

development, math/science explorations and discoveries, and design instruction.

Also, curriculum and daily lesson plans that are developmentally appropriate will be covered.

Currently, there are more than 80 early child care programs within the Southern Union, serving more than 2,000 children from birth through four years of age.

For more information about the early childhood education program, contact Tamara Libonati by email at [tlibonati@southernunion.com](mailto:tlibonati@southernunion.com) or visit [www.adventist-edge.com](http://www.adventist-edge.com).

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Eugene Brewer discusses brain development with child care director and teachers

## Fossils Donated to Southern

More than 200,000 fossils, some of which have been displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., will soon be displayed in Southern Adventist University's Hickman Science Center.

Sheldon Spencer, an avid fossil collector since 1975, donated the collection worth an estimated \$500,000.

"When I started getting lucky with finding fossils, I noticed that there aren't many great fossil collections in Adventist institu-

tions," says Spencer. Southern welcomed the addition of the fossils, so Spencer decided to donate the collection rather than sell it.

Lee Spencer, biology professor and paleontologist (no relation to Sheldon Spencer), says the donation will help increase faculty and students' understanding



*Pictured here are just some of the 200,000 fossils that will soon be on display at Southern.*

of creation and evolution issues. "Analyzing these fossils will allow students to verify what is data and what is interpretation," he says.

The fossils were collected from all over the United States and are both plant and animal specimens. The creationist viewpoint dates the oldest fossils in the collection from Noah's flood, while the evolutionist theory dates the fossils as far back as 600 million years.

When the collection arrives, some pieces will be on display right away. Plans are under way for a large display to house the fossils, using shelves built into the walls during construction of Hickman.

—KATIE MINNER

## Student Missionaries Prepare for Service

About 75 outgoing student missionaries and task-force workers were given the challenge to implement Matthew 28: 19-20 during a dedication ceremony on April 21.

Following the orders to "go and make disciples

of all nations..." Southern Adventist University students will be serving God in 32 countries, including the United States, during the 2006-2007 school year.

"You guys are so lucky to be going out," Spalding Elementary School Prin-

icipal Murray Cooper told those preparing for a year of service as he shared from his own experience serving in the Guam-Micronesia Mission.

After Cooper's inspiring message, former student missionaries lit the

candles of next year's student missionaries and task-force workers, who then surrounded the church as a symbolic gesture of them carrying the gospel light around the world.

—LORI FUTCHER

## Kelly's English Garden Dedicated



One year after the fire that took the life of English major Kelly Weimer, a garden was dedicated in her honor.

Filled with 238 plants, including rose bushes planted by student associa-

tion presidents from each of the Adventist colleges across North America, the garden is a peaceful place where students can gather, read, or study.

—LORI FUTCHER

*English professor Helen Pyke (right) prepares to read some of Kelly Weimer's writing during the garden's dedication ceremony. Looking on are Troy DeWind, assistant director of landscape services; Bill and Barbara Weimer, Kelly's parents; and Gordon Bietz, president.*



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# Helping Women Answer the Call

BY ANDY PHAM

Feeling called to ministry but unsure of how others would react, Alyssa Foll spent her senior year of high school debating on whether or not she would enroll at Southern Adventist University as a theology major. For a while, she even toyed with the idea of taking theology classes without declaring herself a theology major.

Then Alyssa's focus shifted from what people expected of her to what she felt was God's plan for her life. "I decided to do what God wanted me to do—study theology," she says.



Marla Samaan (left), adjunct religion professor at Southern, mentors female theology majors like Christina Hack.

When she arrived on campus, Alyssa found she was not alone in her decision. In fact, Southern's School of Religion has 60 female students majoring or minoring in theology or one of the school's other areas of study.

Shortly after Alyssa's arrival, she met with Marla Samaan, an instructor in the School of Religion who recently completed two years of service as an associate pastor.

## Friends...

Realizing that other female students from the School of Religion would benefit from similar conversations, Alyssa came up with the idea of having a group to support, encourage, and spiritually uplift these women. Thus, Women in Ministry was formed.

Members attend lunch meetings, vespers, and a spiritual retreat to spend time in prayer and Bible study.

The organization has connected the female religion majors with each other. Discussions at Women in Ministry meetings have also highlighted special ways women can serve God in various church ministries.

## ...and Mentors

The women have particularly benefited from their sponsor, Marla, who has been helpful in giving a female perspective in topics that are sometimes addressed from a male point of view, such as what to wear when preaching, and how their spouses will support them in their ministry.

Samaan did not originally set out to become a pastor. She had envisioned herself doing Bible work or becoming involved in missions.



Joann Sifontes is majoring in archeology and minoring in biblical languages.

"God opened my eyes to do what he wanted me to do," she says. "I accepted an associate pastor [position] in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and realized the many gifts God had given me."

This summer, Samaan heads to Andrews University, where she will pursue her doctorate. Lynn Caldwell, journalism professor at Southern, will step in as faculty sponsor for this group.

"We are in the midst of a movement," says Caldwell. "The Lord is raising up a large portion of women...we need to figure out how to love and support these women."

Women in Ministry is doing just that.

## Excellence in Biblical Preaching

Kessia Bennett recently became the first female to receive the School of Religion's Excellence in Biblical Preaching Award.

"Your capacity isn't determined by your gender," she says as she talks about her decision to major in theology. "There's a lot I could have done, but everything comes back to ministry."

Kessia has accepted a call to serve as a pastor in Oregon, where she will begin serving after her husband completes his film production degree at Southern in May, 2007.





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# Events Calendar

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### Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

June 24. Hispanic Camp Meeting.

June 25. Plantation, Lauderhill. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

July 8. St. Petersburg.

July 9. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.

July 22. Port Charlotte.

July 23. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy, Brandon, Tampa First.

Aug. 12. West Palm Beach.

Aug. 13. Midport in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)

Aug. 26. Maranatha in Miami.

Aug. 27. Plantation, Lauderhill. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

Estate Services Clinics and Seminars

June 24. Tallahassee.

Aug. 5. New Smyrna Beach.

Aug. 19. Sebring.

Aug. 26. South Orlando.

### Evangelism Series

July 2-Aug. 26. Kress Memorial. Bill & Sunshine Waters.

July 6-Aug. 12. Sarasota. Lester & Zula Pratt.

July 8-22. Deltona Spanish. Rolando & Rebeca de los Ríos.

Aug. 5-12. Kendall Spanish. Rolando & Rebeca de los Ríos.

Aug. 24-Sept. 30. Arcadia. Lester & Zula Pratt.

**Costa Rica Senior Youth Mission Trip--**July 14-23. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

**Yucatan Senior Youth Mission Trip--**July 24-Aug. 1. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

**Hope for Hurting Hearts--**Aug. 4-6. Details: 407-644-5000 x134.

## Georgia-Cumberland

### Festival of the Family

June 3. Lakeland, Ga.

July 15. Atlanta North Church.

**Pathfinder Mission Challenge--**June 4-18.

**Women's Ministries Emphasis Day --**June 10. Conference-wide.

**Regeneration Certification Training**

June 14-16. South Georgia.

July 14-16. Collegedale, Tenn.

### Health/Lay Evangelism

**Rally--**June 17. Roan Mountain/ Mountain City, Ga.

**Level 1 Women's Leadership Certification--**June 23-25.

Cohutta Springs.

**Pathfinder Honors--**June 25-July 2. Cohutta Springs.

**Health Emphasis Day--**July 8. Tifton, Ga.

**Ministers' Retreat--**July 23-26. Cohutta Springs.

**New Teacher Orientation--**July 24-27. Calhoun, Ga.

### Evangelistic Meetings

May 19-June 24. Chattanooga, Tenn., Convention Center. Mark Finley.

July 15-Aug. 12. Morristown, Tenn. Discover Prophecy Seminar.

## Gulf States

**Conference Executive Committee -** May 9. Conference Office.

**Teen Mission Trip -** July 6 - 25. Gulf Coast.

**Hispanic Youth Camp -** July 14 - 16. Camp Alamisco.

**Young Adult Retreat -** July 21 - 22. Camp Alamisco.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board

July 18. Sept. 19. Nov. 7.

**Conference Executive Committee**

July 18. Sept. 19. Nov. 7.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting --**June 9-11. Highland Academy.

**Ministers' Meeting --** July 30-Aug. 2. Indian Creek Camp.

## South Atlantic

**SAC Departmental Council --** May 3.

**Community Service/Disaster Retreat Training --** May 4-7. Camp Kulaqua.

**Hispanic Women's Retreat --** May 12,13.

**ABC/ FHES Committee Meeting --** May 17.

**SAC Quinquennial Constituency Session --** May 20, 21. Orangeburg, S.C.

**SAC Graduation Weekend --** May 26-28.

**Evangelism Committee Meeting --** June 5.

## Southern Adventist University

**Second Summer Session Begins--**June 5.

**PreviewSouthern, Summer Edition--**June 15.

## Announcements

**"Twenty-five Years: Tradition and Change" 26th Annual ASDAL Conference, June 18-24,** Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN, USA. Sunday - School librarians pre-session. Monday - Adventist Resources pre-session. Info: [www.asdal.org](http://www.asdal.org) or Ruth Swan, President Elect/ Program Chair ([ruth.swan@famuedu.org](mailto:ruth.swan@famuedu.org) or 850.599.3370)

## Granger, Washington SDA Church Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary -- July 28, 29.

Yakima Valley Academy and Granger Jr. Academy reunion held in conjunction. Details: [www.grangersda.com](http://www.grangersda.com); Email: [pat@grangersda.com](mailto:pat@grangersda.com); Address: Granger SDA Church, P.O. Box 460, Granger, WA 98932; Phone: 509-854-1132 or 509-837-4092.

**Oak Park Alumni Weekend --** Sept. 29, 30. Gates Hall, Nevada, IA. For more information, visit: [www.opainiowa.com](http://www.opainiowa.com)

## Seventh-day Adventist Korean Language Institute Alumni Missionaries where are you?

If you served in South Korea as a student or regular Missionary, please send us your contact information in preparation for a reunion during summer/fall 2006. E-mail: [marilynlarzus@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynlarzus@hotmail.com) or [sali@puconline.org](mailto:sali@puconline.org)

## Spokane Junior Academy

**Class of 1957 ---** Anticipating a 50-year class reunion at SJA Homecoming in 2007, I would like to get in touch with the students who moved through the grades at SJA with us, whether they graduated in 1957 or not. If you have contact information for any of our classmates, please get it to Nadine Platner Dower at [dickandnadine@comcast.net](mailto:dickandnadine@comcast.net) or call: 360-828-7146; or 13000 NW 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685.

**1956 Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates: We** are trying to locate all of the Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates of 1956 for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion meeting. Please write to: Eugene Wahlman, 12223 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032; or call 602-867-0264; or email: [genenan@mailstation.com](mailto:genenan@mailstation.com)

## Sunset

	June 3	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30	July 7
Atlanta, GA	8:46	8:49	8:51	8:52	8:52	8:51
Charleston, SC	8:25	8:28	8:31	8:32	8:32	8:30
Charlotte, NC	8:35	8:38	8:41	8:42	8:42	8:40
Collegedale, TN	8:52	8:55	8:57	8:59	8:59	8:57
Huntsville, AL	7:57	8:00	8:02	8:03	8:03	8:02
Jackson, MS	8:05	8:08	8:10	8:12	8:11	8:10
Louisville, KY	9:03	9:07	9:09	9:10	9:10	9:08
Memphis, TN	8:11	8:15	8:17	8:18	8:18	8:16
Miami, FL	8:10	8:13	8:15	8:16	8:16	8:16
Montgomery, AL	7:50	7:53	7:55	7:56	7:56	7:55
Nashville, TN	8:01	8:05	8:07	8:08	8:08	8:06
Orlando, FL	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26
Wilmington, NC	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26

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# Wildwood Approaches 65...

## (Retirement is Not on the Horizon)

BY C.J. MARSHALL & DEBORAH ARAKAWA



Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital has been ministering for nearly 65 years.

Since its small but inspired beginnings in 1942, Wildwood Sanitarium (now Wildwood Lifestyle and Hospital) has had a steadfast mission: Go, preach and teach—God’s saving health. This Christ-centered health-care facility uses natural remedies, lifestyle changes, and the power of prayer to help fulfill “The Great Commission.”

Wildwood’s ministry is also founded on inspired counsel from Ellen White’s writings: “Do medical missionary work. Thus you will gain access to the hearts of the people. The way will be prepared for more decided proclamation of the truth. You will find that relieving their physical suffering gives you opportunity to minister to their spiritual needs.” *Evangelism*, pg 514

Located 15 miles southwest of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the peaceful campus, nestled in the hills of Wildwood, Georgia, includes a Lifestyle Center where guests can come to achieve better physical health,

naturally. They often leave with improved spiritual health as well.

Also on the more than 500-acre campus is the College of Health Evangelism where mission-minded students from all over the world come to attend a concise, well-rounded, six-month course. The 22-class curriculum includes hydrotherapy, massage, nutrition, herbs, vegetarian cooking, physiology, and various spiritual classes. After graduation, the students participate in a mission trip, putting to practical use the skills they have learned.

As Wildwood approaches its 65th birthday, does it have any plans to retire? Not a chance.

In fact, Wildwood is actually picking up speed, sending out medical and lay persons to Haiti, Thailand, Romania, Kenya, and Indonesia. Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a group was sent to Mississippi to help with disaster relief, clean up, and rebuilding—not merely of structures, but of lives.

Wildwood’s latest ministerial opportunity was the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. Free health screenings were provided, including lung function and cardiovascular health tests, body fat percentages, and blood pressure checks. Hydrotherapy demonstrations were given, as well as much-needed back massages to weary passers by. Doctors and nurses checked blood sugar levels and counseled individuals

regarding various health concerns. Together with the evangelistic group “More Than Gold,” the Wildwood team helped distribute to the community and Olympic attendees 10,000 magazines and 65,000 flyers with both health and spiritual themes.

This year also marked the opening of Wildwood’s College of Medical Ministry. This three-year program offers students an in-depth course to prepare them to serve as fully-qualified medical missionaries, anywhere the Lord should lead.

Plans are underway for “The Philippine Project”—starting a Wildwood International School of Health and Evangelism in the main Philippine province of Luzon.

Ellen White explained that, in the last days, the “entering wedge” of medical missionary work will also be the last “open door” through which to reach souls.

The Wildwood Family strives to proclaim to the Lord, “That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” *Psalms 67:2*



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