

July 2007



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



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The B-I-B-L-E: Yes, That's the Book for Me

George Washington Carver, the African-American genius of Tuskegee Institute, has been called the world's greatest biochemist. He is best known for his discovery of hundreds of valuable uses for the peanut and sweet potato. I read that in 1921, Dr. Carver was invited to testify before the United States Senate Ways and Means Committee on the possibilities of the peanut. Though initially given 10 minutes to speak, he so captivated the committee that the chairman gave him unlimited time, and Carver spoke for one hour and 45 minutes.

At the conclusion of his presentation, he was asked, "Dr. Carver, how did you learn all these things?"

Carver replied, "From an old Book."

"What book?" the Senator continued. The famed scientist replied, "The Bible."

"Does the Bible teach about peanuts?" The surprised Senator inquired. "No, Sir," Dr. Carver replied, "but it tells about the God Who made the peanut. I asked Him to show me what to do with the peanut, and He did."

I believe every friend of God should read some portion of Scripture every day. No matter how many times we've read the Bible, it is still fresh for each day and still applicable for each person and circumstance. We all have different ways of studying Scripture and learning from Scripture.

In the past four years, I've found it quite revealing to read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation several times a year. That means that, in the past four years, I've read the Bible 14 times. Please, this isn't bragging, only testifying that when one reads through the entire Scriptures over and over again, it becomes clear what the main theme is. The theme is repeated in many ways, in many stories, in many forms, but it's the same theme. It's the same theme from beginning to end. It's an inescapable message that really only comes through when looking at the whole.

You know what the theme is, I'm sure. It's just that my Bible reading plan has seared this theme into my mind and heart. At the end of the day, there's one message: **Humans beings are desperately wicked and selfish; God is infinitely good and merciful. And in Jesus, human beings can become righteous by the grace of God.**

"But Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth." Psalm 86:15

Daily Bible reading is still a must for the Seventh-day Adventist Christian. If you've become a little lax, I invite you to begin again in the morning. It is the best part of the day—the time to listen to God speak. "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Cover Caption: *Julia Tkachuk, a student at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, is a tutor in the Student Success Center.*

Students Dream of Success

BY KATIE SHAW

Stephanie Sanchez is a success story even though she hasn't been accepted yet to the nursing program at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS). But, Stephanie's dream of becoming an RN—a third generation nurse in her family—gets closer every day thanks to the Student Success Center.

While a student at University High School, Stephanie first heard about Florida Hospital College at the Orlando Spanish church, her home congregation. She made the decision to attend FHCHS and began her first experience in an Adventist school the summer before her freshman year. Stephanie signed up for *Destination College*, a three-week program offered at the College for students wanting to prepare themselves for the rigors of collegiate life. Here Stephanie met Lenore Brantley, Ed.D. "Dr. Brantley not only helped me during *Destination*



PAUL MARTIN

Julia Tkachuk, a second-year Nursing student, tutors Navreet Kaur who has just begun the nursing program. Julia remembers how challenging the first semester of the program was and wants to help other students understand how to study the difficult concepts.

College, but she has kept in contact with me ever since, making sure that I have the resources I need to be successful," Stephanie commented.

Another key to Stephanie's success is Patty Wooley, tutoring coordinator. Patty trains tutors that support the general education courses offered at FHCHS, and also lends her expertise in math to aid struggling students. Stephanie credits Patty for helping her under-

stand difficult math concepts. "She has a way of applying the math assignments to daily life and making it so easy to understand," Stephanie stated. "She's a great tutor!"

Sometimes the student becomes the teacher. Julia Tkachuk's success story began a new chapter when she was accepted in the nursing program in the fall of 2006. "Before I began the nursing program, I was a 4.00 student," Julia

recalled. "But the classes were so different from what I was used to, and I started to have trouble academically." Julia sought help from Susan Woolley, professional program tutor and a practicing nurse. "She was so great and helped me a lot," Julia stated appreciatively. Now that Julia is in her third semester of the nursing program, she gets great satisfaction from tutoring first-semester students and sharing her experiences with them.



PAUL MARTIN

The Student Success team at Florida Hospital College: Patty Wooley (left), student worker Alina Oramas, Lenore Brantley, Neal Smith, Karen Tilstra, and Betty Varghese.

The Student Success Center is where many students' dreams spark, grow, and become realized. Karen Tilstra, director of the Center for Student Success and Retention, is an essential campus resource. "The creation of the Success Center was deliberate on the part of the administration," Karen stated. "They realized that to produce successful students, we must provide them with the tools that will ensure that success." During the 2006-2007 school year, peer tutors assisted more than 500 students. In addition, supplemental instruction was provided for certain core general education courses. After these classes meet, students are invited to stay and speak with a tutor to immediately clear up any concepts they didn't understand. Both students and professors are finding this resource invaluable.

True student success doesn't stop with tutoring. Neal Smith, testing and statistical coordinator, administers the ACT, Nurse Entrance Test (NET), and CLEP test. Students are also given the option of taking learning-style evaluations, career interest inventories, and a strengths-finder survey. "We really feel strongly that a student can start off successfully by identifying and focusing on their strengths instead of their weaknesses," Karen commented. "It's so empowering for a student to understand their strengths

and to apply those in their academic and personal lives."

As coordinator of academic advising and *Destination College*, Lenore Brantley helps faculty advisors learn the best ways to assist their advisees. Regular advisors' meetings, mentoring workshops, and instruction in strengths-based advising make the Student Success

Center a place for faculty success as well. An electronic tracking system links at-risk students, their professors, and the Center to track students' progress. The system helps identify a student that may need extra help in a class based on their grade, reports this to their professor, advisor, and the Success Center, and then alerts the professor and advisor once the student has received tutoring. "It's an amazing system that has worked so well for us," Karen said. "Each person involved realizes that they can't do it alone, but this system allows all pieces to work together and provides accountability."

Betty Varghese nurtures students with another avenue for success: an opportunity to sit down and discuss any challenges in their lives. Betty is a full-time mental health counselor and is committed to providing confidential support in private or group settings.

Future plans for the Success Center include adding a student intervention coordinator. This individual will be responsible for case-management of at-risk students, will mentor students on academic probation, and will serve as the College disability officer.

The Student Success Center

is committed to helping students realize their dreams. In fact, DREAMS has become the mantra for the department—Delivering Resources that Empower And Motivate Success. Students who visit the Center are constantly reminded of their own value and ability. "Success is a decision," one framed picture says. Another charges: "Dare to dream. Choice, not chance, determines destiny."

"I believe that Florida Hospital College is a better place for everyone because of the Student Success Center," stated Steve Roche, vice president for student services. "It is evident that each team member wants only the best for all of the students on campus, whether they have visited the Success Center or not."

Stephanie and Julia are already success stories because of their own talents and strengths, but the Student Success Center has been a stepping-stone, support group, and cheering section for them. And someday soon, both will have fulfilled their dreams and will become nurses.

Katie Shaw is director of recruiting at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences.



PAUL MARTIN

Stephanie Sanchez (seated) receives support for her dream of becoming a nurse from Betty Varghese, the College's mental health counselor.

Recognizing Excellence

BY MARVIN LOWMAN



Carlyle Ingersoll (left), Salli Jenks, Becky Patrick, David Moore, Matt Hartman, Elise Harboldt, Lauren Day, and Don Mathis, Highland Academy principal, attended the awards banquet in Scottsdale, Arizona, to receive their \$15,000 grant.



Rob Stevenson (left), Madison Academy principal; Sophia Kim, James Carpenter, Rachel Wilson, and Jimmy Closser, proudly display their \$25,000 grant.

Highland Academy and Madison Academy have been recognized for the high quality of the program these schools offer. In 2006, Highland Academy received the Academy Award For Excellence from the Alumni Awards Foundation, and in 2007, Madison Academy was the recipient of the same award. The award is not only recognition of excellence in Adventist education, but comes with a monetary grant as well.

Highland Academy received \$15,000 which was used to remodel the school's library. "Applying for the Alumni Awards For Excellence is a huge undertaking involving submitting a tremendous amount of information to the Alumni Awards Foundation," says Don Mathis, principal. "We submitted a three-inch binder covering everything from our mission statement to accreditation status, and certification of all aspects of our program."

Over the last three years, Madison Academy has undergone a transformation—spiritually, academically, technologically, and with

respect to ethnic diversity—resulting in an increase in enrollment. "For all those connected with the transformation of the school, the award validated all the effort it took to rework the school and its program," says Rob Stevenson, principal. Madison Academy received \$25,000. The awards are presented in Scottsdale, Arizona, during an awards presentation banquet where a delegation of students and staff from each school are present.

Both academies are accredited by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools), a nonAdventist accrediting body. This is significant because it means, among other things, that our academies offer an education program that is academically sound. In fact, statistically, students who attend Adventist academies average higher achievement test scores compared to students in public schools. They also are more likely to go on to college and have a successful college experience.

But, the spiritual factor must not be overlooked. Bible classes and other religious activities provide students the opportunity to know God, accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and commit their lives to service. Mission trips at Highland and Madison create opportunities to know and understand other cultures and to serve others. Mission trips are life-changing experiences for both students and staff.

"It's a great honor to have both of our academies receive the Alumni Awards For Excellence, back to back. This award is given to outstanding academies in the North American Division, so this is a real honor for us," says Larry Boughman, superintendent of schools for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

The Alumni Awards Foundation exists to inspire and reward excellence in Adventist K-12 schools, educators, and alumni. Since 1995, the organization has awarded grants totaling more than \$800,000.

Welcome Home, Evie!

BY DEREK MORRIS



"I am thoroughly enjoying your Ten Commandments series," Evie Salzmänn wrote while watching the web site video stream of Derek Morris, D.Min., Forest Lake church's senior pastor, at forestlakechurch.org. "We are so happy that you are part of our extended family," he responded. Evie joined the Forest Lake church by profession of faith on May 12, 2007, and Morris presented a quilt to her with the embroidered words, "Welcome home, Evie!"

Sabbath, May 12, 2007, was a day of rejoicing at the Forest Lake church in Apopka, Florida. Evie Salzmänn came home!

Evie was born in Haiti in 1941. Her parents were holocaust survivors who had fled from Vienna, Austria, in 1938. Evie's father was Jewish, and her mother was Roman Catholic. Her father allowed her to be christened as a baby in the Roman Catholic church in an attempt to protect her from Hitler's persecution of the Jews, but Evie grew up in a home that practiced the Jewish faith.

Thanks to the witness of Victor and Catherine Lebedoff, Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in Haiti, Evie's parents gave their permission for her to attend Forest Lake Academy (FLA) in Apopka, Florida, for the last three years of high school.

While a student at FLA, Evie learned more about Jesus, her Messiah. In her senior year, she confessed her love for Jesus through baptism.

When her father heard about her decision, he strongly opposed her commitment to follow Jesus. He forbade any further contact with Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Evie had hoped to attend Southern Missionary College, but, due to her father's opposition, she ended up at a secular institution. She later married a Jewish man and has practiced the Jewish faith for most of her life. But, Evie always knew, deep in her heart, that Jesus was her Messiah.

Some months ago, Evie began attending Forest Lake church online via its web church at forestlakechurch.org. Services are streamed live every Sabbath from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Evie watched a series of messages entitled "Words of Blessing—A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." While watching a sermon on the eighth commandment, Evie came under a strong conviction

that she needed to honor God with her finances. She e-mailed me at Forest Lake church and asked for some tithe envelopes because she wanted to "stop stealing from God." Evie later shared with me that she had to make some major adjustments in her shopping habits in order to honor God with her finances.

Evie now attends church regularly online every Sabbath as part of the Forest Lake web church. On Sabbath, May 12, 2007, 48 years after her baptism, Evie asked to become a member of the Forest Lake church by profession of faith. She traveled more than three hours from south Florida to testify to her new church family that she has always believed that Jesus is her Messiah, and that it was time to come home.

The Prayers and Squares quilting ministry of the Forest Lake church, under the leadership of JoAnn Roth, presented Evie with a beautiful quilt to commemorate this joyful occasion. Embroidered on the quilt were these words: Welcome home, Evie!

Eddlemon Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, May 6, dawned cold, windy, and with overcast clouded skies. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of more than 60 eager golfers gathered at the links of Tryon Country Club for the second annual Eddlemon Adventist School Golf Classic Tournament.

There were 15 teams who teed off for the 18-hole game. Four holes offered prizes for a hole-in-one. Hole #4 had a prize of \$15,000 if anyone were to be so lucky. Other holes offered a chance to win a television, an airline ticket, and a set of golf clubs. Sad to report, these were not won by anyone this year.

In addition to the players, 25 sponsors contributed to the tournament by sponsoring a hole, providing meals, or in other unique ways.

Golfers came from all around the Carolinas and from as far away as Greeneville, Tenn., to enjoy the challenge, the fun, and the fellowship. Approximately \$4,500 was raised for the benefit of Eddlemon Adventist School.

—BY KENNETH AND DEBBIE WYNN

Morganton Church Grand Opening



Tim and Brenda Sheridan (seated left), present pastor; Tony and Mary Ann Cirigliano (standing left), 1991-1998; Jim and Bonnie Davidson, Conference president and morning speaker; James and Doris Wolter, 1954-1957; Leslie and Connie Smart, 1987-1991; Edward and Mary Lee Herzel, 1978-1982; and Archer and Anne Livengood, 1952-1954 and 1957-1960

The Morganton, N.C., church recently invited former pastors and guests to the grand opening of its new church and school on May 12, which is located just off Interstate 40 near the city of Morganton.

The old brick school building, which brought Adventist education to the area for so many years, was demolished, making way for construction of the new Silver Creek Adventist School. The school was built first, a state-of-the-art structure which includes three classrooms, a science lab, media center, office, kitchen, and gymnasium. The school is equipped with high-speed wireless access where computers integrate technology in the classrooms.

When the Rockyford Street church was sold in May of 2004, the congregation shared the gym and classrooms with the

school. Three months later the church launched the WHGW (We Honor God's Word) radio station. The radio station broadcasts on frequency 100.3 on the FM dial.

In the fall of 1939 evangelist Harry Taylor conducted meetings in a portable structure, "The Rainbow Tabernacle." Thirty new members joined the church through baptism. As a result of this event, the Morganton church was established on May 15, 1940, with Elder B.F. Kneeland serving as the pastor. It was about this time that remaining members of the Glen Al-

pine church on Jamestown Road transferred to either the Table Rock, Laurel, or Morganton churches. It was these three churches that made up the district at that time.

This is the same property where back in the 1920s an Adventist school and health institute operated. The institute was located on 186 acres, on both sides of Jamestown road. Today, Interstate 40 has taken much of the property. After all these years the Adventist work in Morganton has come full circle.

—BY RON QUICK



Landmark Obtained for Half Price



Members of the Clemson church are rejoicing, having acquired the landmark Wesleyan church and parsonage located a half-mile from the campus of Clemson University. It seemed impossible, but

after much prayer the Wesleyan's accepted an offer for half the asking price.

The small Clemson group has been busy reaching out to University students by holding a Bible study group in the student

center on Tuesday nights. Along with this they conducted a health expo on the University campus. In addition to their outreach in Clemson, they have accepted a gracious gift of an historic home located near the poorest neighborhoods of nearby Seneca, S.C., where they are planning

outreach ministries.

This focused group of 70 faithful believers are grateful for how God has blessed their efforts.

—BY LEWIS STUBBS

Second Place in a Half Million Votes

When Christian radio station WMIT from Black Mountain, N.C., held



CAROLYN COBB

a contest for singers to perform with the popular group, Avalon, Natasha Hildebran Perez was one of the 286 entries. After one week, more than a half million votes were cast. Natasha, a Hickory native, was in the top three.

When the judges' votes were tallied, Natasha came in second and she was voted the favorite by the audience. Since that night, Natasha has been invited to perform at various functions and churches.

Natasha's singing career began while she was attending Mt. Pisgah Academy and happened to be singing in the shower. One of the students heard her and encouraged her to sing for Vespers. From that point on she realized she had a talent that could be used to glorify God.

"I said Lord, I know you have a plan for my life. Just show me what you want me to do," stated Natasha.

Natasha is married to Carlos Perez, who currently serves in the Armed Forces. The couple has a 13-month-old son.

—BY SUSAN SMITH

Car Show Reaches Community

A crisp Sunday morning in March with vintage cars, classy motorcycles, and Micro-Midget Racers—what's not to like?

That was the idea that crossed the mind of John Earnhardt, pastor of the Columbia, S.C., First church. With his family's roots in racing and access to the Micro-Midget Racers, it was a sure winner for evangelistic outreach.

His idea came to fruition on Sunday, March 4, 2007, as the church grounds became a showground for motorcycles, "trikes," and well-maintained cars and trucks. More than 100 enthusiasts turned out for the event, with local coverage from the newspaper and lo-

cal television stations.

The location of the "Car and Motor Show" allowed people to mingle freely and ask questions about the church and the Christian Talk Radio station, WBAJ, which has its studio on the property adjoining the church building.

Seems like an unusual way to win souls, but it's part of a larger plan to meet people from the community, make friends, and hopefully, invite them back to visit again. Where a person may not be ready for an invita-

tion to attend church service or other spiritual event, they are most likely receptive to something like a cooking school, health seminar, or, yes, even a car show.

This is only the beginning of a concentrated evangelistic outreach. Now that they've been to the church, it's easier for them to come back.

—REPORTED BY CHARLIE



Prayer Summit Provides Encounter With God

Know Him—Love Him—Share Him was the theme of the 2007 Prayer Summit held at Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Fla., in a 3-in-1 Encounter With God that provided for English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, and youth groups. More than 400 participants came “expecting God to do miracles,” said Michael Coe, a seminar presenter and Mt. Dora, Fla., church pastor.

The main speaker, Michelle Siebel, prayer coordinator from Hawaii Conference, used John 17 as the basis for her message. Siebel related how God impresses her to make contact with people whom she has never met.

Highlights of the program were:

- **Seminars**—Five presenters: Juanita Kretschmar, Alex Schlusser, Joel Honoré, Virginia Collins, and Michael Coe, modeled how they pray for



Rosalie Flores from Southeastern California Conference prays for pastors Cecilio Pérez (left) and Fernando Paulín, who were among the 150 attendees in the Spanish-language track.

people and allow for hands-on experiences. “The seminars were an eye-opener for me,” says Kevin Manestar, Sarasota church member. “My prayer walk will never be the same.”

- **Hour of Prayer**—People took turns praying for each other on Sabbath morning, directed by Joel Honoré, Conference ministerial field secretary.

- **Anointing Service**—Haskell Williams, Apopka church pastor, and a team of elders led the Sunday morning anointing service.
- **Spanish Language Group**—Ofelia Reyes, a past prayer coordinator from Southeastern California Conference, and Rosalie Flores, who initiated the prayer ministry in that Conference, presented the guidelines for starting a

prayer ministry and for keeping it alive. Presentations were based on II Chronicles 7:14, “If my people...pray.”

- **Youth Group**—Nicki Carleton shared with the young people how to set up and use a prayer room. The participants learned to journal and become involved in the many facets of prayer.

“The weekend presenters taught us how to pray using the scriptures and songs to make prayer meetings more meaningful and participative,” said Jorge Rojas, Carol City Spanish/Miami Beach First Spanish district pastor.

Plans are being made for the next Prayer Summit—January 11-13, 2008, with the theme, “Empowered in 2008.” The featured speaker will be Roscoe Howard, III, General Conference executive secretary.

—BY STEVE ADESSA

Lay Pastors Receive Credentials to Serve

More than 75 lay pastors and spouses gathered May 11 and 12 at Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland, Fla., for training events. A weekend highlight was the shared stories of God’s recent blessings in their churches.

Sessions were conducted by Abel Paulín, Conference evangelism coordinator; Joel Honoré, ministerial field secretary; Tim Nichols, ministerial field secretary; Ken Norton, church

planting coordinator; and Bob Boggess, lay pastoral ministries coordinator. Ken Burrill, Conference vice president for administration and ministerial, directed the retreat.

Lay pastors provide primary pastoral care to more than 50 local congregations in Florida. Many more lay pastors assist with pastoral care of congregations throughout the state.

—BY BOB BOGCESS



Eight participants received lay pastor credentials from Bob Boggess (second from left), Conference lay pastoral ministries coordinator, and Ken Burrill (right), Conference vice president for ministerial.

Peru Mission Project Results In 1,021 Baptisms

During week-long evangelistic meetings held at 30 sites in Arequipa, Peru, 1,021 new believers were baptized.

Seventy lay leaders and pastors from Florida conducted the campaigns along with Conference administrators Mike Cauley, president; Carmen Rodriguez, executive secretary; Ken Burrill, vice president for administration and ministerial; and Abel Paulín, vice president for Spanish-language ministries and evangelism coordinator.

Free daily medical clinics treated more than 600 patients under the direction of Julius Garner, M.D., and children's ministries workshops were conducted by Rhoda Burrill, children's ministries director. In addition to providing these services, the underlying

purpose for the trip was to observe firsthand the successful small group evangelistic ministries now exploding into rapid church growth in the Peru Union Mission. The participants tried to discover working principles that can effectively be transplanted into evangelistic ministries in the Florida Conference.

The Peru Mission Project was coordinated by Bob Boguess, lay pastoral ministries coordinator; Abel Paulín; and

the Conference evangelism department staff. The trip also included a visit to Lake Titicaca, the region of early

Adventist mission work under the leadership of Fernando Stahl.

—BY BOB BOGUESS



Mike Cauley (top), Conference president, assisted local pastor Jairo Garcia Vasquez with baptisms at the Parra church in the picturesque city of Arequipa, Peru (right)—the site of 30 evangelistic series of meetings conducted from late April to early May.



PHOTOS: BOB BOGUESS

Haitians Gather at First Camp Meeting

The 2007 camp meeting season witnessed the introduction of new services for its Haitian constituents in their native Creole language. Six hundred and fifty people attended the meetings held at Bethel L'Eglise Haitienne Des Adventistes in Orlando.

Conference pastors coordinated the services and provided the preaching for the Friday night and Sabbath services. Mike Cauley, Conference president, lent his support and presence in an afternoon forum with church members.

The Sabbath evening



Enthusiasm among the 650 attendees at the Haitian camp meeting swelled with every service. Prayer and praise highlighted the powerful Spirit-filled weekend where the capacity crowd prompted event planners to talk of a larger gathering site in 2008.

service began with a youth concert. The program also featured testimonies of praise and concluded with a prayer and anointing service. The most powerful

moments of the weekend were experienced as God's people sought His presence through prayer and anointing.

"The beautiful music

led by the young members of the congregation enriched my worshiping experience that day," said Carmen Rodriguez, Conference executive secretary.

Three full-time pastors—Billy Léveillé, Luc Pierre, and Michel Porcena—along with 10 lay pastors serve 2,000 members who worship in the Conference's Haitian congregations. Additionally, many Haitian members are active in English- and Spanish-speaking churches.

—BY CARMEN RODRIGUEZ

JOE ESCOBAR

Doss Statue Dedicated at Veterans Memorial Park

It was a dream come true for Phil Garver, president of the Veterans Memorial Park in Collegedale, Tenn. A life-size statue of the late Corporal Desmond T. Doss was unveiled and dedicated on May 1, preserving Doss's salute and smile in bronze.

"He loved Collegedale, he loved the community, he loved the Pathfinders, he loved our Church, and for us to honor him here, to me, is the ultimate positive thing we could do," said Garver, who took the initiative to build a Veterans Memorial Park in the Collegedale area seven years ago.

"He is a great American hero," said Gregory Johnson, the artist who sculpted the Medic Memorial statue in the Park. "This was a man with a mission who saved 75 soldiers—an incredible story of bravery under fire, being wounded and continuing. I know he was a man in God's pocket and protected." Gregory did the sculpting in 240 hours and the foundry spent six months putting it in bronze.

Hamilton County, Tenn., Mayor Claude Ramsey said, "He was a

gentle person who served his country in a unique sort of way. He distinguished himself to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, and in so doing, Harry Truman is quoted as saying when he presented the Medal to Corporal Desmond Doss, 'It is a greater honor to present this medal than it is to be the President of the United States.' I don't know that I could say it in any better way, and to have this tribute for him today is outstanding."

"It was 62 years ago this week that Desmond Doss answered the call to bear the burden of caring for his entire company of men, 155 soldiers struggling to survive on the 450-foot Maeda Escarpment, known as 'hacksaw-ridge,' and the magnificent accomplishment how he saved 75 men single-handedly," said Terry Benedict, director/producer of the award winning documentary film, *The Conscientious Objector*, in his presentation during the event. The last line of his Medal of Honor citation says it all, "His name became a symbol throughout the 77th division for outstanding gallantry far and above and

beyond the call of duty," according to Benedict.

"I'm just overwhelmed," said Frances Doss, Desmond's widow. "It's really beautiful! The things they have on the sides and the statue itself, I just can't get over it."

Phil Garver, who is a Vietnam war combat medic veteran himself, says, "I really hope that parents and grandparents will actually use the opportunity

and seize the moments as they walk the Greenway to make comments about the sacrifices of people and Desmond. This will increase the opportunities a hundred fold, but they will have to take advantage of these opportunities."

The statue was made possible and totally financed by a donation from Elsworth and Sharon McKee.

—BY MARTIN KNOPPER



The statue of Medal of Honor recipient Desmond T. Doss stands saluting the American flag in Veterans Memorial Park.



Georgia-Cumberland on the Web

With more than 4,000 pages of news, videos, and ministry resources, www.gccsda.com is the place to go for the latest information about Georgia-Cumberland Conference. While you're there, take a moment to fill out a short web site survey about www.gccsda.com. Your input will help us improve the site to better serve you.

“Harvest Time” at Camp Meeting 2007

“I enjoy fellowship and the sermons, but I think most of all it’s interacting with others and seeing how the Lord is working in other people’s lives. It’s something we look forward to every year.” said Vincent Banks, a member of the Adairsville, Ga., church. He was speaking about the annual camp meeting on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.

Camp meeting included evening meetings, May 30-June 2, with seminars also available on May 31 and June 1. The highlight of camp meeting was Sabbath morning, when Iles Auditorium was filled for two church services and

Sabbath school as Seventh-day Adventists gathered to worship.

On Friday evening and Sabbath morning, Derek Morris, D.Min., shared a three-part series, “Praying the Radical Prayer,” which focused on the text found in Luke 10:2, “Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.”

With the theme “Harvest Time” for Camp Meeting 2007, the focus truly was evangelism and personal willingness to minister. Ed Wright, Conference president, shared, “Let us



REBECCA BROOKS

Featured speaker Derek Morris, D.Min., leads the congregation in a song with the words from Luke 10:2, the Bible verse his sermons were centered around.

pray that we will see with new eyes the ripening harvest that surrounds us. Let’s covenant to bring a new Christian with us to camp meeting next year—not the result of our pressure or manipulation, but the result

of God’s Spirit ripening the harvest, and our decision to be faithful to His call.”

To hear sermons and see pictures from Camp Meeting 2007, visit www.gccsda.com.

—BY REBECCA BROOKS

Struntz Ordained into Gospel Ministry

Ted Struntz had not always planned to become a minister. He originally aspired to be a medical doctor, then accepted God’s call to pastoral ministry



Ted and Lynette Struntz stand with their daughter after the ordination service.

while leading a spiritual retreat during his senior year at Laurelbrook Academy.

On May 12, Struntz was ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist minister. The ceremony took place at the Knoxville, Tenn., First church where Struntz serves as associate pastor.

One of the highlights of his ministry, as Struntz described it, was leading

a group of lay-evangelists to India where they conducted evangelistic meetings resulting in more than 1,400 baptisms.

At the ordination service, the Conference was represented by Ed Wright, president; Steve Haley, vice president for administration/secretariat; Stan Patterson, vice president for pastoral ministries; and Rick Greve, evangelism and ministerial director for the northern region.

The ordination message was given by Walt Williams, associate professor of Christian ministries and director of InMinistry at Andrews Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs,

Mich. Williams drew attention to 1 Samuel, chapters 1-4, applying it to Struntz, quoting, “I will raise Me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in Mine heart and in Mine mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before Mine anointed forever.” (1 Samuel 2:35)

The ordination prayer was given by Steve Haley and Allan Williamson, director of church ministries for the Southern Union. The benediction was presented by Struntz’s father-in-law, Rus J. Aldridge, pastor in Umatilla, Fla.

—BY MARTIN KNOPPER

Team Completes Sixth Mission to India



As a result of the team's ministry, 22 new churches in southern India have been established. Elbert James (left) stands in front of one of the churches started by the group. The plaque honors James and his team.

A team of six lay people from the Gulf States and Washington conferences have completed their sixth mission trip to southern India. The team is led by Elbert James, a member of the Crestview, Fla., church.

Since 2000, the team has been responsible for establishing 22 churches, a shelter for the blind, and helped in the education of many children and college students.

Other members of the team include James Rosier, Mary Love Shaver, Martin Greenlaw, and Pamela Wilson.

Each member is a vital part of the overall program. Shaver, and her 12-year-old granddaughter, Makariah, took care of the children's program. Wilson presented a health talk each night. Greenlaw preached the first of three meetings. Rosier preached at the next meeting, and James finished

with the third meeting and closed out with a street concert, where many people gave their hearts to God.

The focus of the meetings this year was to nurture the people who have joined the church since the team began their ministry to India. "Over the years the mission of reaching souls for Christ has not been easy, but I wouldn't trade this experience for anything, it has increased my spiritual growth and has given me a closer relationship with Christ," explains James. "I remember reading the prayer of Jabez, and praying that prayer for my life."

God didn't take long to answer James' prayer. The next day he was invited to go on a mission trip to the Philippines to sing for the evangelistic meetings. The

trip created a new vision for him, and when he was asked if he would like to help with a mission outreach in India, he accepted the challenge.

The people of India possess a caring nature, and they are very receptive to the Adventist message. The team has been welcomed with open arms, and James believes it's because they follow Jesus' example of mingling with the people, desiring their good, gaining their trust, meeting their needs, and bidding them to follow Christ.

This mission to India has been made possible through contributions. "We are thankful for all the support, and for the churches who have allowed me to put on programs in their place of worship," says James. "It is not over until all people, nations, kindred, and tongues have had the Gospel preached to them," he adds.

For more information please contact Access Unlimited Ministries, 137 W. Walnut Avenue, Crestview, FL 32536, or 850-682-4478.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Many have been baptized because of the team's ministry.

Desmond Doss Memorial



Patty Parks, director of the National Medal of Honor Museum, was the guest speaker.

On March 31, 2007, a large crowd gathered at the Piedmont, Ala., church for a memorial and dedication service to honor the late Desmond T. Doss, who was a member at Piedmont.

A monument and flagpole were dedicated in remembrance of Doss for his heroic role in saving the lives of more than 75 men during World War II. He was the only conscientious objector to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. "God did a mighty work through Desmond Doss, and we want to keep this story alive," explains Ricky Blythe, Piedmont pastor.

Charlie Fagan, Piedmont mayor, commented, "It was a great day for a great man."

Pathfinders Parade at Camp Meeting



Drums beat, wagons rolled, flags flew, and Pathfinders marched at the annual Pathfinder fair parade which was held on the first weekend of camp meeting. Seventeen clubs throughout the Conference attended the fair. Parade floats depicted the Pathfinder theme for the year, which is "Pioneering for Christ."

Saturday night and ear-

ly Sunday morning, booths with impressive displays showcasing individual and club accomplishments, were set up in the gym.

In the afternoon, clubs participated in field events, including an egg toss, slow bicycle race, and a relay race, which entailed filling a bucket with one cup of water at a time (no spills allowed!).

At the end of the

field events, a plane flew over the field and dropped packages of M & M candy. Among the dropped candy was specially marked packages with certificates for a free week of summer camp at Camp Alamisco, and gift certificates for purchases at the Camp store.

After the award ribbons were presented by Bob Kimbro, Pathfinder council chairperson; Jeff

Wood, Conference youth director; and other council members, groups of tired, but happy, Pathfinders and staff, headed for their vehicles for long drives home.

The fair was planned by the Pathfinder council and the Conference youth department.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Deb Gorecki Receives John Hancock Award

The John Hancock Award is an award unique to the Conference, and is given each year to recognize outstanding leadership of a Pathfinder leader. The leader must be a Master Guide, and they must attend three out of the four major yearly Conference Pathfinder events with their club or attend the event as a support person. The recipient is given a plaque and \$300.

This year, the John



Bob Kimbro, Pathfinder council chairperson, presented the John Hancock Award to Deb Gorecki, recognizing her for outstanding leadership to Pathfinders.

Hancock Award of Excellence was presented to Deb Gorecki, Birmingham, Ala., Pathfinder leader. More than 15 years ago, Deb and her husband, John, began the Adventurer club at the Birmingham

First church. When their daughters joined Pathfinders, they became Pathfinder leaders and still continue to lead youth to Heaven.

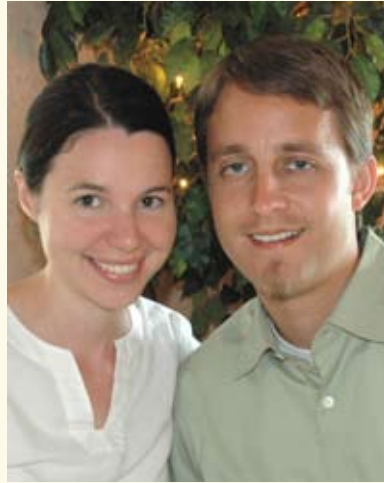
Deb served as the girls' director on a Conference teen mission trip, as a member on the Conference Pathfinder council, and she currently assists with the central Alabama Pathfinder district.

Erik Carter Ordained to Ministry

Erik Carter was ordained to the Gospel ministry on May 5, in his home church of Middletown, Ky.

Erik Carter was born in Loma Linda, Calif. He spent a good part of his early childhood in Ohio and Indiana before moving back to California, where he graduated from Newbury Park Adventist Academy.

Carter spent two years in Norway, the home country of his mother, Birgitt, studying youth evangelism at Matteson-skolen in Mysen, and Norwegian culture and language in Oslo. The following year he enrolled in theological



Harmony and Erik Carter

studies at Newbold College in England.

Returning to the United States, Carter continued studying at Southern Ad-

ventist University, graduating in 2000 with a bachelor of arts degree in theology. Two years later, he graduated with a master of arts in religion from Andrews University Theological Seminary. Currently, he is pursuing graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling.

Carter married Harmony Kubik in Bentonsport, Iowa, on May 20, 2001. She is studying medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky.

In January, 2003, Carter

began an internship at the Louisville First church. In May, 2004, he received his first district assignment in the Paducah-Mayfield-Murray district in Kentucky. He is presently serving the Middletown-Lawrenceburg district in Kentucky.

On hand to officiate in Carter's ordination were Jud Lake, professor of religion at Southern Adventist University; Richard Hallock, Conference president; Douglas Hilliard, Conference treasurer; John van Zyl, Conference ministerial director; and Robert Lawson, former Louisville First pastor.

Women Prove "You're Never Too Old"

Mable Moore and Mabel Sams are using their skills to bless children in need of love. A year-and-a-half ago, the Portland, Tenn., church started the "Bags of Love" program which provides a duffle bag containing a blanket, toys, games, and personal care items for children removed from homes when parents are arrested for drug use.

Mable Moore is 95 years old. She has knit many blankets and small afghans to put in the bags for the children. Mabel Sams, also 95, has sewn duffle



Mable Moore works on an afghan, which will go into one of the "Bags of Love."

bags and has tied many fleece throws for the children. The idea of the "Bags of Love" program is to let the children know that someone cares about them when they are taken from their homes and placed in a strange environment.

The Portland "Bags of

Love" program serves the Sumner County Child Protective Services and, with the help of the nearby Highland church, the Child Protective Services in ad-



Mabel Sams displays some of her work, which will bless the children who receive a "Bag of Love."

acent Simpson County in Kentucky.

—BY JEAN MILLER

Roy's Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Harold and Retha Roy recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Roy served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and saw combat in both the European-African and the Asiatic Pacific theaters. He was awarded six battle stars, seven U.S. medals and decorations, and several medals by foreign countries. Roy participated in the capture of the German submarine U-505, now on permanent display as a war memorial in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. He was in Tokyo Bay on September



Retha and Harold Roy

2, 1945, for the Surrender Ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri, ending World War II.

Retha and Harold

began dating when he returned home to Russell Springs, Ky., from the Navy, and they were married a few months later.

They were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 17, 1949, as a result of the faithful witnessing of an Adventist neighbor.

Harold earned a bachelor of arts degree in theology at Southern Missionary College. Later he completed graduate work at Spalding University and Pacific Western University. Retha attended Clark

Technical College and the University of Kentucky.

The Roys served in denominational work for more than 35 years in the Ohio, Pennsylvania, Gulf States, and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences.

Since retiring, Harold has served as a chaplain and has continued writing. Retha enjoys ornithology, sewing, and growing flowers.

The Roys have two sons, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Harold and Retha are members of the Pewee Valley, Ky., church.

Louisville Uses Popcorn Evangelism

With the encouragement of Tim Madding, pastor, the Louisville, Ky., First church experienced servant evangelism using popcorn. The idea is simple: Do an

Bible Lesson cards.

Six adults and a few children met after church to make a huge bag of popcorn. Small bags of popcorn were filled at the park. On each small bag was a business card that said, "This is our simple way...of saying that God loves you." And, in small print, "Let us know if we can be of more assistance." On the back of the card was a map and information about weekly services, the church's website, and the phone number.

Before the "popcorn stand" could be set up, skaters, boarders, and cyclist's gathered around asking, "Are you really giving away free popcorn and drink?" Assuring them that it was free, an interest was instantly generated. Just as Madding predicted, opportunities to share Christ's

love developed. At least one Bible study resulted

from the team's efforts.
—BY CLIFTON KELLER



Bikers and skaters received more than just popcorn and lemonade.

act of kindness to meet people where they are. The idea of passing out bags of free popcorn and cold lemonade at Louisville's skate park was certainly different from passing out *Discovery*

65th Wedding Anniversary

The 65th wedding anniversary of Jack and Margaret Inch was celebrated by the Gallatin church on March 24, 2007. Jack and Margaret were married on March 23, 1942, in Ohio. They are charter members of the Gallatin church.

Jack has been the treasurer and elder for many years. He has also served on the

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference executive committee. Margaret has served as deaconess, greeter, Sabbath school superintendent, and Sabbath school investment leader.

The Inches have one daughter, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

—BY JUDY SYFERT



Jack and Margaret Inch

South Atlantic Remembers a Gospel Soldier

Pastor Gary James Jouett was born October 1, 1952, in Covington, Ky., the tenth of 11 children. He was baptized into the Adventist faith at the age of 19 at Ethan Temple church by Walter Pearson, Jr., in Dayton, Oh. He sensed the call of God to enter the ministry at an early age.

He graduated from Jefferson High School in Dayton, Oh., in 1972, and then attended Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., to pursue a bachelor's degree in theology.

While attending Oakwood, he left for two years to work for the Christian Record Braille Foundation. He then returned to Oakwood in 1982 to complete his studies.

In 1984, he joined the South Atlantic Conference team as an assistant pastor at West Broad church in



Savannah, Ga., from 1984-1986. From there, he served as the assistant pastor at Berean church in Atlanta, Ga., from 1986-1989. It was a joy for him to serve at Berean with Walter Pearson, the senior pastor who baptized him. After he was ordained into the Gospel ministry in 1988, he pastored Bethel church in

Clinton, N.C., and Berean church in Lillington, N.C., from 1989-1994. He went on to pastor Mt. Hebron church in Wilson, N.C.; the Smithfield, N.C., church; Gethsemane church in Raleigh, N.C.; and Shiloh church in Charleston, S.C.

In 2003, he became the pastor of Ebenezer church in Augusta, Ga., where he served until the time of his death.

Pastor Jouett possessed so many admirable qualities and traits. He was such a friendly, congenial, and happy person. He loved his wife, Vanessa, and their three children, beyond the ability to express verbally.

After returning from a recent trip to Paris, France, he said the most beautiful sight he saw there was his wife. He was very proud of his children and their accomplishments. He and

his wife taught them that the power of education was immeasurable, and it was a lesson they took to heart.

Their oldest daughter, Adoraueu, recently completed law school; Brandi, the middle daughter, graduated from medical school in May; and their son, Gary, II, is a professor in the business department at Oakwood College.

The South Atlantic Conference and the Augusta church family mourn the lost of this vibrant, energetic pastor, and his infectious smile. His untimely death on May 16, 2007, at the age of 54, is a reminder for those who loved him and who knew of his passion for God's people, to fully embrace the message of 1888, of Righteousness by Faith.

—BY JAMES K. LAMB

Decatur Member Receives National Leadership Award



Pictured are Kathy Cox (left), Georgia State superintendent of schools; Franchis Cook, school counselor; and William Bradley Bryant, Georgia State board member from the fourth congressional district

The DeKalb County's Guidance and Counseling Department recognized Franchis Cook as a master school counselor during the first county, state, and southern region Master Counselor Induction Program.

Cook has been employed with DeKalb County Schools since Au-

gust, 1999, and has worked the last four years at Snapfinger Elementary School.

Snapfinger is one of 15 schools in the nation, and the first in the state of Georgia, to achieve a recognized national model program since the program's inception in 2004. This model ensures all students attending Snapfinger are being served by a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program, which shows how students are different

as a result of what school counselors do.

Cook has been a member of the Decatur, Ga., church since 1986. In her quest for continued professional development, she has become a national certified counselor, a nationally certified school counselor, and a licensed professional counselor. She not only works in the public sector, but also operates a private practice as well.

—BY JAMES K. LAMB

Bethany Students Win Big in Spelling Bee



Six Bethany students were winners of the Spelling Bee.

The students of Bethany Christian Academy took command of the Central and South Georgia Annual Spelling Bee held at Wimbish Adventist Academy in Macon, Ga., on March 28, 2007. The Bee included schools in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference: Columbus,

Macon, Oglethorpe, Lakeland, LaGrange, and Savannah. The South Atlantic schools were Albany and Macon.

In an effort to encourage self-confidence and to foster camaraderie among the schools, every student from every school participated.

There were three spelling divisions: Division I—grades one and two; Division II—grades three to five; and Division III—grades six to eight. Each division had three

winners: first, second, and third place, with nine total winners. Bethany Christian Academy garnered six of the nine winning positions. In Division I the word list was exhausted, and the remaining spellers were asked to spell challenge words, words they had not studied.

In addition to learning to spell the words on the word list, the students worked on word endings, etymologies, alternate pronunciations, and sentence usage of the words.

Bethany congratulates Caleb Lewis, Division I, first place; DeAisha Watson, Division I, second place; Maria Randall, Division II,

first place; Precious Walker, Division II, second place; Joycelyn Warren, Division III, second place; and Raymond Well, Jr., Division III, third place.

Language arts is a major part of the curriculum at Bethany. Students in grades one to three have successfully written their first book. Each of the members of the “Young Authors Club” wrote a 15-page book on the subject of their choice which was complete with illustrations. The influence and the creativity of their teacher, Janice Stevenson, has led to their success as young writers.

—BY SHERIDAN ALBERT

McClellanville Member Receives the Jefferson Award

James Simmons, a member of McClellanville, S.C., church, recently received the Jefferson Award, honoring him for community service.

The community knows him affectionately as “the garbage man,” but Simmons is always collecting new titles because he never says no to someone in need. He

is also the “taxi man,” the “fix-it man,” the “grocery man,” the “preacher man,” and the “mentoring man.”

The women who enjoy quilting at the Santee Senior and Community Center say, “He walks in the footsteps of Jesus.” The men say, “You can call on him day or night.”

The director of the cen-

ter recounted, “This is his ministry. Many of the people he helps don’t have cars and live alone. We can’t do without him.” His ministry blossomed when he started giving Bible studies at the center six years ago. Simmons will tell you he helps people because that’s the way his family got by when he was a young boy.

The Jefferson Award is given to individuals in five categories, one of which is rendering public service. Out of 40 individuals in the group, Simmons was among the six finalists. From that group one will go to Washington, D.C., for national recognition.

—BY WILLIE DUPREE

PASTORS IN TRANSITION

PASTOR

Mark Golson
Nathaniel Good
Crawford Humphrey
Michael Miller
Carl McRoy
David Smith
Alex Todd
Keith Woodard

FROM

Savannah, Ga.-West Broad
High Point/Lexington, N.C.
Lillington/Sanford, N.C.
Fayetteville/Clinton, N.C.
Spartanburg, S.C./Shelby, N.C.
Wilmington/Reiglewood, N.C.
Orangeburg/Denmark, S.C.

TO

Wilmington/Reiglewood, N.C.
Spartanburg, S.C./Shelby, N.C.
Fayetteville/Clinton, N.C.
Charlotte-Trinity/Salisbury, N.C.
Conference Publishing Director
Savannah, Ga.-West Broad
High Point/Lexington, N.C.
Burlington/Reidsville, N.C.

Southern Union Conference

Health Professionals' Retreat

October 11-14, 2007

CONTINUING EDUCATION

■ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

Topics: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Basic Life Support (CPR) Renewal Courses

Accreditation: 7 hours of continuing education are being applied for and are pending approval from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

Schedule: Thursday - 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Instructors: Faculty from Florida Hospital AHA Training Center

Evelyn Courson, RN, BS, CCRN

Jean Turcotte, RN, MA, CCRN

Susan Whitney RN, MS, PCCN

Janet Celli, RN, BSN, PCCN

Doug Crookston, CCEMT-P

■ Nurse/Nurse Practitioner

Topics: HPV and Gardasil: The Whole Truth

Breakfast: Gateway to Lifestyle Change

Diabetes: Discoveries and Dilemmas

Asperger's Syndrome: The Geek Syndrome

Osteoporosis

Law and Order for Nurses

Accreditation: Southern Adventist University (SAU), accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the National League of Nurses, authorizes up to 7 hours of continuing education.

Instructors: Southern Adventist University School of Nursing
Barbara James, DSN, RN, CNE, Professor and Dean
Sylvia Mayer, RN, MS, Associate Professor
Holly Gadd, Ph.D., APRN, BC, FNP, Professor, Graduate Program Coordinator
Bonnie Freeland, MSN, FNP-BC, Associate Professor
Shirley Spears, MS, RNCS, ANP, Associate Professor
Pamela Ahlfeld, MS, RN, Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

■ Physical Therapy

Topic: Therapeutic Exercise for Special Populations

Accreditation: 7 credit hours of continuing education are being applied for and are pending approval from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. North and South Carolina do not preapprove.

Instructor: John Carlos, Jr., P.T., Ph.D., Professor of Physical Therapy, Andrews University

■ Respiratory Therapy

Topics: Medication Errors/Patient Safety (2 hours)

Chest Film Assessment (2 hours)

Perfecting Precepting Skills (1 hour)

Promoting Professional Practice/Team Building (1 hour)

Internet Resources for the Respiratory Therapist (1 hour)

Accreditation: 7 hours of continuing education are being applied for and are pending approval from the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC).

Instructors: Florida Hospital Medical Center, Orlando, Florida
Richard A. Hicks, BS, RRT, Director, Osceola Division, Department of Respiratory Care
Susan K. Warren, BS, RRT, Staff Development Coordinator, Department of Respiratory Care

■ Health Ministries

Topics: The Feeling Good Seeker – Personal Guidelines

The Empty Sky Searcher – Guidelines for the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy

The Head of Our Time Seer – Scientific Guidelines

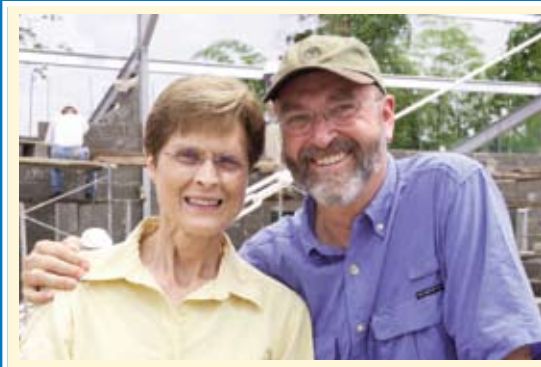
The Silver Bullet of Health

Physical Activity, Obesity, and Diabetes

Physical Activity and the Older Adult

Accreditation: North American Division Health Certification

Instructors: Don Morgan, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
Stoy Proctor, M.Div., MPH, Associate Director of Health Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Weekend Speaker

Dick Duerksen

Assistant to the President of Maranatha Volunteers International

Friday night: "Peter as Healer"

Sabbath School: "Soy Milk, American Flags, and Drill Bits"

Worship Hour: "Why God Made Chairs"

Sabbath Vespers: "The Anatomy of Love"

Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$50.00 (non-refundable)

I would like to register for the following CE class:

CRNA ACLS (Renewal Course)

CRNA BLS (Renewal Course)

Health Ministries

Nurse/Nurse Practitioner

Physical Therapy

Respiratory Therapy

Name _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Conference _____

Child care will be provided Friday evening for ages 1-6.

Sabbath school and church will be provided for all age groups.

Ages of children under 18 attending Sabbath school:

_____' _____' _____

Mail this completed registration form to:

Southern Union Conference

Health Professionals' Retreat

PO Box 849

Decatur, GA 30031

Phone: 404-299-1832 ext. 442 • Fax: 404-299-9726

Southern Union Conference

Health Professionals' Retreat

October 11-14, 2007

Conference Information

Park Vista Hotel

705 Cherokee Orchard Road

Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Reservations: Call the hotel direct at 1-800-421-7275

Room registration deadline: September 10, 2007

Meals

You are responsible for your own meals. Arrange for Sabbath noon meal with the hotel restaurant on Friday.

Conference Registration

Lower Level Lobby (bottom of stairs)

Thursday, October 11, 2007 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 12, 2007 7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Recreation

Bent Creek Golf Club 865-436-2875

Gatlinburg Golf Club 865-453-3912

City Park Tennis Courts 865-436-3389

Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies 865-430-8808

Schedule for all seminar classes

Thursday, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Schedule for CRNA class

Thursday, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sabbath Services

Friday Evening Vespers

Sabbath School and Worship Hour

Sabbath Vespers

College Hill Church Ministers to Knoxville College



Georgia Shingles (left), and Marshall Henley, College Hill elders; Robert Harvey, interim president at Knoxville College; Alexander Lampkin, pastor; Anthony Allen, Adventist Disaster Response leader; and Cordell Sherman are pictured at the check presentation.

College Hill church's Adventist Disaster Response (ADR) leader, Anthony Allen, discovered on Tuesday, February 19, 2007, that Knoxville College, an historic Black college and university two blocks north of the church, had suffered a fire in the men's dormitory. Unfortunately, the college was in a rebuilding phase; therefore, this disaster not only crippled the school, but also impacted the Knoxville community.

Following protocol from years of disaster training, Allen contacted Dave Shingles, Adventist Community Services (ACS) leader, and the newly appointed pastor, Alexander Lampkin. Lampkin asked Allen to contact Knoxville College for both damage and needs assessment. By the next day, Allen

made contact with Raleigh Wynn, dean of students, who reported approximately 85 male students were evacuated from the dormitory. Some were scattered throughout the community with relatives, some were on the reserved third floor of the female dormitory, but the majority were sleeping on the floor of the gymnasium. "Among the 85 students, five students lost everything," reported Wynn.

"We want to do something," declared Allen. Allen met with the ACS team, and they made a commitment to help. The department provided some funds to assist the school and students affected by the fire. Lampkin contacted

Robert Harvey, interim president of Knoxville College, and Johnny Cannon, vice president, and offered to help in any way. Together they agreed to have College Hill church youth present a 30-minute program to the student body on a Sabbath afternoon.

Sabbath morning, Allen and Lampkin explained to the congregation the ACS department's plan to assist Knoxville College and its students. "We need to do this. We are community services," said Allen, suggesting that everyone should participate. "Every member should plan to participate in this great opportunity to witness to our neighbors," announced Lampkin.

After the divine worship service, almost all of the members traveled two blocks to Knoxville College for the afternoon program. The standing-room-only crowd as-

sembled in the student center. Marshall Henley, elder, gave the invocation and introduced Betty Byrd, Zella Venable, and Kermit Faulkner, who led the children's choir in musical selections. Tanya Page directed "Drama Troupe" as the youth presented black history skits and poems. Allen presented \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards to the five students who lost everything. Tammy Richmond prepared and distributed sack lunches to the 85 students evacuated from the dormitory. Lampkin presented a \$1,000 check to Robert Harvey. Harvey and the student president expressed appreciation on behalf of the students and school. Marshall Henley and Georgia Shingles both alumni of the College, gave closing remarks and benediction. College Hill hopes to spark 100 churches to donate a \$1,000 to Knoxville College.

—BY ANTHONY ALLEN



Betty Byrd directs College Hill's Children's Community Choir.

Anna Knight Honored by Dedication in India

The legacy and the hard work of a young Mississippi girl who taught herself to read and write is still providing life-changing experiences around the world.

In May, 1901, Dr. Harvey Kellogg sent for Anna Knight to attend the General Conference at Battle Creek as a delegate to help represent the medical missionary and self-supporting work of the Battle Creek graduates who were sent out into various places. During her attendance at the General Conference session, she heard about the need for two trained nurses to go to India. From years past, her desire was to go to India to help the women there. On May 26, 1901, Anna and her classmate Donna Humphrey sailed to this unknown mission field and landed in Calcutta, India, in June. She spent six-and-a-half years fulfilling her dream serving as a nurse and teacher. Knight traveled all over India selling literature and conducting Bible studies.

More than 100 years later, this Mississippi girl's work was not forgotten. Harold Lee, former president of Columbia Union Conference, sponsored and endorsed a Missions Abroad initiative during 2001-2006. This was a program designed to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in developing various mission programs in the world as they engaged in sharing God's love. As a result of the generosity of the Columbia Union Conference, Kettering Adventist Healthcare, and Adventist Healthcare, a nurses' dorm was built at Gifford Memorial Hospital, Nuzvid, India. The first Adventist hospital opened in 1925.

Two grandnieces of Anna Knight, Dorothy Knight Marsh and Florence Knight Blaylock, traveled to Nuzvid, India for dedication of the Anna Knight Memorial Nurses' Hostel, November 21, 2005. This beautiful hostel was built to house 100 nursing students and is completely filled with students from



Florence Knight Blaylock (left) and Dorothy Knight Marsh, grandnieces of Anna Knight, are welcomed to India by Gifford Memorial Hospital staff and students.

all over India. To further encourage the annual 100 percent pass rate for nurses, \$5,000 in scholarships were given, along with a donation of computers for the students.

The dedication ceremony was very well attended by officials from the Southern Asia Division including D. R. Watts, president; Don Bank-

head, chairman, Adventist Health International (AHI), India; and Richard Hart, vice chancellor, Loma Linda University, president of AHI. The dedication address was given by Charles Cheatham, president of Allegheny East Conference; and the scholarships were announced by Henry Fordham, III, executive secretary. The faculty and staff of the nursing education program were overwhelmed with the needed hostel.

The Knight family is very appreciative to Harold Lee and the Adventist healthcare network for sponsoring such a glorious project.

Today the legacy of the mission field and love for India is still alive and continues through Anna Knight's family. Her grandnieces, Dorothy and Florence, have continued to support the hospital by adopting the children's wing of Gifford Memorial Hospital.

—BY FLORENCE BLAYLOCK



The Anna Knight Memorial Nurses' Hostel at Gifford Memorial Hospital in Nuzvid, India, houses 100 nursing students.



Plaques share details of the event: The cornerstone of the building was laid on December 8, 2003, and the building was dedicated on November 21, 2005.

Josette Paschal Accepts Antiterrorism Program Award



Josette Paschal (third from left); General Griffin (fourth from left), awards presenter; with the aviation and missile command team award recipients at the Annual Force Protection Workshop

Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM), Redstone Arsenal, was presented the Army Material Command (AMC) 2006 Force Protection/Antiterrorism (FP/AT) Award for having the best operational antiterrorism program among all other major subordinate commands within AMC. General Benjamin Griffin, AMC 4-star commanding general, presented the award on March 20, 2007, at the Annual Force Protection Workshop held in Little Rock, Ark. Josette Holder Paschal, AMCOM's force protection/antiterrorism security program manager, accepted the award on behalf of Major General Pillsbury, senior mission commander,

and the AMCOM workforce at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., whose diligence and attention to security issues contributed to the overall achievement of this recognition.

Paschal is an alumna of Oakwood College, class of 1983. She is married to Bryan Paschal, and they have two sons: Bryan and Antonio, who are currently students at

Oakwood College. She is a member of the Mt.



Four-Star General Benjamin Griffin, Army Material Command (AMC) Commander, presents the "2006 Force Protection/Antiterrorism (FP/AT) Award" to Josette Paschal, who accepts the award on behalf of Major General Pillsbury and the AMCOM workforce at Redstone Arsenal.

Calvary church in Huntsville. Mt. Calvary church is proud of Paschal and her accomplishment with the government. Paschal credits her success to God, her husband Bryan, and her sons for their support; as well as her mother, Alta Holder, for inspiring her to strive for excellence. She wants to continue to be a great witness for the Lord in her work place.

—BY JOSETTE H. PASCHAL

New Campus Safety Director Comes to Southern

This summer, Kevin Penrod will transfer from Andrews University to Southern Adventist University, where he will become Southern's new campus safety director.

Penrod has been at Andrews University's department of public safety since 1990, and has served as the

department's chief for the last 10 years. Prior to that, he worked for the Illinois Sheriff's Department, where he spent some time on an entry team that served high-risk warrants. This experience, he says, gives him an edge when faced with an emergency situation. "I understand what extreme

pressure is, and I've had to make high-risk decisions in a team environment," he says. "When you've had that opportunity, you bring more to the table."

Penrod places a high priority on building relationships with individuals he's called to protect, which he does by having one-on-one

and small group conversations with individuals across campus. "It's important to earn trust," he says, "and to continue to allow students and parents to realize that I take my job seriously and am continuously searching for better ways to be prepared."

—BY LORI FUTCHER

Secret of the Cave to be Distributed

Southern's School of Visual Art and Design faculty and students have achieved yet another success. A distribution deal for the school's film, *Secret of the Cave*, has been signed with First Look Studios in conjunction with Carmel Entertainment.

"The plan is to sell the DVD at Wal-Mart and Target in the fall," says

Mark Thomas, professor in the School of Visual Art and Design and one of the film's producers.

The DVD will also be available to churches and schools to show to congregations and students; then the organizations can buy multiple DVDs at a discounted price to sell as fundraisers.

—BY KATIE MINNER



Secret of the Cave is the story of a young boy who solves the mystery of puzzling events in an Irish fishing village.

Southern Evangelism Experiences Rapid Growth

In its first year of operation, Southern's Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) sent 53 students into the mission field in the United States and abroad. This summer, in its second year, the Center is sending more than 80 students to preach the Gospel in locations such as the Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, and Nicaragua, as well as places closer to home, Arizona and Texas.

"It's been such a blessing to watch the increasing number of people



Pictured are students who participated in the Dominican Republic meetings last year. They returned to Southern with many stories about their experiences, which helped fuel interest for this year's student evangelists.

that God has called," says Stephanie Sheehan, coordinator of the ERC.

The ERC, through Southern's Pierson Institute of Evangelism and World Missions and a partnership with *The Quiet Hour* and *ShareHim*, focuses on encouraging, supporting, and funding non-theology students in their spiritual growth through participation in evangelism; discouraging the idea that outreach and evangelism is only for pastors.

—BY KATIE MINNER

PERUVIAN BLESSINGS

BY PAUL OPP

One thing that I never wanted to be when I grew up was a missionary. I couldn't understand why someone would give up the comforts and security of this country and go to a place where everything is more difficult, where creature comforts are gone, where great distance separates them from their loved ones, and where at every turn you are overwhelmed with need.



Candy and Martha were banging out in the streets the night Paul Opp found them.

In 2000, I went on an Upper Columbia Academy mission trip with my daughter, Risha. We were support staff to Dwayne McKee, who did a series of meetings in Iquitos, Peru. I thought this would be a great time to do some father-daughter bonding while being involved in some meaningful ministry work. Little did I know!

Before we left for Peru I asked God for three simple things: I want a God-given love for the people in Peru. I knew that my ability to love people unconditionally was limited. Let me be instrumental in bringing one person to Jesus (this needed to

be more than just a glorified vacation). And, send someone to mentor that individual so they won't fall through the cracks.

God answered all three requests as an entire family heard the Gospel for the very first time. With this amazing outcome I promised to come back, and one year later I returned to Iquitos alone.

My new Peruvian friends and



Paul and Sandi Opp stand with their daughters, Risha and Kristen, and their adopted Peruvian daughters, Candy and Martha.

I found 150 people that needed medical attention, whole villages that needed food and parasite medicine, and countless opportunities to preach and teach in the poor communities. All of these efforts were supported by people back home who got excited about saving lives as we took people to the Ana Stahl hospital, paid for their exams, lab work, medicines, and surgeries. God used our efforts on that trip to literally save the lives of some dying people, and to bring the Gospel to those who had never heard.

I became a man possessed! When

God gives you a love for a specific work, many of life's other priorities get rearranged, and our family's focus turned toward full time ministry in Peru...but how? We owned a small logging company in eastern Washington and all the financial burdens that go along with it. We had two daughters in academy and no obvious way to transition into the ministry that we felt God was calling us to. Then came



Thirteen-year-old Steffenie was the first girl in the crisis center long before it was ready. Paul Opp holds her one-year-old baby, Nicole. You can read her story on the web site story section; it's titled, "Come to My Father's House."

the third trip.

Late one night after feeding street children on the plaza, I met two little girls that changed my life. Martha and Candy were eight and 10 years old and had been living on the streets alone for two years, since the death of their mother. They were filthy dirty, hungry, filled with parasites, and covered with lice. As I knelt on the sidewalk and listened to their story, something happened in my heart that I still can't explain.



People in a village outside Iquitos line up for free medical services in the local Adventist church.



Camila, the full time nurse, and her children, watch as her husband is baptized. This is the family the Lord led Paul Opp to during his first trip to Peru.

At that moment I knew that Sandi and I would spend the rest of our lives rescuing children in crisis, and I knew that Martha and Candy would be our daughters. This process is amazing. When you fall in love with someone, everything that stands in your way becomes less significant. We bought a small house in Iquitos on that trip and moved a Peruvian family into the home to care for the girls. Since that time, our energy went toward redirecting our lives into full time service in Peru. Three-and-a-half years ago we closed our business and made the transition.

People of Peru Project is the result of our full time ministry. God has used a variety of organizations and individuals to support the work we do in Iquitos. Little Debbie purchased the headquarters facility three years ago, and ASI provided the funds to renovate it so that we now have housing facilities for volunteer groups who want to serve in the Amazon jungle.

Community Development Inc., in Caldwell, Idaho, has given a sponsorship for administrative costs here in the United States. This has allowed us to channel all other support directly to Peru.

Pacific Press Publishing Association purchased the land for the Crisis Foster Care Facility for teen girls and babies who have been abused or abandoned. Families from Walla Walla came last December to start the construction for a dormitory with grant money from the northwest ASI Chapter.

More than 25 groups have joined



Peruvian girls and babies from the Crisis Center are thankful for the services available to them.



The top three rooms of the Crisis Center Dormitory are almost finished, and the bottom floor is well under way. Twelve more rooms are in the plans for this complex.

the project in the last two years, including Kettering Hospital who performed 65 plastic surgeries, emergency room doctors from Loma Linda University, and Libby Dental group from Anchorage. We host Washington State University School of Nursing as part of its International Studies Program, and have given free medical

attention totaled to more than 10,000 people.

Many academy groups have come to conduct medical and dental clinics, vacation Bible schools, construction projects, crisis intervention, and evangelistic series. Last month, Christian athletes volunteered to help with the first sports camp. Various groups also visit our jungle facility up the Amazon River to give support to the agricultural engineer. In this primitive village he teaches the children, instructs the adults in agriculture, and studies the Bible with families. These humble people are meeting Jesus for the first time.

God has used hundreds of ordinary people to impact thousands of lives. I am so humbled to be a part of this work. God gave us the commission to feed, heal, teach, and love so that we'll have absolute assurance that this is His work, and He will supply the passion and the resources needed to get it done.

When I was a child I never wanted to be a missionary. Now? How could I do anything else?

When we blend our lives with those in need, a tapestry is woven from threads beyond this world. A pattern rich and vibrant eclipses every possible combination that we alone possess.

Visit www.PeopleofPeru.org and read the whole story; also, you may request a free DVD.

Into Russia

BY SHEILA ELWIN



Despite the fall of communism, evangelism in Russia is still largely uncharted territory. The power of the Orthodox Church, along with pressure against the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of its American ties, has added to the problem. And, a law passed against the presence of any foreigners at Adventist meetings has effectively prevented the large-scale sharing of truth in this country—until now.

Peter Kulakov yearned to bring the story of Salvation to the land of his birth. Currently pastor of the Lakeview church in Georgia, and director/speaker of Light of Hope TV broadcast (www.lohtv.com), he teamed with Church leadership to reach out to Russia. Together they would conceptualize a massive outreach, one that would pour across the entire Euro-Asia Division and involve nearly every church in its territory.

Supported financially and prayerfully by the Southern Union, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, Light of Hope TV and its viewers, and Kulakov's own Lakeview church; the project took shape in

the form of satellite meetings. Russian church members would present evangelistic meetings in the Russian language to their own people. Hope Channel - Europe agreed to carry the programs, which would be broadcast from the Adventist church in Kiev, and the pastors of Kiev Mission lent their total support.

Months of preparation began. Fifty days of prayer and fasting, 24 hours a day, nonstop, began across the Euro-Asia Division in the Adventist churches and administrative offices. As one group ended their 24-hour fast, another group would begin, and prayers were offered "without ceasing" for the success of the venture to be held in March.

Even before the meetings began, the Lord blessed. More than 4,000 locations across 15 time zones signed up for satellite broadcasts. They would broadcast from churches, rented movie theaters, and public halls. Advertisements were displayed in downtown areas across the Division.

As the meetings kicked off with two broadcasts a day from Kiev, a major Christian—but not Adventist—

broadcast company also agreed to carry the meetings. "What a great blessing this was," notes Kulakov, "which brought a huge response from the watching public."

Health and medical presentations, active youth participation, and choirs and musicians featuring talent from many countries supplemented the sermons.

"The spirit of prayer was amazing," says Kulakov. "Every day we were hearing great reports about answered prayers." And, those reports were coming in at a furious rate. Six phone lines in Kiev rang non-stop, 24 hours a day. More than 1,000 email requests were received each day. The website to which all audio and video was uploaded daily registered 4.5 million visits, and listeners asked for Bibles and lessons, and downloaded the presentations.

The last day of the meetings witnessed 3,084 baptisms, with more than 300 others waiting to be baptized. Recognizes Kulakov, "It was all possible because of prayer."

Sheila Elwin is proofreader for the Southern Tidings, and a freelance writer/editor in Atlanta.

Serving 15 counties of metro Atlanta, Light of Hope International Television Ministry programs are broadcast twice per week via Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Inc. (AIB)

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE

'God Has Placed a BIG Project on Me'

Student from Sudan Painstakingly Translates the Bible into Native Tongue

BY MICHELE SOLOMON

Sorting through the stack of newspapers on my desk after returning from a Hope for Humanity trip to India, I opened the local newspaper to see the familiar face of one of our graduating seniors staring back at me. As I read the article, I knew I was about to be blessed by the commitment of a young man who has certainly been spotlighted in the news before, but whose unique story keeps everyone curious for an update.

The March 9, 2007, article featured the dedication of one of Oakwood College's 300-plus graduation candidates who crossed the platform this past May to receive a diploma, but what makes this theology major so extraordinary is the incredible journey he has made physically, academically, and spiritually as one of the "Lost Boys of the Sudan." What follows is his fascinating story of commitment to a project he strongly believes God has laid on his shoulders, as told by "Faith and Values" editor, Kay Campbell, of *The Huntsville Times*.

BY KAY CAMPBELL

In the beginning, according to Dinka Rek legends, was the Heaven, connected to the Earth by a rope. Then a small bird pecked at the rope, which snapped, and the sky hurled upward, away from the wide, high plains where the Dinka live in southern Sudan along the upper Nile Rivers.



Wol receives his bachelor of arts in theology from Delbert Baker, president, during Oakwood College's 2007 spring commencement.

A project woven of words is seeking to reconnect Heaven and Earth by way of a Bible translated into the Dinka Rek language. Dinka

Rek is a member of the Nilo-Saharan language group and so little-known outside of Sudan that linguists, according to some references, haven't really classified it.

But Wol Bol Wol, 27, grew up speaking the language and is determined to open the words of the Bible to the people of his homeland.

Dinka Rek carries in its syllables the soft musicality of Arabic and French, punctuated here and there by a harder percussive consonant. English missionaries developed the system used today to write Dinka: the Latin alphabet used in English but augmented by the diacritical letters used in English dictionaries to convey pronunciation of sounds not much heard in English.

Wol is one of the first of the "Lost Boys of the Sudan" to be brought to the United States in 2001 from the chaotic country. As a boy, he survived rapacious soldiers, near starvation, crocodiles, and lions to escape from Sudan to a refugee camp in Kenya. He lived at the camp for nearly 10 years, sometimes

trading part of his meager food rations for school supplies; so hungry was he for education.

Wol, majored in theology at Oakwood College, and became versed in biblical Hebrew and Greek. He knows enough about the difficulties of accurate translation to realize that he undertook work that will take years.

“God has placed a big project on me,” Wol said, explaining his translation work as other young men drained out of his dormitory to head out for spring break.

‘The brain is working’

Wol will stay at the College for the break. He’s hoping to catch up on sleep and concentrate on the Bible translation he began three years ago.

Wol works on the translation with Angelo Amos Achuil, a Sudanese student who is studying theology at Andrews University, Oakwood’s sister college in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Achuil and Wol met in the refugee camp in Kenya.

Wol has translated 17 of the Bible’s 66 books, and is at work on the Psalms; Achuil has completed the five books of Moses. Though Wol speaks Dinka, Nuer, Arabic, English, and Swahili, the work taxes his language abilities.

“Some words, through prayer and fasting, the Lord will bring to my mind,” Wol said, explaining he devotes 10 to 12 hours each week on the translation work.

“It’s really good—because it’s expanding. The brain is working hard.”

Some words, such as “chariot,” lie so far outside of Dinka experience that Wol is still trying to figure out what to call it.

“We don’t use a chariot; we’ve never seen a chariot,” Wol said, studying the screen on his laptop that showed the translation he’s written so far.

He explains that traditionally, the Dinka were semi-nomadic, following their herds with the changing water levels along the upper Nile.



Wol Bol Wol holds up the Dinka Rek translation of the words “Holy Bible” during a recent interview.

While the northwestern Darfur region of Sudan remains in violent chaos, the southern portion, where the Dinka live, has returned to relatively peaceful rebuilding after the 20-year war that raged through the area, Wol said.

The Dinka are generally credited with introducing domesticated cattle to Africa. Neither during herding days or the more modern times, that have come lately, have they come across chariots.

“I’m still working on it,” Wol said.

Heaven to the heart

Wol delights in the instances where a Dinka idiom matches the original Hebrew more closely than do English expressions. The texts in Psalms that refer to the “ends of the Earth,” for instance, Wol has translated into a Dinka expression, “to the foot of the Earth.”

The Hebrew word translated “ends” also means “extremities,” Wol said. “Like Dinka.”

Beginning with the original Hebrew and Greek, Wol and Achuil consult English translations and biblical dictionaries to discover word histories and connotations. They

have long phone conversations debating the proper translation of more obscure passages. The study of Bible passages has deepened for both of them their understanding of the Bible—and their appreciation for the work of translators before them.

“Many people don’t think of all the hardship translators experience through putting it together,” Achuil wrote in an e-mail discussing their project. “It is a lot, a lot of work that requires a great deal of will-power to keep going. It can test your work ethics to the deepest core of your being.”

Neither Wol nor Achuil knows of a Bible translated into their own Dinka Rek, one of five Dinka languages spoken by two million

people in Sudan. While some of the Dinka languages do have a New Testament translation, none has a complete Bible. Dinka Rek, according to WorldScriptures.org, has neither Old nor New Testaments translated.

But the work is worth it, Achuil said.

“There is nothing so profound than reading the sacred text in one’s own vernacular,” Achuil wrote.

They expect that completing the translation will take a few more years; they both dream of returning to their country to teach and preach the Christian message out of a Bible written in their first language.

“When you read your Bible, it brings Heaven down to your own heart,” Achuil wrote. “This is what I want for my people.”

Bible in Dinka

A website charting the progress of the translation of the Bible into Dinka Rek, a Nilotic-Saharan language of Sudan, is <http://drbt.seedoftruth.net/>. Wol and Achuil welcome sponsors for the project.

Separation of Church and Hate

BY LESLIE D. LOUIS

A Report from the Sixth World Congress of the International Religious Association

Enclosed against the backdrop of Table Mountain and the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean, Cape Town is truly the most celebrated city of beauty and vibrance in the African continent. It was to this city that more than 600 delegates from 30 countries convened from February 27 to March 1, 2007, for the Sixth World Congress of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), themed, "Combating religious hatred through freedom to believe."

John Gratz, secretary general for the IRLA, best expressed the value of this congress in his words of welcome: "Religious freedom is the best answer to religious hatred. Hatred cannot push away hatred. There are people from all over the world, people from different faiths and traditions, who want to demonstrate that there is another way to deal with differences. There are people who have chosen to come to this Congress in Cape Town because they are determined to promote peace and justice through religious freedom for all people everywhere."

During this Congress our days were packed from morning until evening with meetings hosted by 30 distinguished speakers and 15 informative workshops. Each of these presenters, both from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the community of other denominations and faiths, presented an impressive array of distinction and expertise on the subject of global freedom to believe.

Because of our

mutual admiration of Mahatma Ghandi, my wife, Carole, and I were especially moved to meet and hear the message of his granddaughter, Ela Ghandi, currently the national vice president of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP), and an honorary president of WCRP

International. Her challenge to us: "This congress must not simply generate a respect for other religions, but also must go beyond to explore the responsibility of all religions."

Phenomenal presentations from the various world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church about the trials and triumphs of religious freedom, along with a message of hope from Lincoln Steed, editor of *Liberty* magazine, highlighted the commitment of the Church to combat religious hatred.

A celebration of freedom was highlighted in an evening banquet overlooking the night skyline of Cape Town. African choral music and tribal dances provided us with a flavor of a unique culture that had graciously welcomed us to its homeland as guests from around the globe. The keynote speaker,



More than 2,000 Adventists gathered in Cape Town to celebrate freedom from hate.

Ambassador Robert Seiple, accentuated the truth that we are all created in the image of God. He asked us to seek a common ground of mutual respect for each other's faith. Why? Because he stated that, "Toleration is of the head; respect is of the heart."

A festival of freedom was hosted as a high Sabbath in Cape Town to praise God for the religious freedom treasured by many nations of the world, and to uplift in prayer the plight of more than 300-million people who subsist without such privileges. Five of the world division presidents for the Adventist Church were present to mark this special worship service. With a picturesque array of flags from many nations, the voices of a choral throng, and a gathering of more than 2,000 members, our festival of freedom was a small foretaste of our hope for Heaven, where we will rejoice in the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and there will be one flock and one shepherd." John 10:16 NKJV

Leslie D. Louis is the executive secretary and PARL director for the Gulf States Conference.



Carole and Leslie Louis attended the Sixth World Congress of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) in Cape Town, South Africa.

A Cruise With a Mission

BY RAEWYN HANKINS

There is a disturbing trend in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today, 61 percent of American young adults, active in church as teens, are now disengaged. Each year young faces disappear, taking with them their joy, energy, and talents. The reality is that many of these young people do not find their home in other churches. They are facing the world alone spiritually—with tragic consequences. This painful reality is compelling a diverse team of young adults from across the country to devote their energy and resources to engage this missing generation.

These young adults are spearheading an exciting new initiative called Cruise with a Mission (CWM). CWM is an innovative project by and for young adults, ages 18 to 35, which combines a vacation and spiritual retreat with active and meaningful mission projects. CWM found reality with Andrews University's Center for Youth Evangelism. "God is totally moving," shares Genevieve Koh, a young adult pastor in Southern California. "This mission will accomplish far more than we can imagine."

Cruising December 16-23, 2007, from Tampa, Florida, to Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico, 500 young adults from all over the world will collectively spend 7,500 hours engaging in construction, medical work, children's ministry, and simple acts

of kindness. Where most of the world sees a tropical tourist realm, Caleb Vin-Cross, CWM graphic and web designer, sees real needs: "We are turning the tables on our self-centered tourist culture and using it instead to touch the people living in its shadows with the love of God...it really is exciting!"

In addition to serving people in the ports, Steve Hemenway is excited that CWM is "a fresh, fun and exciting opportunity for young adult Christians to grow in their spiritual walk" through workshops, dynamic worship, and small groups. Rochelle Webster comments, "Many Adventist young adults feel there are few places where they can discuss their questions, struggles, ideas, and hopes with other young adults. It is our hope that Cruise With a Mission will be such a place."

"CWM is intentionally holistic: a spiritual retreat, a social network, and a mission trip all in one place," says Renee Stepp, the on-ship programming director from Berrien Springs, Michigan. Tara VinCross, CWM director, shares her vision for her young

adult peers to make a difference in the world. "We see CWM as a catalyst for life-transformation, resulting in a way of life consumed by God."

Please pray for CWM and any young adults you know whom you can invite. "We have a vision for the future of the Adventist Church," encourages Nissa Anderson, a young adult volunteer, "and we challenge each

other as emerging leaders to create a spiritual unity of young adult believers living love through servanthood. We need everyone, young adult or not, to pray for CWM."

If you are a young adult, or know a young adult, tell them about CWM. We ask for your support, through prayer, encouraging a young adult to find out more about CWM or by contributing financially to help provide a way for a young adult to participate in this amazing opportunity. To get involved, or make a donation, please visit www.cruisewithamission.org.

Raewyn Hankins is the co-marketing director for Cruise With a Mission in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



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— MARK 8:2-3 —

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& Communication, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. (7)

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for **teaching position in communication with emphasis in drama**. Qualifications include experience in play direction, technical theater, costuming and stagecraft, writing for stage and screen, speech instruction, classical drama and drama history, managing facilities and groups. See additional details at <http://www.wwc.edu>. Contact Nancy Semotiuk, Chair, Communications Department, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave, College Place, WA 99324. 509-527-2843. semona@wwc.edu (7)

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WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks **nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering** to begin October 15, 2007, or at a mutually agreeable time. The successful candidate will be a visionary leader with strong communication and academic management skills who will collaborate with faculty, staff, and administrators to strengthen recruitment, retention, fund-raising and industry relations. More information about the position and application process at www.wwc.edu/services/employment/facpos.html (7,8)

THE BLACK HILLS HEALTH & EDUCATION CENTER seeks an **organic farmer** for the Center's

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ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER in Portland, OR, is seeking a full-time Assistant Director of Laboratory Services. Applicants must be ASCP/NCA certified Medical Technologists, with a minimum five years lab experience and two years supervisory/management experience required. Salary based on experience. Visit www.AdventistHealthNW.com for more information or to apply online. (7,8)

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World Church: New Site for Adventist Lawyers ...

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's headquarters has launched a Web site to connect Adventist lawyers. The new site, www.adventistlawyer.org, will make it easier for church members to find Adventist lawyers in different parts of the world and allow the Church to easily share pertinent legal updates with the Adventist legal community, says OGC General Counsel Bob Kyte. The OGC used to list the names of all the Adventist lawyers in a book, but Kyte says "the day it was printed it was out of date."

The site now has the names and areas of practice for about 1,000 Adventist lawyers all over the world, but Kyte anticipates much more to come because lawyers can now submit their information anytime. The Web site will also have articles, news releases, case updates, and a roster for law students to register included on the site. [ANN Staff]

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Events Calendar

Florida

Complete calendar online—
<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

July 28. West Palm Beach.
July 29. Jupiter, Fort Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)
Aug. 11. Jacksonville Southpoint.
Aug. 12. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast.
Aug. 25. Maranatha in Miami.
Aug. 26. Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach.

Evangelism Series

Aug. 25-Sept. 1. Clearwater Spanish. Rolando de los Ríos.
Sept. 15-22. Kissimmee Spanish. Rolando de los Ríos.
Oct. 27-Nov. 3. Marion Oaks Spanish. Rolando de los Ríos.

North Florida Back to School Rally

—Aug 11. Crossroads Church, 155 SW 87th Place, Ocala. Details: 850-584-9508.

Spanish-language Family Retreat

—Aug 16-19. Camp Kulaqua. Theme: Aquí estoy Señor, ¡tómame! Details: 407-644-5000 x138 or 321-439-1321.

Liberacion Juvenil (Hispanic Youth Rally)

—Aug 17-18. Tampa Bay Area. Details: 305-888-3907.

Planned Giving Clinic

—Aug. 26. Northwest Dade Church.

English-language Family Retreat

—Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Camp Kulaqua. Details: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351.

Children's Ministries Fall Convention

—Sept. 14-16. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Theme: Preparing Our Children For Heaven. Presenters: Jerry Thomas, Elaine Kennedy, Oz and Wilde children's ministries comedy duo. Details: rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

Spanish-language Couples Retreat

—Oct. 5-7. Hampton Inn, Cocoa Beach. Theme: Renovación. Speakers: Pedro Martínez and Marissa Capote-Martínez. Details: delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online—
www.gccsda.com

GCC Uganda ShareHim Campaign

—July 13-28. Uganda, Africa.

Women's Ministries Level II Leadership Certification

—July 20-22. Cohutta Springs.

Cohutta Springs Family Camp

—July 24-29. Cohutta Springs.

CHIP Leadership Training Workshop

—July 26-29. Collegedale, TN.

ASI National Convention

—Aug. 1-4. Louisville, KY. Details: www.asiministries.org

Pathfinder Drill Instructor Certification Boot Camp

—Aug. 3-5.

Personal Ministries Rally

—Aug 4. Valdosta, GA.

New Teacher Orientation

—Aug. 5. Cohutta Springs.

Health Fair

—Aug. 5. Hamilton Community Church.

Teacher's Convention

—Aug. 6-8. Cohutta Springs.

Homeland Lay Evangelism Training

—Aug. 10-12. Duluth, GA. Register by July 25.

First Day of School

—Aug. 15. Conference-wide.

Living Free Training (Health) with Vicki Griffin

—Aug. 17-19. Ooltewah. Register by July 30.

Pathfinder Leadership Convention

—Aug. 17-19.

Hope for Hurting Hearts II

—Aug. 17-19. Chattanooga, TN. Register by Aug. 3.

Church Ministries Planning Retreat

—Aug. 22-24.

Gulf States

Teen Mission Outreach — July 5-24.

Hispanic Youth Federation Meeting

—July 20-22. Camp Alamisco.

Ministers' and Educators' Retreat

—Aug. 5-8. Bass Memorial Academy.

Literature Evangelists' Retreat

—Aug. 9-12. Camp Alamisco.

Youth Leadership Weekend

—Aug. 17-19. Camp Alamisco.

Executive Committee

—Aug. 28. Conference Office.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board

Sept. 18. Nov. 27.

Conference Executive Committee

Sept. 18. Nov. 27.

Fifty-Plus Camp

—July 31-Aug. 5. Indian Creek Camp.

Women's Ministries Executive Committee

—Aug. 12.

Young Women's Retreat

—Sept. 21-23. Indian Creek Camp.

Women's Fall Retreat I

—Sept. 28-30. Indian Creek Camp.

Women's Fall Retreat II

—Oct. 5-7. Indian Creek Camp.

Re:Frame Seminar

Understanding the Secular Post-Modern World

—Oct. 26-28.

Women's Ministries Executive Committee

—Nov. 4.

Southern Adventist University

Summer Commencement

—July 26.

We-Haul

—July 29.

Parents' Orientation

—July 29.

SmartStart Begins

—July 30.

Third Summer Session Begins

—July 30.

Divisions

—Aug. 4.

Announcements

Tell the World. Tell Them Now!

Experience the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries — Annual ASI International Convention, Aug. 1-4, Louisville International Convention Center, Louisville, KY. Dynamic speakers, member testimonies, music, seminars, exhibits, fellowship, and youth programs for all ages. Details: www.asiministries.org

Maranatha Volunteers

International 2007 Convention

—Sept. 21-22. Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin, OR (a suburb of Portland).

All are invited to attend this inspirational weekend. Speakers will come from India, Mozambique, Ecuador, and Chile. Come and see how God is moving in different parts of the world and how you can be involved. Details: 916-920-1900 or www.maranatha.org

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend

—Oct. 4-7. Honor classes: '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02. Silver Showcase Banquet on Thursday, Oct. 4. Details: 573-682-2164; alumni@sunnydale.org; www.sunnydale.org.

Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend

—Oct. 5-7. Bismarck, ND. Come and reminisce with old school friends from DAA/PVA/SRA. Honor classes: '03, '98, '88, '83, '78, '68, '58, '53, '48. Details: 701-962-3799; rweisz@state.nd.us

Oak Park Alumni Reunion

—Oct. 5, 6. Gates Hall, Nevada, IA. Details: opainiowa.com.

College View Academy Alumni Weekend

—Oct. 12-14. Honor classes '47, '57, '67, '77, '82, '87 and '97. Special feature Saturday, Oct. 13, 11 a.m.: Byard Parks, class of '87. All former students welcome. Come enjoy a great weekend. Details: www.dsai.org

Sunset

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug. 3	Aug. 10
Atlanta, GA	8:52	8:51	8:48	8:44	8:38	8:32
Charleston, SC	8:32	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:19	8:13
Charlotte, NC	8:42	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:27	8:20
Collegedale, TN	8:59	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:45	8:37
Huntsville, AL	8:03	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:49	7:42
Jackson, MS	8:11	8:10	8:08	8:04	7:59	7:53
Louisville, KY	9:10	9:08	9:04	8:59	8:53	8:46
Memphis, TN	8:18	8:16	8:13	8:09	8:03	7:57
Miami, FL	8:16	8:16	8:14	8:11	8:07	8:02
Montgomery, AL	7:56	7:55	7:52	7:48	7:43	7:37
Nashville, TN	8:08	8:06	8:03	7:59	7:53	7:46
Orlando, FL	8:27	8:26	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11
Wilmington, NC	8:27	8:26	8:23	8:19	8:13	8:07

Southern Union Revolving Fund



...Your investment in the Adventist family

Good news!
SURF is now open
to all investors.

The Southern Union Revolving Fund Board voted to open SURF to **all** members of the Southern Union constituency residing in the Southern Union territory.

This now provides a wonderful **mission** opportunity for members to invest in their local conference and schools.

The interest rates as of May, 2007, are 4½% for investors and 6½% for loans to churches and institutions. These rates are very attractive to churches and institutions who need to borrow funds, and to investors who have as their main goal the mission of church growth in the Southern Union.

SURF is now taking demand note applications and will continue to offer investment opportunities until we reach our \$40-million goal of growth.

The purpose of the SURF has always been to provide low-cost loans to churches and institutions in the Southern Union, as well as to provide a reasonable rate of return to investors who are willing to invest long-term to fund church growth in the Southern Union.



A Mission for Us and for You

We provide a trustworthy investment opportunity to Southern Union church members, growing your money at a good interest rate, while financing the building of churches and schools around the Union.

We know we could earn a higher rate of interest elsewhere, but for us, investing in SURF during the last 10 years not only gave us a secure and fair rate of return on our investment, it provided another way for us to support Adventist education and help build the kingdom of God here on earth.

Don and Sandy Tucker
Church Members

How do we participate?

- You may purchase notes directly from the Revolving Fund through your local conference, or by establishing a revocable trust through your local conference.
- A \$1,000 minimum check can open your account.
- If you enter a revocable trust agreement with your conference, just request that they invest your money in a Revolving Fund note.
- If you enter a self-administered revocable living trust, you may also choose to invest your money in SURE.



SURF was there for us when we needed cash. SURF made it possible for us to continue building while we were working out our insurance claim. They were easy to work with and responded quickly to our requests.

Jeff Twomley, Treasurer
Bass Memorial Academy
Lumberton, Mississippi

Call your local conference, or visit www.southernunion.com/assoc.htm for more detailed information on how to invest.

Funds in the Southern Union Revolving Fund and the rate of interest paid on SURF notes may be less than could be obtained by other investments. No interest will be earned on funds until they are received by SURF. These are unsecured notes. A prospectus may be requested from your local conference.



The Ministerial Secretaries



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Southern Union



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PLAN NOW TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING MEETING FOR PASTORS

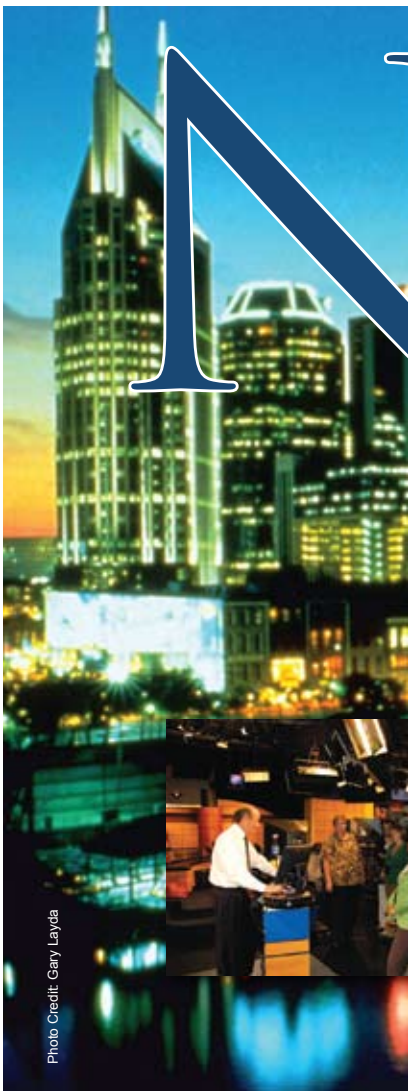


Photo Credit: Gary Layda

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OCTOBER 11-14, 2007

ASHVILLE

Tennessee



Almost 200 Adventist communicators attended 2006's convention in Baltimore, Maryland.



The author John Powell once said, "Communication works for those who work at it." As an Adventist communication professional, you have probably realized how true these words are. With the constant advancing of technology and the ever-changing standards of our

profession, it is obvious that communicators need to continually sharpen their skills.

The **Society of Adventist Communicators** was created to help communicators in our denomination

stay up-to-date in our field. With classes on the most recent technological tools available, seminars dealing with the latest trends in the communication profession, and time to network with

other Adventist communicators, this convention is a valuable experience.

This year's convention will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 11-14. With a nod to this city, rich in music history, the theme this year is "Communication: The Notes to Perfect Harmony." In addition to the classes, breakout sessions, and SONscreen film screenings, Nashville also has many attractions to visit during your down time.

So don't miss this event to meet Seventh-

day Adventist communication professionals from around the country for training, networking and spiritual renewal. It's a unique opportunity to network and learn from people who share a passion for all areas of communication. Joining the **Society of Adventist Communicators** is free and available to all Adventists currently working in the communication field. Visit www.adventistcommunicator.org for more information.

To Register

You may register via a secure server at PlusLine.org or by calling 1-800-732-7587.

- **Early bird registration** - \$199.00 (until September 11)
- **Regular registration** - \$249.00 (after September 11)
- **Student registration** - \$99.00 (until October 4)
- **Sabbath only registration** - \$75 (until October 4)

To guarantee your place, please register as soon as possible. Register online or call PlusLine at 1-800-732-7587. PlusLine will process registrations for this event through October 4, 2007. All major credit cards accepted. Checks and Money Orders should be made payable to AdventSource and mailed to:

AdventSource/PlusLine
5040 Prescott Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68506-5431



COMMUNICATION:

The Notes to Perfect Harmony

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK FOR AN ADVENTIST INSTITUTION TO JOIN SAC, AND MEMBERSHIP IS FREE. JUST VISIT WWW.ADVENTISTCOMMUNICATOR.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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SOUTHERN TIDINGS

Southern Union Conference

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Decatur, GA 30031

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