

June 2008



SOUTHERN

TIDINGS

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



SUMMER CAMP FUN



Microwave Religion

Comedian Steven Wright once quipped, “I have a microwave fireplace. I can lay down in front of the fire (all) evening in eight minutes!” While we may chuckle at the statement, Mr. Wright is not far off in his representation of many of our lifestyles.

We live at an extremely fast pace, and have a myriad of “tools” to accommodate that lifestyle. There are instant cereals, QuickBooks, speed-dial, fast food, online banking, wireless Internet, instant messaging, and of course, microwave ovens. The list goes on and on. We often use these things, not so much to save time, but to give us the ability to cram more things into an already chaotic life.

I am fascinated watching individuals darting in and out of traffic, cell phone in hand, makeup being applied (sorry ladies), laptops powered up and sitting on the passenger seat, kids strapped into the back seat, just trying to get one car length ahead of the next guy. Have you seen this picture? Have you been a part of this picture?

In all this frenzy, is it possible that our relationship with Jesus is one of the things that get lost? Could Mr. Wright’s musing be modified to read, “I have a microwave religion. I can spend a whole hour with Jesus in two minutes”?

Maybe time with God for you is a quick prayer in the morning as you hurry out the door, or a goodnight prayer right before you fall asleep. Family worship time might be a quick read through the devotional book, if you have time for it at all. The only time you get a glimpse of Jesus might be for a couple of hours on Sabbath morning.

All of us are susceptible to chaos in our lives that leave a minimal time for our relationship with Jesus to flourish. He realized this challenge when He invited, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls” Matthew 11: 28, 29, NIV. In order to take the yoke of Jesus upon ourselves, we need to stop and spend time with Him. We need to take our religion out of the microwave and put it in the slow cooker.

Jesus invites us to “Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10, NIV. Note the “be still” part. It is sometimes hard for us to do, isn’t it? It’s tough to add quality time with Jesus to a supersonic lifestyle. But, God wants to be with us and spend time with us. Only then can He work in our lives and be seen through us. David understood this when he declared in Psalm 37:7, “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”

I know how easy it is for life to get so hectic and so frantic that time for Jesus seems impossible to find. But, He promises that if we seek His kingdom and His righteousness first, He will take care of all the other stuff. So, I encourage you today to take your religion out the microwave. Stop. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Randy Robinson is treasurer of the Southern Union Conference.



Randy Robinson
Guest Editorial

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SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE
3978 Memorial Drive • Mail Address
P.O. Box 849, Decatur, Georgia 30031
Telephone (404) 299-1832
www.southernunion.com

Staff

Editor R. STEVEN NORMAN, III
Editorial Assistant IRISENE DOUCE
Circulation BOBBIE MILLBURN
Production COLLEGE PRESS
Layout BRIAN WIEHN

Contributing Editors

Adventist Health System AMANDA MAGGARD
Carolina RON QUICK
Florida MARTIN BUTLER
Florida Hospital College DAWN McLENDON
Georgia-Cumberland TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER
Gulf States BECKY GRICE
Kentucky-Tennessee MARVIN LOWMAN
Oakwood University MICHELE SOLOMON
South Atlantic JAMES LAMB
South Central MICHAEL HARPE
Southeastern ROBERT HENLEY
Southern Adventist University LORI FUTCHER

Conference/Institution Directory

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200
P.O. Box 560339, Charlotte, NC 28256-0339
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000
P.O. Box 2626, Winter Park, FL 32790-2626
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117.
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE (615) 859-1391
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088
SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535
P.O. Box 92447, M.B., Sta., Atlanta, GA 30314
SOUTH CENTRAL (615) 226-6500
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202
SOUTHEASTERN (352) 735-3142
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056
ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM (407) 975-1400
111 North Orlando Ave., Winter Park,
FL 32789-3675
FLORIDA HOSPITAL (407) 303-6611
601 East Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803
FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES (800) 500-7747
671 Winyah Drive., Orlando, FL 32803
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
(800) SOUTHERN
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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Cover Caption: Kyle Cooper is from Florida, and a wakeboard instructor at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Georgia, where a wide variety of activities are offered.

Cover Feature



SUMMER CAMP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

BY ALLAN R. WILLIAMSON

I can still remember the day I first arrived at summer camp years ago. My mother had helped me pack my suitcase and had given me instructions concerning my time away from home: “Be sure to brush your teeth, take a shower, change your clothes every day, and don’t forget to send me a postcard.”

Well, the first summer camp began a journey in my life that led me from junior camp to teen camp, and eventually to becoming a camp staff member and camp director. Camp ministries became a vital part of my life.

What Makes Summer Camp so Special?

I enjoyed the camp councils each morning when we would sing together and be treated to a creative nature nugget. A short devotional by the camp pastor would follow this.

Then it was on to camper fun activities and crafts until lunch, continuing after a short rest period.

Swimming, sailing, canoeing, horseback riding, archery, and water skiing were some of the most popular activities. The crafts class gave us a chance to make something special to take home to mom and dad.

Today, many of our camps offer specialty programs such as basket-

ball camp, gymnastics, golf camp, mountain biking, a rock climbing wall, water slide/the blob, sports camp, and wakeboarding.

The food was delicious at camp and the friendship with cabin mates was special. Friends became friends for life.

The evening campfire programs were something the campers looked forward to at the end of the day. Some of my favorites were the pioneer camp, wagon camp, and talent night. All camps have a special Friday night commitment campfire service that portrays the life of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. That is where I made my decision to dedicate my life to Jesus and His service.

During the years, thousands and thousands of campers have made decisions for Christ and eternity at a campfire program. Camp ministries provide a positive influence upon the life of a young camper. Campers remember their commitment pledge and have become leaders in the Church.

If you want to make a difference in the life of your child, plan to send them to Summer Camp 2008. It sure made a huge difference in my life. I hope to see your child at one of our summer camps this year!

Allan R. Williamson is the director of youth and camp ministries for the Southern Union Conference.

Summer Camp Locations

Camp Alamisco

Gulf States Conference
 Jeff Wood, Director
 1771 Camp Alamisco Road
 Dadeville, AL 36853
 Phone: 256-825-8880
 Fax: 256-825-5484
 www.alamisco.org

Camp Hawthorne

Southeastern Conference
 Caesar Robinson, Director
 Southeastern Conference
 Campground
 1771 Highway 20 East
 Hawthorne, FL 32640
 Phone: 352-481-3961
 Fax: 352-481-5009
 www.secsda.org

Camp Kulaqua

Florida Conference
 Ray Queen, Director
 23400 NW 212 Avenue
 High Springs, FL 32643
 Phone: 386-454-1351
 Fax: 386-454-4748
 www.campkulaqua.com

Camp Thunderbird

South Central Conference
 Vandeon Griffin, Director
 Roy Parham, Associate Director
 Camp Lee
 Anniston, AL
 Phone: 615-226-6500, x141
 Fax: 615-262-9141
 www.scc-adventist.org/ministries-campthunderbird-mission.cfm

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp

Georgia-Cumberland Conference
 Rob Lang, Director
 1181 Cohutta Springs Road
 Crandall, GA 30711
 Phone: 706-602-7346
 Fax: 706-625-3684
 www.cs-yc.com

Indian Creek Camp

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference
 Wendy Eberhardt, Director
 3011 Indian Creek Camp Road
 Liberty, TN 37095
 Phone: 615-548-4411
 Fax: 615-548-4029
 www.indiancreekcamp.com

Nosoca Pines Ranch

Carolina Conference
 Rick Faber, Director
 P. O. Box 200
 Liberty Hill, SC 29074
 Phone: 803-273-8200
 Fax: 803-273-9196
 www.nosoca.org

River Oaks Camp

South Atlantic Conference
 Stephen Brooks, Director
 534 Neeses Road Hwy.
 Orangeburg, SC 29115
 Phone: 803-664-0563
 Fax: 803-535-6565
 www.southatlantic.org

Summer Camp 2008 Schedule

CAROLINA

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC
 [Register online at www.nosoca.org]
 S.I.T. (ages 16-17) June 1-15
 Mt. Bike (ages 13-16) June 8-15
 Horsemanship I (ages 11-13) June 8-15
 Basketball (ages 11-16) June 8-15
 Wheels (ages 13-16) June 8-15
 Water Sports (ages 13-16) June 8-15
 Adventure (ages 7-10) June 8-15
 Jr. I (ages 10-12) June 15-22
 Horsemanship II (ages 13-16) June 15-22
 Sports (ages 13-16) June 15-22
 Horse Camping Trip (ages 14-17) June 22-29
 Jr. II (ages 10-12) June 22-29
 Tween (ages 12-14) June 29-July 6
 Horsemanship III (ages 13-16) June 29-July 6
 Horsemanship IV (ages 11-13) July 6-13
 Teen (ages 13-16) July 6-13

GULF STATES

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL
 [Details: www.Alamisco.org]
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-9) June 8-15
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12) June 15-22
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16) June 22-29
 Family Camp I (all ages) June 29-July 6
 Family Camp II (all ages) July 3-6

SOUTH ATLANTIC

River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC
 Summer Camp (ages 8-17) July 13-20
 Basketball Camp (ages 8-17) July 20-27

FLORIDA

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL
 [Details: <http://summercamp.campkulaqua.com/>]
 Friendship Camp (ages 8-16) May 26-June 1
 Cub Camp (ages 8-10) June 1-8
 Junior Camp (ages 9-12) June 8-15
 Teen Camp (ages 9-12) June 15-22
 Horsemanship I - Intermediate (ages 11-13) May 26-June 1
 Horsemanship II - Beginner (ages 11-13) June 1-8
 Horsemanship III - Intermediate (ages 13-16) June 8-15
 Horsemanship IV - Advanced (ages 13-16) June 15-22
 Basketball Camp I (ages 9-12) June 1-8
 Basketball Camp II (ages 13-16) June 1-8
 Soccer Camp (ages 11-15) June 1-8
 Wheels Camp (ages 11-15) June 1-8
 Teen Mountain Adventure (ages 13-17) June 29-July 6
 Family Water Sports Adventure (all ages) July 6-13
 Cowboy Adventure (ages 13-17) July 13-20

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN
 Blind Camp (mixed ages) June 8-15
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9) June 15-22
 Junior Camp I (ages 10-12) June 22-29
 Family Camp I (all ages) July 1-6
 Tween Camp (ages 12-14) July 6-13
 Teen Camp (ages 14-17) July 13-20
 Family Camp II (all ages) July 20-27

SOUTH CENTRAL

Camp Thunderbird at Camp Lee, Anniston, AL
 Friendship Camp (ages 7-16) July 6-12
 Super Sports Camp (ages 7-17) July 13-19

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center, Crandall, GA
 [Details: www.cs-yc.com]
 Youth Camp Training May 29
 Junior Camp I (ages 10-12) June 8-15
 Golf Camp I (ages 13-17) June 8-15
 Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17) June 8-15
 Rock Climbing Camp (ages 13-17) June 8-15
 Junior Camp II (ages 10-12) June 15-22
 Cycle Tour (ages 13 and up) June 15-22
 Paintball Camp II (ages 13-17) June 15-22
 Skateboard Camp (ages 13-17) June 15-22
 S.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) June 15-22
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-9) June 22-27
 Horse Pack Trip (ages 13-17) June 22-29
 Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17) June 22-29
 Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17) June 22-29
 C.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) June 22-29
 Tween/Pathfinder Honors Camp (ages 12-13) June 29-July 6
 Gym-Masters Camp (ages 13-17) June 29-July 6
 Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17) June 29-July 6
 Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17) June 29-July 6
 Teen Camp I (ages 13-17) July 6-13
 Basketball Camp (ages 13-17) July 6-13
 Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17) July 6-13
 Teen Camp II (ages 13-17) July 13-20
 Golf Camp II (ages 13-17) July 13-20
 Wakeboard Camp III (ages 13-17) July 13-20
 Surf Camp (ages 13-17) July 20-27
 Family Camp (all ages) July 22-27
 Ultimate RAD Camp West (ages 13-17) July 27-August 5
 W.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) Every week (June 8-July 20)
 Marine Life Camp (ages 13-17) Dec. 28-31

SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL
 Pee Wee Camp (ages 5-8) TBA
 Summer Camp (ages 8-18) TBA

Hundreds Celebrate Youth Festival

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

A total of 700 youth made their way to Dalton, Georgia, for the first Georgia-Cumberland Conference Youth Festival at CrossPointe Christian Centre, March 29.

Heather Peggau, a freshman at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, said, "I would definitely tell others to come. When a lot of young people are around you, it is really invigorating."

"I think the whole concept is a really good idea. It's well organized, and I have liked the speakers so far and how it's put together," said Jordan Garmon, from Hendersonville, N.C. "I really like the sermon today. That is probably my favorite."

It was the request of the Conference youth leadership council, along with Conference administration, that a weekend be set aside for youth — to celebrate what is happening in the lives of youth today, said Rob Lang,

Conference youth ministries director.

"What a blessing the youth festival was this past Sabbath for our family," shared Tim and Jennifer Proffitt from Decatur, Tennessee, in an email. "We've been praying for this sort of outreach for the young people in our church for a long time. We are certainly planning to attend again next year."

"It was a good turn out, even though there was a lot of rain and other competing events," said Lang. "We had people from Savannah, Augusta, Greenville, and Ft. Lauderdale."

"Don't miss this event," says Lang. "It is truly for youth and by youth,



The Atlanta North Hispanic Sign Language Group shares during the Sabbath afternoon program.

a place to bless and be blessed by peers."

The day included Sabbath School, church with featured speaker Andrew Moreno, an afternoon "Expression Session" showcasing Conference youth, and an evening concert with guest musician Aaron Shust.



Seven hundred youth came to Dalton, Georgia, for the first Georgia-Cumberland Conference Youth Festival.

Florida Hospital and Second Harvest Food Bank Help Feed Thousands of Central Florida Families

Florida Hospital employees collected more than 14,500 pounds of canned goods during their annual food drive, which benefits the Second Harvest Food Bank. Employees from the Orlando metro area donated cans and non-perishable food during the month-long drive, which Florida Hospital has organized for the last 10 years.

According to the Second Harvest Food Bank, one in 10 central Floridians seek food assistance at some point during each year. Due to the current economic crunch, many

food banks are reporting severe food shortages. These factors made Florida Hospital's annual canned food drive even more of a necessity.

"We live in a country where we take food for granted," said Stephanie Jones, Care to SHARE manager for Florida Hospital and coordinator of the food drive. "In Central Florida, nearly 54,000 people are hungry each week."

Brady Koch, director of agency relations and programs for the Second Harvest Food Bank, emphasized the overwhelming need for the food drive.



Stephanie Jones of Florida Hospital visits with Brady Koch, director of agency relations and programs for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

"Although you may not see the person who you're helping," said Koch, "your

donations are impacting lives."

—BY AMANDA MAGGARD

Emory-Adventist Hospital Sponsors Community Fitness and Nutrition Program

If you visit Emory-Adventist Hospital, you may see groups of men and women walking into the hospital with yoga mats under their arms and water bottles in hand. They are

here for their weekly yoga classes — classes that have proven to be hugely successful and well received by the community.

Emory began offering yoga classes last year as part of their fitness and nutrition program, Health n' Motion. The classes soon became so popular that the original class schedule,

which consisted of one evening class per week, has now expanded to include noon and evening classes three days a week.

Opening the doors of the hospital and teaching yoga in a Christian facility — a Christian health-care facility at that — has offered the community a new approach to yoga. Traditionally, Christians have been hesitant to attend yoga classes because of the Eastern philosophy they are generally associated with. Classes at Emory, however, focus on activity that promotes strength, stretching, and relaxation, allowing students to enjoy

the physical benefits of yoga without feeling they must compromise their Christian principles.

Archana Patel, yoga instructor, underscores this fact: "Many of my students have expressed that they have wanted to take yoga for years, but as Christians, they were hesitant to put themselves in a position of having to follow the transcendental model. I am so pleased to be part of the yoga program at Emory-Adventist Hospital. People tell me all the time how thankful they are for this program."

—BY BEV OWEN



Archana Patel (front) leads a class at Emory-Adventist Hospital.

Oakwood University Revives Oratorical Contest Tradition



Delbert Baker (left), Oakwood University president, and Rennae Elliott, communication department chair, pose with all six contest finalists: Joseph Holland, Ashley Stephenson-Jones, Kaggia Scott, Lynae Turner, Philip Kerimah, and Christine Jobson. Mervyn Warren, University provost and Breath of Life representative, and Michael Bernard, are pictured far right.

Speaker/Director Walter Pearson, an Oakwood University alumnus, breathed new life into an old tradition when he approached his alma mater last year in an effort to revive an Oakwood public speaking tradition. Through his efforts, and those of an anonymous supporter who donated the prize money, the Breath of Life/Oakwood University Oratorical Contest was formed, and on April 10 the first such competition took place at the McKee Business & Technology Auditorium on Oakwood's

campus. The theme of this year's competition was "Impacting the World for a Better Tomorrow."

The competition began with 23 talented students who participated in the qualifying meets held last November. A volunteer panel of judges composed of local clergy; and faculty and staff members from the University of Alabama Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, Calhoun Community College, and Oakwood University evaluated these final six contestants as they competed for first-, second-, and third-place

prizes totaling \$6,000.

Of those six finalists, Christine Jobson, music education senior, placed first; Philip Kerimah, theology sophomore, placed second; and Lynae Turner, business marketing and communications senior, placed third — walking away with \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000, respectively. The other three finalists, Kaggia Scott, Ashley Stephenson-Jones, and Joseph Holland, all received prizes for competing in the final round.

A committee of Oakwood University faculty

and staff members has met regularly during the past several months to facilitate the preliminary rounds as well as the final run-off. This competition serves as a pilot for possible duplication at other Seventh-day Adventist institutions throughout North America in the first of what is to become an annual campus event.

For more information on the Breath of Life Television Ministries, visit www.breathoflife.tv.

—BY MICHELE SOLOMON

Youth Experience Jesus in Columbia, S.C.



The Lord truly worked miracles for the Experience '08 Youth Rally in Columbia, S.C., April 11 and 12. The weekend saw 176 young people and their adult sponsors together from North and South Carolina, exceeding all expectations. The Columbia Adventist Academy gym was filled nearly to capacity with young voices singing praises to the Lord with the Columbia First Youth Praise Band.

Another highlight of

this two-day event was Michelle Bergmann (pictured right), associate editor of Insight Magazine. As the weekend speaker, she challenged the young people to reach out to God and experience Him in a new way.

A rousing talent show provided the entertainment for Sabbath afternoon. The categories were Voice, Instrument, and Drama, and trophies were given to the winners.

The Lord worked a small miracle and stopped the rain long enough for the young people to have their Outdoor Extravaganza, a spiritual scavenger hunt where they looked for the various names of Jesus all over the church campus. Later that afternoon, Adventist recording artist Clint McKoy gave an inspiring concert for the group.

The Fletcher Academy Acroknights gave the grand finale on Saturday night. Their show com-

bined gymnastics with an Adventist message. They included other youth in their routines by calling for members of the audience to come forward and help with the show.

Several individuals later stated how excited they were to see the church taking the spiritual needs of its young people seriously, and how they hope to see more events like this one. Inspired by the weekend's activities, other youth groups mentioned that they, too, would be holding youth Sabbaths and events in the future.

Plans for another youth rally in Columbia are already being laid for the spring of 2009. For more information contact Dean Carlisle, pastor, at 803-356-6769.

—BY DEAN CARLISLE



Easter Egg Hunt Held at Pisgah Manor

Residents of Pisgah Manor retirement center in Candler, N.C., recently enjoyed an Easter egg hunt with children from



Asheville-Pisgah Christian School.

The event was held on March 21, and about 40 children showed up to hunt for the hidden treasures. The residents helped to color more than 500 eggs and fill 60 plastic eggs with candy. With help from the activities staff, they hid the eggs on the front lawn, in

blankets, and even in their wheelchairs. In that way, the children interacted with residents as they hunted.

One of the junior volunteers brought a real bunny named Lilly to visit with the children and residents. The children, young and old, enjoyed petting the furry animal.

Everyone went away from the day with plenty of eggs, candy, and fun memories.

This is just another example of how Pisgah Manor



residents benefit from the young people who come to their campus. These kind of events improve their quality of life and give the children an opportunity to make a resident smile.

—BY TONIA HOLDERMAN

Carolina Historian Herman Davis Dies at 87

Herman E. Davis Sr., of Hendersonville, N.C., died March 16, 2008.

Born in Greenville, S.C., on December 26, 1920, he graduated from Parker

High School, and earned his B.A. in theology from Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College) and his master's in theology from Andrews Theological Seminary.

Davis served as a Seventh-day Adventist minister for 54 years. He began his work in Panama City, Fla. Shortly after, he and his wife served an 11-year term as missionaries to Ethiopia, Africa. As a governor appointee, he completed a 10-year term on the Board of Trustees for Blue Ridge Community College.

For 36 years, Davis worked in the Carolina Confer-

ence, pastoring churches in Charleston, Charlotte, and Asheville. He served in the administration of the Conference in various departments, and prior to his retirement was assistant to the president.

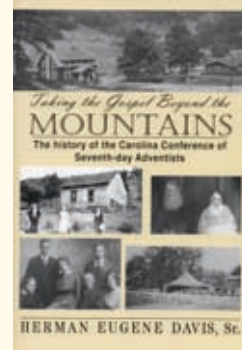
In his later years, he served the Conference by documenting its history, spending tireless hours gathering information for this purpose. He published a book entitled, *Taking the Gospel Beyond the Mountains, the History of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*. He was truly a dedicated servant of the Lord.

He is survived by his

wife of 64 years, Mary Sue Mullinax Davis; one son, H. Eugene Davis (Gene) of Tampa, Fla.; three daughters: Mary Jo (Joie) of Silver

Spring, Md., Suzette Ray of San Diego, Calif., and Suzanne Hayes of Chattanooga, Tenn.; one sister, Eleanor Ballenger; two brothers: Willard Davis and Henry Davis; two half-sisters: Sarah Ann

Mack and Eugenia Carpenter; and six grandchildren: Chrissy Barrett of Orlando, Fla., Jessica and Geoff Davis of Tampa, and Veronica, Thomas, and William Hayes of Chattanooga.



Healthcare Seminar Scheduled for July

The 28th annual Preventive Medicine Seminar will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Hilton Head Island, S.C., July 22-26. This year's theme will focus on mental and emotional disorders.

Topics to be addressed include sexual abuse; developmental trauma; values, beliefs, and conflict resolution in stepfamilies; chronic stress and its impact on physical and mental health; cognitive disorders in adults; advances in neuro-stimulation for severe and chronic

depression; bipolar disorder; and coping with grief and loss. Well-qualified speakers have been selected for the critical subjects to be presented.

The weekend activities will provide a time for spiritual stimulation through the spoken word and song. Charles Scriven, president of Kettering College of Medical Arts, will be the featured speaker.

The program

has been designed to provide time for the participants and their families to enjoy the beach, local shopping, golfing, and a



variety of dining experiences.

The seminar is open to all physicians, dentists, nurses, and allied health personnel. The spouses may attend the lectures without charge, but will not receive certification.

For more information, contact Harold Schutte, chairman, at 828-768-5505; Gloria Bareford, registrar, at 804-740-0399 or email dellastreet@excite.com; or Valerie Jackson, member of the planning committee at 706-226-3620.

Westchester Spanish Church Holds Community Health Fair



ELIO HERNANDEZ

Following Jesus' approach to first serve human needs, Westchester Spanish Church members in Miami held a health fair as a starting point to reach out in their community. More than 250 visitors attended the event coordinated by Raquel Ramírez, health ministries director. Sponsors provided free health services and screenings. —BY ELIO HERNANDEZ

Lake Placid Church Celebrates New Ministry's First Convert



ELVA AGGARBOA

Douglas Smith (center, holding baptismal certificate) is the first individual to join the Lake Placid, Fla., Church as a direct result of the Better Living Community Center ministry and the witness of its dedicated and faithful workers. Smith united with the church on Sabbath, April 19.

In May, the Lake Placid Church celebrated one year of medical-missionary ministry through its Better Living Community Center. Monthly cooking classes, diabetes seminars, stop smoking clinics, marriage enrichment seminars, and other programs help make friends in the community while fostering an interest in spiritual values.

—BY EMIL MOLDRICK

Forrest and Wanda Shirley Celebrate 70th Anniversary



Forrest and Wanda Shirley

Forrest and Wanda Shirley celebrated the 70th anniversary of their wedding on February 10. Forrest met Wanda Bennett in Bible doctrines

class at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1936, and they were married two years later in Williamston, Mich., by H. Lester Shoup, pastor of the Lansing Church.

Forrest worked 30 years as a supervisor psychiatric nurse at Wayne County General Hospital near Detroit, Mich., and retired in 1972. He also served more than three years as a medic, with half of that time served overseas during World War II. Wanda, who retired in

1977, was a supervising teacher for 33 years at the University of Michigan.

Forrest has been an Adventist his entire life, and Wanda is a fourth-generation Adventist. They have been members of the Brandon, Fla., Church since 1979, and have served in many church positions in Michigan and Florida during the years.

The couple has two daughters, Patricia Whiley from Heiselgreek, Ky., and Pamela Allison from Brandon.

News Note

Clearwater Church—New Life Discovery Sabbaths, held the first weekend of each month, encompass friends, relatives, and the community in programming that includes a children's corner, skits, music, and Discovery Presentations by Steve Adessa, pastor. The church lawn sign and newspaper ads invite the community to enjoy fellowship and a vegetarian buffet.

Forest Lake Pastor Helps Launch Community Religion Message Board



Derek Morris, D.Min. (left) on the set of WOFL-FOX 35's program, Orlando Matters, with Keith Landry, host

For the past nine months, Derek Morris, D.Min., Forest Lake Church senior pastor, has served

on a special advisory board of area religious leaders helping Orlando, Fla., television station WOFL-FOX 35 launch its new web site, myfaithorlando.com.

"FOX 35 management had a vision to create a web presence dedicated to building bridges of understanding between people of different faiths and world views," says Morris. "God has given us the opportunity to be front and center in this special project, while opening yet another door for Forest Lake Church to impact the community with the Gospel of God's grace!"

Launched in early September 2007, the new web

site encompasses a message of the day, prayer requests, an events calendar highlighting local church life, and a message area discussing spiritual issues. "Some of my continuing responsibilities are to contribute to the daily devotional and participate in the religion message board," says Morris. "As an advisory church for the web site, Forest Lake is also able to post its church events on the event calendar."

As a result of Forest Lake's involvement in myfaithorlando.com, Morris was asked to be a guest on the television program, *Orlando Matters*, on FOX 35's sister station, WRBW-

Channel 65. "I was there to talk about myfaithorlando.com," says Morris, "but God opened another door. I was able to share about Forest Lake's web church outreach and the media ministries available at forestlakechurch.org. My segment in the program was only nine minutes, but the Lord blessed."

Morris is excited to see what new doors God will open in the days ahead. "God is providing new opportunities every day to fulfill our mission to teach His Word, lead people to Jesus, and help others to do the same. As He leads, we must follow."

—BY TERRY HALL

Shepards Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Kress Memorial Church members Dick and Elaine Shepard celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 13. Dick served Florida Conference 26 years in several capacities and continues to coordinate the retired denominational workers' annual retreat and the Religious Liberty Department.

Florida Outdoor Club Members Show Love for Missions

More than fun and fellowship, Florida Outdoor Club has a dimension deepened with a love for missions. Meeting the second weekend of each month, September through May, RV'ers gather at the Baptist Youth Camp, Groveland, Fla., for Adventist camaraderie with a vision to do something meaningful for others.

At the February 9 gathering, Les Randall, club president, challenged the group to think big for missions. A recent blind auction pushed the two-year total to \$6,000. Six projects



Florida Outdoor Club members, including Les Randall, club president, and Pat, his wife, gave \$6,000 for mission projects.

each received \$1,000: Your Story Hour; Gem Resources International; Project Roma; Adventures In Mission;

Béré Adventist Hospital in Tchad, Africa; and Adventist Heritage Ministry.

—BY HERB PRITCHARD

1,400 Attend Annual Pathfinder Camporee

Around 1,400 youth and staff from 56 Pathfinder clubs attended the Georgia-Cumberland Conference annual Pathfinder Camporee with the theme “We Will Serve,” April 18-20, at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Highlights of the weekend included the parade where all Pathfinder clubs march past the Pathfinder officials; Bible Bowl; Steeple Chase race; and “We Will Serve” service projects at the camp, including creating 450 care/disaster packages, military care packages, spreading mulch, and scrubbing benches and tables in the amphitheatres and pool picnic shelter.



TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

The Defenders Pathfinder Club from the Knoxville First Church in Tennessee prepares to march in the parade. Elizabeth Mathewson (left) was one of four Pathfinders baptized in the lake on Sabbath afternoon.

“We appreciated Rob Lang and Cohutta Springs staff for having the new camp lodge ready for Camporee,” says John Swafford, children’s ministries director for the Conference. “We wanted this year’s Camporee programming,

speaker, activities, and service projects to bring together in a practical way this year’s theme ‘We will share.’ After arriving home Sunday after Camporee, Jacob Fisher created a sermon about service while mowing his lawn.”

“Bible Bowl is fun and it can make you kind of nervous,” says Rachel Brogden, Calhoun Cherokee Pathfinders in Georgia. Her five-member Bible Bowl team received second place.

Elizabeth Mathewson, a six-year Pathfinder working

on her Master Guide with the Defenders Pathfinder Club, Knoxville, Tenn., was one of four Pathfinders who was baptized in the Cohutta Springs Lake on Sabbath afternoon. “I wanted to do it here, on a Pathfinder event, just because all the people I care about, my friends (including her family), I knew they would all be here.”

Jonathan Roll, Auburn Ambassadors, from Georgia, says, “In Pathfinders you make new friends, do a whole bunch of different stuff like camping.”

Anahi Hernandez, a Pathfinder with the Atlanta North Hispanic Pathfinder Club, says she likes hanging out with friends, having a good time, and the teen afterglow.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

South Georgia Camp Meeting Brings Fellowship

The 2008 South Georgia camp meeting was held at a new venue this year, the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Norman Park, Ga. The spring flowers and trees were at peak bloom, lending a wonderfully colorful atmosphere to the weekend. Jeremy Arnall, pastor of the Crossville, Tenn., Church was the featured speaker. His sermons followed the weekend’s theme, “Embracing His Presence.”

David Warburg of Moultrie, Ga., was happy to have camp meeting in Norman Park. “It’s nice to be closer to my home, less driving for those of us who are in the

bottom of the state. We’re glad that it’s here and we hope it’ll work out for future events.”

South Georgia camp meeting doesn’t only attract members from the Conference. Howard Lowe from Havana, Fla., has been attending for four years. “It’s just nice to come up here. We always camp in Cordele, and when we realized they were having camp meeting there, that’s when we started coming, and we’ve been coming ever since and we’ve enjoyed it.”

Although the Conference is planning on offering the option of streaming vid-

eo of future camp meetings over the web, Larry Walker of the Valdosta, Ga., Church

explains why he would still drive. “We choose to attend in person because we need

the personal communion with fellow Christians, to be able to give one another hugs or shake hands, and to just get away, out of the same routine — to take a breath of fresh air, to spend time with other believers contemplating our Lord’s love for us and His soon return.”

—BY BRIAN YOUNG



BRIAN YOUNG

Jack Nickless of the Columbus, Ga., Church plays the slide guitar during the Sabbath afternoon musical program at South Georgia camp meeting.

Elementary Band Festival Impresses Many

The McDonald Road, Tenn., Church was filled with young musicians, April 4, 5. Approximately 100 band members in grades 5-8 came together from three Adventist elementary schools in Tennessee — A.W. Spalding in Collegedale, Bowman Hills in Cleveland, and Ooltewah Adventist School — for the annual Georgia-Cumberland Conference Elementary Band Festival.

This year, for the first time, the festival was held during a two-day timeframe. On Friday, the

students arrived with trailers full of instruments in tow. They spent most of the day practicing so they would be ready for their performance on Sabbath.

Richard Hickam, con-

ductor, says, “In the past we’ve had an all-day festival. The kids have been playing all day long and by the time you get to the concert at night, their lips are just shot,” he says. “With the

two-day festival, they come in fresh. They sounded great today and I think it had a lot to do with that.”

The musical ability of the band members was evident as they performed during the church service, which was held in the church gymnasium. “They were so good you would

have thought they were from an academy,” remarked Cynthia Gettys, Conference vice president for education. “They were phenomenal.”

Carol Myers was one of the audience members during the second service on Sabbath morning. She is the curriculum specialist for A.W. Spalding and Collegedale Academy, a retired public school superintendent, and an aunt of one of the band members. “I’ve been in education for almost 40 years, in both the public and private systems, and this was the best elementary band I’ve ever heard,” she said. “It was very nice.”

—BY REBECCA BROOKS



REBECCA BROOKS

Approximately 100 students in grades 5-8 performed at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Elementary Band Festival on April 5.

Chattanooga Hispanic Church Shares Hope in Jesus

The Chattanooga Hispanic Community Church in Tennessee initiated a campaign called “Your Hope is Jesus,” March 16-23. A total



NANCY CASTILLO-GUZMAN

Six friends of the Adventist church opened their homes to host the “Your Hope is Jesus” meetings.

of 26 friends of the church and 80 church members assisted with the meetings

regularly. It was directed by a group of church members in diverse homes. Danilo Cornejo, church pastor, and Augusto Salazar, director of personal ministry, coordinated the event.

Five homes of friends of the Adventist church, and a recently baptized family, opened their doors for these daily meetings. Each group had church members who volunteered

to help with any task that was needed. The group led by the youth even had

a different speaker each night, giving young adults the opportunity to preach.

The Hispanic Community Church was founded with the purpose of reaching the Hispanic community in North Chattanooga. This is only the beginning of the “Your Hope is Jesus” mission plan for this year. Some groups are continuing weekly studies, and others have begun individual Bible studies. In every home and church activity, church members will be praying for the individuals who have come to know Christ through this campaign.

—BY NANCY CASTILLO-GUZMAN

Crofts Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Simon and Mary Lou Croft, high school sweethearts, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 29, 2008.

Both are active members of the Valdosta, Ga., Church, having served as head deacon and deaconess for many years. For 33 years, Mary Lou also served as the director of the Kiddie Korral Child Development Center operated by the church.

New Hispanic Company Organized



The newly organized Hispanic Company stands with officials from Gulf States Conference.

The Montgomery Hispanic Company was officially organized on April 12. The group, which began meeting more than three years ago at the Montgomery First Church in Alabama, is a growing congregation. Regular attendance averages 30 members

each Sabbath.

Jaime Pombo, pastor, was introduced and dedicated as the new leader for the group. Mel Eisele, Conference president; Don Shelton, ministerial director; and Leslie Louis, secretariat, officiated the program. Xiomara Mercado and Rocio

Roberts, office administrative assistants, also helped with the program. The company began an evangelistic campaign the next evening with the focus on getting ready for Evangelist Alejandra Bullon's visit on Thursday evening.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Outreach to India Continues



Elbert James spent time encouraging and praying for those who had become members during previous mission trips.

Elbert James, a member of the Crestview, Fla., Church has completed another successful mission trip to India. Since his first trip in 2000, James has returned every year. Seven churches have been built since his first trip to India.

This time James was able to visit some of the churches he has helped build and sponsor. "They are growing by leaps and bounds," he explains. While in the villages, James visited many of the residents who remembered him from previous years.

In one of these villages, a church member's thatched roof had caught fire and their little girl had been severely burned. Her mother was not able to pay the doctor's bill, but because of donations James had received when he shared his mission with a woman he'd met during a flight delay, and by sharing that same vision with a cousin where he was staying during an unexpected delay, he was able to pay the child's medical bills and buy food for the family.

For more information or to help support this ministry, you may contact Elbert James at 850-682-4478.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

New Opelika Adventure Club



The newly organized Opelika Eagles Adventurer Club celebrated the month of April as its "Spring Fling" with a full schedule, beginning with practice for their first induction service. This was followed by pizza and time to relax before gathering at an athletic field to complete their fitness award.

Sabbath afternoon, April 12, found 13 happy faces, enthusiastic parents, and friends gathered for the induction service. The Adventurers and the Little Lambs, with their families and friends, accepted the Adventurer Pledge and Law, to be practiced daily.

The month will end with a trip to Camp Alamisco to participate in Family Fun Day. "God has blessed our church with these precious lambs to prepare for Him," explains Sandra Kromminga, director. Cathy Davis and April Whitman are the club counselors and Marcelyn Howard is the craft director.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA

God Leads Through a MagaBook

Sam Davis, a literature evangelist in northeast Alabama, and Dan Shannon, the Conference publishing leader, were making calls to people who had sent in cards indicating an interest in the religious books they were selling. One interest card from William McCrary, was different from the others. Previously, several unsuccessful attempts had been made to contact McCrary, but this time he was home. Davis showed him the card, and he eagerly invited the men into his home. While Davis set up his display, McCrary proceeded to look for the MagaBooks he had purchased some time ago and the source of that lead card.

"He was so excited he could hardly contain himself," explains Shannon.

Then McCrary began to share his story. First, he

shared his jailhouse conversion, and then how eight years ago a young man selling the MagaBooks entered McCrary's Buchanan, Ga., business. He was touched by the young man's plea and donated \$50 for a book. The young man responded by giving him two extra books. Those books were *The Desire of Ages* and *He Taught Love* which is *Christ's Object Lessons*. The books sat on McCrary's table for six years before he read them.

Shannon says, "As Mr. McCrary flipped through those pages, I could see many sections underlined and some highlighted."

McCrary began to use the books in his Sunday school class. The members were so impressed with what they were hearing, they asked him to preach. The source materials used for those sermons were

those two MagaBooks!

When Davis and Shannon explained to McCrary that his *The Desire of Ages* was a condensed version and that it was part of a series which dealt with the entire Bible, he did not hesitate to purchase the set. McCrary now has in his home the entire conflict series, with *Bible Readings for the Home*.

"When we left that home, we knew those books would be read and that the words in them would accomplish that which they were written for," says Shannon, and then he adds, "Ellen White penned more than 100 years ago, 'in a large degree through our



Dan Shannon (left) and Sam Davis experienced God's leading.

publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from Heaven with great power and who lightens the Earth with His glory' *Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 139, 140 (1902). I believe God sent the MagaBook student, and then Davis and me to Mr. McCrary so he could hear the message of Jesus' soon return."

—BY DAN SHANNON AND REBECCA GRICE

Fifth and Sixth Grade Students Construct Bible Museum



Students explain the dress of the priests and what each part represents.

Students in Kristy Mobley's fifth and sixth grade presented an in-depth view of the sanctuary to their classmates at Mobile Junior Academy in Mobile, Ala. During the first semester of school, Ron Vaughn, pastor, taught the students about the sanctuary service, the furnishings, symbolism, and what it means for us today.

During the second

semester, the students decided the best way to share this information with their schoolmates was through a school museum. Students designed and built various items from the sanctuary, researched scriptures, and wrote a script for the museum presentation. This way they not only gained valuable knowledge, but were able to pass it on to others.

—BY KRISTY MOBLEY

Chocolate Fountain Part of “Palette” Fundraiser

[Patricia Lynch Kimbro submitted the following article to *The Dickson Herald*. It appeared February 7, 2008, and is reprinted with permission.]

Hayley Jeffries felt “special” last year when a woman bought her colored artwork of Jesus on the cross for her living room. The woman planned to hang 11-year-old Jeffries’ drawing over the photographs of her deceased husband and grandson.

Jeffries didn’t know the woman, and that made it all the more special. The sixth-grader said she’s hoping this year’s second annual Chocolate Palette Festival, a major fundraiser for her school, Dickson Adventist School, will be just as meaningful.

“The lady told me the picture reminded her of her loved ones and she wanted to hang it right over their photographs. That made me feel so special,” Hayley said

Tuesday, as she and her classmates put the finishing touches on the festival artwork.

The Chocolate Palette Festival will be open from noon to 4 p.m., on Sunday at the Tennesco Community Center, 115 Tennesco Drive.

All proceeds from the event go to purchase much needed items for the small school. “It helps us buy the items for our artwork, pencils, paper, and books,” she said.

This year Hayley made a brightly colored vase of paper mache.

“The students are working on a variety of media this year,” added Diane



PATRICIA LYNCH KIMBRO/THE HERALD

Matthew Edmondson, 12, shows off the paper collage of a seascape which he hopes someone will purchase at the Dickson Adventist School’s second annual Chocolate Palette Festival; and Hayley Jeffries, 11, shows her brightly colored paper mache vase.

Capps, principal and teacher of the school, located at 546 Hwy. 46S.

Dickson Adventist School students’ artwork and artwork from Nashville artists, including a portrait artist, will be available for purchase, with proceeds going to the school. Also, a silent auction will be held on several items donated by local businesses.

Hayley said she is hop-

ing this year’s event will be as successful as the first. “If I could ask everyone in the community to come, I’d want to tell them they’ll have a lot of fun...especially the children, because this time we’re having a petting zoo with llamas and a lady is bringing a dog that does tricks,” Hayley said.

Last year, according to Capps, the school raised \$3,000. It was a wonderful turnout, 300 to 400 showed up. It is also a really nice way to raise money.” It’s an especially delectable way to help out the school for chocolate lovers. For a \$2 admission fee, participants get to sample a 42-inch chocolate fountain, which is donated for the event, by Lauri Day and her husband, Eric Hildebrant, owners of Once Upon A Time Catering.

“They also prepare all the food for The Artisan Bistro,” Capps added.

The menu of lunch and snack items will include nachos, \$2; homemade chili served with tortilla chips for \$2; spinach and artichoke dip with chips, \$2.50; cheese pizza, \$2.50; and hot dogs, \$1.75.

“We really appreciate all the businesses that help out with this. We couldn’t do it without them,” Capps said. There will also be musical performances.

“This will be fun, creativity, and romance for the whole family. Please come celebrate your Valentine’s Day spirit with us,” Capps said.

—BY PATRICIA LYNCH KIMBRO

Evangelism Bears Fruit

Recently the Louisville First Church board set aside three weeks of evangelistic services that provided an opportunity for members to invite the community to think about the times in which we live, to focus on what is important, and consider Christ’s soon coming.

The services provided many opportunities for members to participate in activities that called them from hectic schedules to refocus on their individual paths and to make new friends. On the average, 15 visitors attended the nightly meetings. Four made public decisions to follow Christ through baptisms and two through profession of faith. Louisville First looks forward to continued growth and service to its community.



Jon Weigley (left), associate pastor, and Tim Madding (right), senior pastor with attendees.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER

CHIP Impacts Local Congregation

What does CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) do in a congregation?

“Let me begin by saying that it is helping me feel better,” says Lloyd Schomburg, pastor of the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church. “I am in a small group that is holding each other accountable for walking at least a mile a day — continuous exercise, weight lifting, jumping rope, tread mill, etc., whatever a person chooses.”

As far as eating, the “diet” word is avoided. Schomburg admits that he and his wife have been working toward CHIP principles and habits for years. Now they are tasting the excitement and enthusiasm of balance and the joy of healthy choices along with the guests who came from night to night.

Although there were

around eight Adventist members who were committed to being part of the staff, wearing polo shirts with the CHIP insignia on it and attending each night, the whole congregation was impacted by exposure to CHIP through a series of short video clips shown during the worship services prior to the program itself.

After only one week into CHIP, a member called to say how one of the teen members of the church told her he had quit drinking caffeinated soft drinks. She was so impressed that she decided to stop drinking coffee, and her prayers were answered — no headaches or side-effects of quitting. She shared it with a small Bible study group and another member in the group called later to say she, too, decided to quit drinking coffee, and amazingly God heard her

prayers and removed all headaches that normally accompany her quitting.

What does CHIP do to inspire soul-winning? The congregation has had a revival in prayer meeting as well. You would think that after meeting for two to three hours, four nights a week, that people would be too tired to come to prayer meeting. Wrong.

The pastor heard exciting behind-the-scenes stories CHIP was producing. For example, one couple coming to CHIP once told their relatives they hated Adventists. Then a few years ago a relative joined the church. Then their own son joined. Now both are excited about being part of this team. CHIP is not about goals, health, or even lifestyle changes as much as it is about making relationships and building friendships. This is truly

“seed-planting.” And, the church’s prayer is that it will grow and eventually bear the fruit of souls won to the kingdom.

There is more. Of the 10 CHIP participants, nine are non-members, one of which is a volunteer staff member and a former student of the church school, and she inspired her parents to come as well.

One non-member couple drove 34 miles round-trip each night to attend. Another participant said, “Where has CHIP been all my life? I am a nurse and I am excited about what I am learning.” Hopefully, this woman will become, as a future CHIP alumnus, a chief encourager of others to attend the next one scheduled.

And all this, just after completing the first of four weeks of CHIP.

—BY LLOYD SCHOMBURG

Lexington has Successful CHIP Program

The Lexington, Ky., Church hosted a very successful CHIP program, ending with a graduation on Valentine’s Day. There were 23 participants in the program, all of whom reported great success in the areas of weight loss, blood pressure, and lower cholesterol. Each person enjoyed Hans Diehl’s program.

David Parker, M.D., led out in the program, and was assisted by Nan Sweeney, who prepared food samples and spoke

on each night’s theme. John Bradshaw, Lexington pastor, said the CHIP program was a positive experience for not only the church but for the wider community.

So many people reported great results. One woman was taken off three medications by her doctor. Another reported dramatic improvement with her asthma and no longer needs to use her medications, while another reported she no longer suffers from insomnia. And



better yet, CHIP pointed people to the Creator.

Participants gained a clear view of the character of God and the way He works in so many ways for each person. Another woman said, “Wow, this is great! What else does your church do?”

Lexington members are looking forward to seeing the Lord make an even greater impact with future CHIP programs.

Lexington’s first CHIP alumni meeting has been held, and people are still very positive about the way CHIP has benefited them.

“We’re looking forward to doing it again some time soon,” said Parker. “We feel like the Lord is going to use this program in a great way to draw people closer to Himself.”

—BY MARY C. EDMISTER

South Atlantic Welcomes New Congregation



William and Gloria Felder

Sabbath, February 23, 2008, was a day of rejoicing at the Emmanuel Church in Stone Mountain, Ga. Approximately 500 members

and guests were present to celebrate Emmanuel's induction into the sisterhood of Seventh-day Adventist churches.

On October 24, 2005, 24 individuals met with a vision to establish a light-house for God in an area where many Adventist members lived, but had no visible presence. As time progressed, and with much deliberation about becoming a part of the South Atlantic Conference, the group's vision and dream

became a reality.

Vanard Mendinghall, Conference president, welcomed the congregation of more than 200 members. Other Conference officials present were Ralph Franklin, assistant to the president; Larry E. Johnson, treasurer; and Pennie Archie-Smith, vice president for education. Many local pastors and leaders were also in attendance.

William and Gloria Felder were installed as the pastoral team of Em-

manuel Church. Felder, a graduate from Oakwood University, formerly Oakwood College, and Andrews Univeristy, comes with a rich background. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in religion, a M.B.A. and Ph.D. in management. Gloria Felder is also a graduate of Oakwood College and the University of Phoenix.

The Emmanuel congregation has grown very fast and continues to grow and flourish.

—BY GWENDOLYN MAPP

Berean Attends Adventist Robotic League

Recently, several students at Berean Christian Junior Academy (BCJA) in Atlanta, Ga., had the opportunity to attend the Adventist Robotics League's (ARL) Southern Challenge. The Southern Challenge is held each year at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. The purpose of ARL is to encourage students to participate in science and technology. ARL is partnered with the

First Lego League (FLL). FLL is an exciting and fun robotics program that makes science exciting for children.

At the Southern Challenge, all of the ARL teams in the southeast come together. Teams present their research and display their robots by completing the challenge mission. Awards are given for teamwork, programming,



BCJA students who participated were Raphael Spencer (left), Stephanie Clemons, Cayman Howard, Daniel Seal, and Benjamin Tomlinson.

robot design, research, and robotic mission. A Director's Award is also given to

the team that scores best overall.

The students really enjoyed the experience. When asked about the trip, Stephanie Clemons, a sixth grader at BCJA, responded, "I was surprised that everything was made out of legos." For the 2008-2009 school year, BCJA plans to send its own robotics team to participate in the Southern Challenge.

—BY JNOCKA SMALL

GAAA Student Receives Leadership Scholarship

G. Lane Akins II, a sophomore, attending Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy (GAAA), is a participant in the 2007-2008 annual Medical Post program at Morehouse College in Atlanta Ga. The program is designed for prospective medical students who are



G. Lane Akins, II

high school rising juniors and seniors to familiarize them with medical professions, incentives, and SAT preparation.

Lane received correspondence from Alex Adams, director of the MED

Post program, stating, "Congratulations Lane, for being selected for the National

Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) scholarship and a summer medical program at the Emory University's campus, Atlanta, Ga." This achievement was noted as "quite an honor for a 10th grade student." Lane is one of four individuals selected out of 32 participants in the program from several private and public high schools in metro Atlanta.

Lane serves as the president of his class and sings in his school's choir. He is also the pianist for Gabriel's Instrument Orchestra at his church, Shiloh, in Smyrna, Ga., and a pianist for the Mt. Pisgah Church in Acworth, Ga.

Lane Akins is the eldest son of Gills Sr. and LiSha Akins.

—BY PEGGY SMITH

Variety Style VBS Held in Whiteville



Each night, the number of children increased.

“What can we do for Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year?” questioned Charlene Berry, Praise

Tabernacle’s VBS leader in Whiteville, N.C. Being in their new facility, funds were low, but an expectation of God’s working was in the air.

On opening night, some 60-plus church and community children arrived for VBS, greeted by smiling volunteers with Hawaiian leis and a gym decorated with an active volcano, larger-than-life island adventure animals, sea creatures, fish, and whales.

Nutritious vegetarian meals were served nightly by ‘Grandma’ Bettye Mills. Fruit and juice rounded off the meals each night as well.

During the week the children also enjoyed Christian centered Adventure videos, fun active songs, energizing games with a moral, Bible and craft time, and a new feature — Teen Drama. Teen Drama was orchestrated by the older teens who presented a dramatic illustration of the theme for

the night. Skits and puppetry were used for this section, much to the delight of the younger children.

Everton Ennis, pastor of Praise Tabernacle Church, closed out the final Sabbath VBS program with prayer, but not before parents and children were informed about the other youth programs that are functioning, such as Pathfinders, Adventurer Club, and weekly Sabbath School classes.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT

Decatur Holds “Back to the Bible” Crusade

The Decatur, Ga., Church held its first “Back to the Bible Crusade,” nightly, March 2-31, with the exceptions of Mondays and Thursdays, at the church. The crusade was a prophetic message to help people in the community realize that Jesus is soon to return.



Godwin Mitchell, pastor/evangelist

pastor/evangelist, was the speaker, and he preached each night with power from God. Each message presented a clear picture of last-day events.

Saturday nights were reserved for the youth. The young people were informed how they have a part in the final hour. They latched to the idea that

God has a plan for them as well.

The church members were very instrumental in the crusade. They passed out flyers; invited friends and family; and became Bible workers under the direction of Wilbert Hall, a Decatur member. The health ministries department gave vital health tips. They provided cholesterol and glucose screening, and checked blood pressures.

Mitchell challenged the

church members by stating, “It is our season. God is looking for His church to reach out and tell others of His love and soon return. The opportunity might not come again.”

Each night was a message of hope in these dark days. The messages depicted events as they are happening today.

On the last Sabbath, there was a baptism and concert for AYS.

—BY BONITA JONES

Ephesus Ordains Six Deacons

During divine worship service on March 29, Moses Edwards Sr., pastor, officiated the ordination service for six men at Ephesus Church in Winston Salem, N.C.; other ministerial staff members assisted him.

According to Edwards, the men have shown lives of good report and are willing to serve at any capacity

in helping people.

Edwards used the word “DEACON” to place emphasis on duties: “Be Dedicated and Enthusiastic, work for All people, be Committed, take advantage of Opportunities, and Never take your calling for granted.”

The message was taken from Acts 6:1-10, using Stephen as an example of

how God steps in when you need Him at any place or any time. “Stephen was a dedicated Christian who demonstrated many powerful works and never took his eyes off God. Yet, he was ridiculed and stoned by those who may have become jealous, but was able to pray for their forgiveness.”

The ordainees were Darryl Bullock, Rinard Howard, Moses Edwards Jr., Robert Fries, Darin Marcus, and David Samuel.

The dedicational prayer was by Wilma Boyd, elder, and special music was by Kenworth Holiness, “So Send I You.”

—BY EMMA PITTS

Adventists Minister to Burundian Refugees

South Central and Georgia-Cumberland conferences are actively involved in the growing Burundian ministry in Knoxville, Tenn. College Hill Seventh-day Adventists and other local Adventists united to assist their Burundian brothers and sisters settle in the United States.

Burundian Adventist refugee families fled their Tutsi-dominated homeland in 1972. In the years that followed, these refugees have been unable to return primarily because of continued ethnic fighting. Banziriyubusa Consolate was six years old when she fled to a refugee camp, and, according to her oldest son, her family was murdered in the massacres.

Refugee camps are not suitable for a continued, prosperous existence. Residents survive on rations, and are often threatened or harassed. Rape, used as a weapon, is common, and many have endured or witnessed atrocities Americans cannot fathom. In time, volunteers learned that about eight years ago, Banziriyubusa's husband disappeared and was never found.

Now camps in Tanzania are closing, refugees are not welcome to settle permanently there, and since returning home is not possible either, the U.S. has agreed to help with relocation.



The Consolate family enjoys a day at the park: Benjamin (front row, left), Anna, Rekadius, Remi (back row, left), Pajero, Banziriyubusa (mother), Adamu, and Sheba.

The Consolate family is one of a dozen families coming to Knoxville by way of Tanzania, Africa. Banziriyubusa Consolate, her six sons, and one daughter are refugees from Burundi, Africa, seeking a new lease on life here in the U.S. They are mixed primarily Hutu and Tutsi, and speak Kirundi and Swahili.

Less than a year ago, the Bridge Refugee and Sponsorship Services (Bridge) contacted the Adventist Church in Knoxville to solicit its help with Adventist refugees. Bridge is an ecumenical nonprofit organization that recruits and trains church sponsors to help refugees create a new life in East Tennessee. Bridge continues to case-manage the families until they are eligible to apply for U. S. citizenship.

Illabelle Lee, member of the North Knoxville Church, and eight Knoxville churches from Georgia-Cumberland and South Central conferences—College Hill, Knoxville First, Knoxville Hispanic, Lafollette, Lenoir City, North Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and Trinity came together in



Anna Consolate enjoys swinging at the park.

July 2007 to help three Burundian Adventist refugee families settle.

In time, they developed a new organization called Adventist Refuge of Knoxville (ARK), with Lee as coordinator. The project has two objectives: assisting families with assimilation to American culture, and organizing a Burundian congregation.

According to Bridge, approximately 100 Burundian refugees are already in Knoxville. Of those, about half have been contacted by ARK volunteers.

After rotating the more than 35 Burundians among the eight churches, ARK decided to stabilize the group and asked College Hill to serve as the host church — Alexander Lampkin is the pastor. The

Burundian company enjoys their own worship service in the fellowship hall at College Hill.

A few of the refugees who aren't Adventist have a church sponsor, so ARK is assisting as much as possible. Both Georgia-Cumberland and South Central conferences are actively involved with ARK in the organization of a Burundian congregation.

—BY ILLABELLE LEE AND ALEXANDER LAMPKIN

Prayer Warrior Honored during 80th Birthday Celebration

Skyridge Medical Center Hospital Pharmacy staff in Cleveland, Tenn., recently honored Regina Milner on her 80th birthday with a surprise party. The hospital staff members expressed their gratitude for her outreach ministry of counsel and prayer on their behalf during their crucibles.



One co-worker said it best in her tribute: "I ask Regina to pray because I know she can get a prayer through to God." They

showered her with gifts and many verbal expressions of sincere gratefulness.

She works four days a week at the pharmacy. Her director, Cliff Kolb, said, "Regina is 'sharp as a tack,' never misses a day, and is an inspiration to all." Milner is the area prayer

coordinator and church clerk for the East Cleveland Church.

—BY JOSEPH F. MILNER



MICHAEL HARPE

Hillcrest Women Celebrate 75 Years of Service

The oldest women's service organization in the Conference, "The Master's Workers Club," was started in the spring of 1932 by Eliza Beaden for the women of Meharry Boulevard Church, presently, Hillcrest Church in Nashville, Tenn., commemorated their festive 75th anniversary.

The celebration was held at Maggiano's Restaurant on December 9, 2007, to honor and highlight their years of Christian service to their church and the community.

Beaden, seeing a need, had a special idea that young women could do ministry-related activities for their church. She then talked the idea over with

Sallie Wilson, and the two decided to call a group of young women together for a first meeting, held in the home of O. Barnes. The following officers were elected: E. Beaden, president; O. Barnes, secretary/treasurer; and A. Jordan, chaplain. Within time, two men, Fred N. Crowe, elder; and James E. Brown, Sr., local elder; were also permitted to join the group. The club was organized to do Christian service.

The members of the club are still as enthusiastic, eager, and energetic as they were 75 years ago. The Master's Workers' chosen theme song portrays their ministry: "Lifetime is Working Time."

The 75th Anniversary Gala was attended by numerous friends, family, and community supporters of Hillcrest. John Parker, pastor, delivered the invocation, followed by the welcome from outgoing president, Delores Grant. Afterwards, Kay Higgs, the incumbent president, gave the historical occasion. G. Russell Seay, pastor of Nashville South Church, was the inspirational speaker for the eve-



Members of the group are still as enthusiastic, eager, and energetic as they were 75 years ago.

ning. Guests were amused by words of humor and wisdom from the mistress of ceremony and chairperson, Gwendolyn Y. Brown. Dorothy Reedus, chaplain, concluded the celebration with prayer.

—BY GWENDOLYN M. CLARKE

Youth Give Lives to Christ at Retreat



Antwoyn Mells, pastor, prays with a young person during anointing service.

“Holiness is what I long for...Righteousness is what I need...Brokenness is what You want from me... So take my heart, and mold it...”

These words illustrate the theme of the fourth annual Pure Reality retreat, “Broken and Restored,” and express the sentiments of all those who were in attendance.

Camp Kulaqua, located in High Springs, Fla., was filled to capacity as nearly 450 attendees and staff occupied the rustic setting, April 18-20.

One attendee said, “Being at Pure Reality has turned my views and expectations and has convinced me to change the non-Christian lifestyle that I was living. Having the knowledge has completely made me turn my life to Jesus Christ.”

From as far as Huntsville, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; and Nassau, Bahamas, people came to participate in Pure Reality, a biblically-sound, character-based campaign that educates, defines, and explores God’s design for sex and a lifestyle of purity

for young people from 12 to young adult.

Featured speakers such as Eric Walsh, medical director of East Campus Urgent Care at Loma Linda University and an associate pastor at San Bernadino, Calif.; Beverly Sedlacek, faculty

member of the School of Nursing at the University of Alabama in Huntsville; Jason O’Rourke, a theology major at Oakwood University after serving 14 years in the military; Jonathan Rolle, a drug and alcohol treatment counselor for the Broward Sheriff’s Office in Fort Lauderdale; rising gospel singer and founder of P31 Ministries, Ashaala Jenkins; J.M. Garcia, chaplain and Bible teacher at Miami Union Academy; and Robert Thompson, director of religious liberty at Tabernacle Church, connected with the attendees with a mix of Bible-based messages and personal reflection.

The transparency and the vulnerability that they shared with their audience touched the hearts of young and old, as they allowed the Spirit of God to reveal hidden brokenness and to restore broken lives.

The messages had a long-lasting effect. One teenager wrote, “I just wish my best friends were here to experience this event, and I wish my boyfriend was here so he could un-

derstand my decisions.”

On the final morning of the retreat, Garcia and Walsh presided over the bonfire ceremony, where all the sins and pain and hurt that the attendees had written on paper were burned, signifying that they were erased, they were purified, and they had a new beginning.

Fifteen young people requested baptism at Pure Reality and if they choose, they will be baptized during the Treasure Key Celebration weekend.

As a culmination of the retreat each year, those who choose to be inducted participate in the Treasure Key Ceremony, where they publicly avow their desire to live a lifestyle of purity.

The celebration was held May 23 at Tabernacle, and culminated May 24 in a moving, solemn, and spiritual induction ceremony, where the attendees, their

parents, family, and friends also participate.

Another young adult stated, “This experience has made a tremendous change in my life, and I have never yet felt the Spirit of God move in that way. I pray that God will continue and move into changing other lives as He has done mine.”



Selwyn Carrington, M.D., anoints and prays for a Pure Reality attendee.

Next year, Pure Reality will celebrate its fifth anniversary, and planning is already under way. Your assistance is needed to help keep the costs affordable for all young people who wish to attend Pure Reality. Visit www.purereality.org for more information and an opportunity to help.

—BY JOHN DEVINE



Pastors Antwoyn Mells and David Peay baptize young people in the springs at Camp Kalaqua.

Progress Village Conducts Community Youth Event

The date had been set for the first ever Community Youth Festival, a fun day for the Progress Village youth in Tampa, Fla. Veronic Mudie, AYS/youth leader, and her staff worked hard and planned the event with great anticipation.

The surrounding youth in the community were invited to join church youth on April 6, in a fun-filled day which offered rock climbing, moon bounce, jousting, games, and live entertainment.

Soul, Caribbean, and carnival foods were also being offered. It was an avenue in which they hoped to reach the youth in the



community and let them know that Adventist youth do have fun.

On Sunday morning an 80 percent chance of rain was predicted for the day. The youth leaders pondered if they should go forward with the planned event; in faith they launched ahead.

Although the rain came early, the Lord held back the rain in Progress Village

and the festival went forward. It was well attended, and it did not rain until 5 p.m. "To God be the glory!" exclaimed Mudie. Youth leaders hope that this will become an annual event.

One of the elders, Tory St.Cyr, stated, "Jesus met the needs of the people before giving them the Gospel. We didn't heal anyone physically, but to see the laughter and happiness on those children's faces had to have had a therapeutic effect on them.

"By God's grace, we can continue to reach souls through outreach programs."

One of the youth, Man-

ouchka Moran, commented, "I believe, in spite of the weather, we still got our point across to the community that we are here for each other and they can come to us at anytime.

"We had a great time and it should be done again!"

—BY MARY ALICE BATTLE



Southeastern Elects President, Secretary



Hubert Morel addresses the delegates for the first time as president of Southeastern.

The delegates of the ninth regular session have elected Hubert Morel to serve as president of the Southeastern Conference. He replaces Willie L. Taylor, who served as president for nine years.

Prior to serving as president, Taylor served as youth director and executive secretary. Under his leadership

the Conference prospered. The Conference purchased an office complex and an additional camp ground.

Patrick Vincent was elected executive secretary, and Gwendolyn Turner-Parker was returned as treasurer.

Morel is the fifth president in the 28-year history of the Southeastern Conference. Prior to being elected to serve as president, he served as church ministries director and executive secretary for the Conference. Morel is married to Raquel Howell of New Haven, Conn. He is a graduate of Oakwood University (formerly Oakwood College) and Andrews University, and has spent his entire ministry in Southeastern.

The following persons were elected to the ministries listed: church ministries, Clarence Wright; communication, Robert Henley; education, Elisa Young; family ministries, Lewis Edwards; Haitian coordinator, Allah Monestime; publishing, Theus Young; stewardship and trust services, David Long; youth ministries and NSO, Cesar Robinson; women ministries and prayer ministries, Nicole Brise.



Gwendolyn Turner-Parker, Hubert Morel, and Patrick Vincent



Gordon Retzer thanks Willie and Vicky Taylor for their vision, contributions, and ministry as president of Southeastern.

The following ministries were referred to the executive committee: Hispanic coordinator, Adventist Book Center, and ministerial. Morel's acceptance speech and additional content can be viewed at www.secsda.org/sketches.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

UNITED IN REMEMBRANCE

BY JAMES K. LAMB

April 4, 2008, was a memorable day for many Americans, for it marked the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Services were held all over the nation to commemorate that dark day in U.S. history.

However, there was a light shining in the darkness as more than 2,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, came together at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College for "Adventist Night."

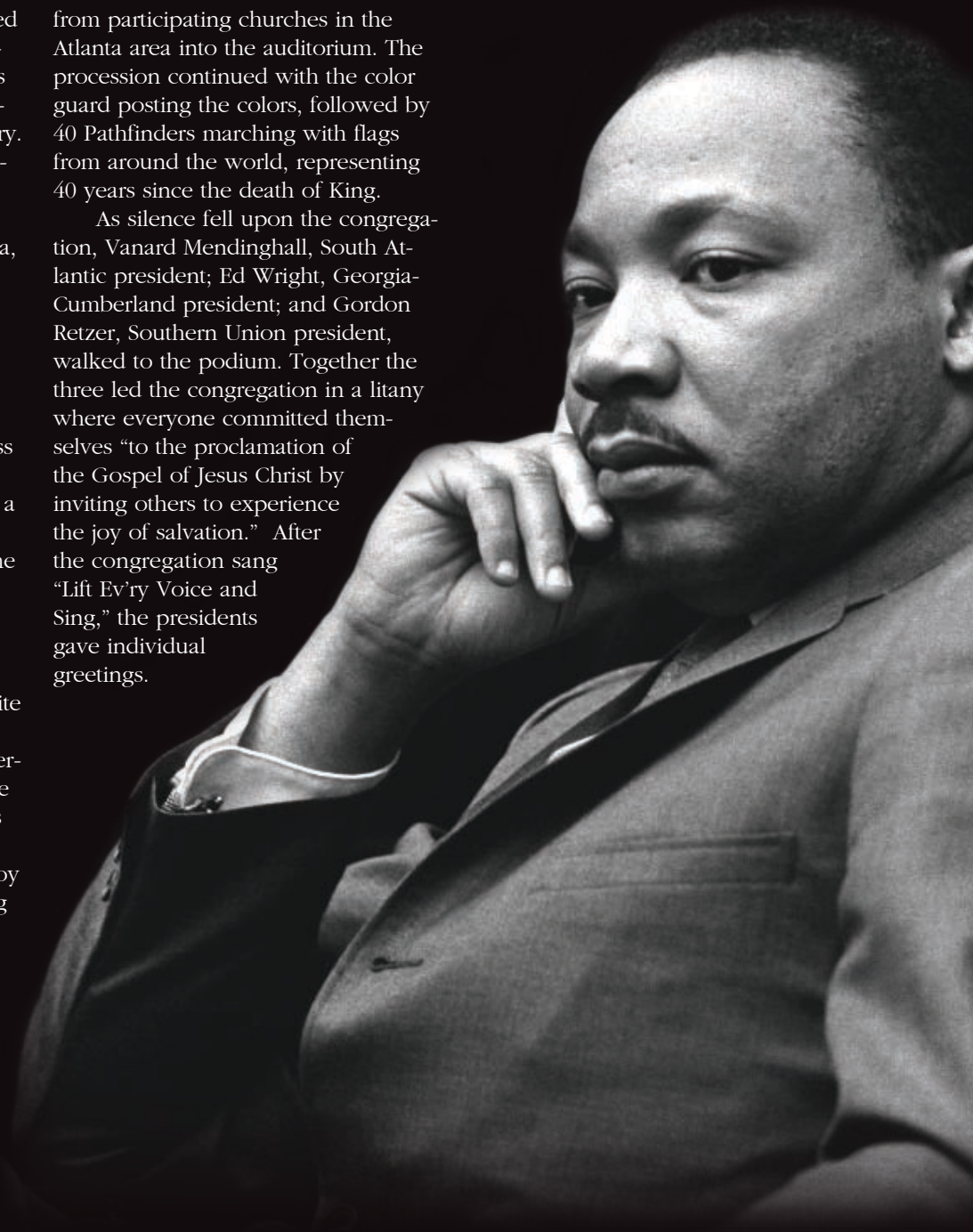
During the week preceding April 4, Morehouse College sponsors a "Science & Spiritual Awareness Week." Each night different church denominations were invited to hold a commemorative service.

Lawrence Carter, D.D., Ph.D., the first dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and tenured professor of religion, gave opening remarks. He said, "I sat in my office and asked myself, who should I invite on this historic night, to Dr. King's memorial house, to mark this anniversary. After considering that there are more than 4,000 Christian pastorates in the city, the universe put it upon my heart that the greatest shout of joy for the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday would be the sound of Seventh-day Adventists."

The program began with Stephen Mascoe, director of the Berean Pathfinder Club, calling the Pathfinders to attention. The Berean Drum Corp began to play their

cadence and led the Pathfinders clubs from participating churches in the Atlanta area into the auditorium. The procession continued with the color guard posting the colors, followed by 40 Pathfinders marching with flags from around the world, representing 40 years since the death of King.

As silence fell upon the congregation, Vanard Mendinghall, South Atlantic president; Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland president; and Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president, walked to the podium. Together the three led the congregation in a litany where everyone committed themselves "to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by inviting others to experience the joy of salvation." After the congregation sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," the presidents gave individual greetings.



The program continued with the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir, under the direction of Luther Washington II, singing “Lift Up Your Heads O’ Ye Gates” and “Elijah Rock.” They were followed by the Atlanta Adventist Academy Hand Bell Choir, under the direction of Lettie Mae Bragg. They performed two songs, including a beautiful rendition of “My Jesus, I Love Thee.”



Atlanta Adventist Academy Hand Bell Choir

The audience was electrified when the fifth grade class of Berean Christian Junior Academy performed a dramatic recitation of the “I Have a Dream” speech. This was the speech King gave in August 1964 at the Lincoln Memorial before 250,000 people during the “March on Washington” rally.

The newly formed Metropolitan Atlanta Mass Choir was also on hand



Walter L. Pearson Jr. (left), first Adventist pastor inducted into The Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers; and Mervyn Warren, Ph.D., D.Min.; and Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., inductees for 2008

to sing “Eyes Haven’t Seen, Ears Haven’t Heard.”

Other program participants included William L. Winston, South Atlantic executive secretary, and Bill Levin, Georgia-Cumberland associate director of evangelism.

The speaker for the special service was Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of Berean Church in Atlanta. Byrd was included in a prestigious service the day before as he was inducted into The Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers, Sponsors, and Collegium of Scholars. Byrd and 47 others were recognized for their leadership and various accomplishments in their particular areas. Mervyn Warren, Ph.D., D.Min., who serves as the provost and senior vice president of Oakwood University, was also inducted. Walter L. Pearson Jr., speaker/director for Breath of Life Television Ministries, was the first Adventist minister to be inducted into the board of preachers in 1991. He has been responsible for making sure an Adventist minister is inducted each year. Pearson and Byrd were both sponsored by Dean Carter.

The highlight of the induction service was the address given by Samuel “Billy” Kyle, pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and the last man living who spent the final hour with King in his hotel room before he was assassinated. In his message, “I Was There to be a Witness,” Kyle recalled the



Presidents Ed Wright (left), Vanard Mendingball, and Gordon Retzer

final hour and ended, “You can kill the dreamer, but not the dream.”

After the service, many church members and supporters were present to congratulate Byrd. He is not only known in the Atlanta area among Adventists for his evangelistic enthusiasm, and more than 600 new baptisms in the last 20 months, but also in the Atlanta community.



Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir

Since coming to Atlanta in August 2006, he has received the “Chosen Award” at the annual Atlanta Gospel Choice Awards in 2007, and the “Who’s Who in Black Atlanta” achievement award.

In January of this year, he was selected to give the invocation at the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service, and he was selected as the Oakwood University Alumnus of the Year.

He recently completed his first book, *Contemporary Evangelism for the 21st Century*.

A Tribute to John Henson Whitehead

J. Henson Whitehead was laid to rest on January 2, 2008, at Floral Hills Memory Gardens in Atlanta, Georgia.

Henson Whitehead was a lifelong worker in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Born July 17, 1920, in Augusta, Georgia, he began his commitment to the Lord's work at age 23 as a literature evangelist. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on June 7, 1961.

In 1941, he married Jewell Cook from Tampa, Fla. They had two children – one son, Ron, and one daughter, Cindi. In 1982, after a prolonged illness, Jewell passed away. Henson later married Lois Thompson, a member of the staff at Southern Adventist University.

Whitehead's service record includes management of Adventist Book Centers, secretary-treasurer



of the Alabama-Mississippi and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences, and 20 years as treasurer for the Southern Union Conference until his retirement in 1984.

As a Southern Union administrator, he was a member of college, hospital, conference, union, division, and the General Conference boards. And, he served in an advisory capacity to publishing houses, academies, and

book centers. His tenure of office was during a time when many entities of the Church were experiencing unprecedented growth and development. His leadership skills and financial acumen provided tremendous guidance to many institutions when facilities were being expanded to meet the needs of the Church.

Whitehead was a man who knew no negatives. He was always supportive of new ideas, new initiatives, and new ventures to promote God's cause. He rightfully represented Christian principles in the business world. His genius for knowing and relating to his co-workers and fellow Church members was an inspiration to all who knew him. His dealings with all, in whatever capacity, were done with great generosity, fairness,

and gentleness – and yet decisively. He demonstrated many fine qualities – insight, understanding, flexibility, loyalty, and reliability. And, in doing so, he brought great honor to the Church he so dearly loved.

Friends, co-workers, and relatives assembled on the first Wednesday of the New Year at the Chattanooga First Church. They gathered to honor the life of a loved one. Family members included his wife, Lois; son, Ron, and his wife, Betty; daughter, Cindi, and her husband, Martin; five grandchildren, Heidi, Stacy, Ryan, Steven, and Emily; two stepsons, Timothy and Wayne Thompson and their wives; five step-grandchildren; and two great-step-granddaughters.

—BY JUDY HEINRICH

Tributes

Following graduation from college, I had the good fortune to work closely with Elder Whitehead in the Southern Union office for several years. He became my mentor and very close friend. I learned so much from his financial expertise, and his example as a kind Christian leader. He and his friendship will certainly be missed very much. —Richard Center, former Southern Union Conference treasurer from 1984 to 2005.

I had the great privilege of working with Henson Whitehead, a privilege due to the many qualities I observed. He had a great personal integrity. He had the courage to tackle any problem that was presented, and when it was a people problem he was always cognizant of the feelings and egos of the people involved. He saw the World Church as a Christian team and was a great team player. He was widely recognized as one of the premier union treasurers. Many individuals sought him out for both professional and personal advice. A few sentences are not enough to say about this fine individual and loved friend. —Lee Beers, former Southern Union Conference under-treasurer from 1974 to 2001.

What a pleasure it was to work with Henson. Many times I would go to him concerning some item about the publishing program—so I really missed him when he retired. His door was always open. I know his family and friends miss him. I talked to him a few days before he passed away. He was so happy that he had his whole family with him, which was during the holiday season. I always appreciated his upbeat attitude. —Gerald Bietz, former Southern Union Conference Home Health Education Services (HHES) treasurer from 1959 to 1996.

Henson Whitehead was my good friend for many years. The first time I met him, he was treasurer of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He and Everett Marley, Kentucky-Tennessee president, negotiated with us (the South Central Conference administrators) when we purchased the Nashville Junior Academy on 24th Street. He was fair, above board, and a Christian. When he became treasurer of the Southern Union, he maintained the same Christian demeanor. We were workers together during the Civil Rights Movement transitional period, which was a challenge for blacks and whites. However, in every situation he remained a Christian, and was above board with us. In fact, there were some favors that he did for us and because of the situation at that time, he said, "Now Charles, you have to be quiet and keep this a secret." I loved him dearly, and we had a good Christian fellowship race-wise and Christian-wise. While he was treasurer of the Union, we were blessed to build 105 churches, 13 schools, and seven housing projects in South Central. He was also Union treasurer when we built the Oakwood University Church (formerly Oakwood College), which cost more than two- and- a half million dollars. I would say in summary, he was a good Christian man, and was fair in all his dealings for all people. I will miss him. —Charles E. Dudley, former president of the South Central Conference from 1962 to 1993.

From This Day Forward

BY MARYA LATSON

Marriage is a choice. Loving is a decision. Staying married in a loving relationship is a choice that depends upon a decision to love one's spouse. Having a Christ-honoring marriage is the decision that the North American Division (NAD) Office of Family Ministries hopes would be the commitment every married couple would make. To make these choices a reality, family ministries offers a one-day celebration of marriage entitled, "From This Day Forward (FTDF)," to teach couples how to have joy-filled, flourishing marriages.

About 50 couples convened at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Miami, Florida, on March 8, 2008, to participate in the FTDF celebration, co-sponsored by the Florida Conference and the Southern Union, to have their marriages energized.

Marriage consultants Claudio and Pam Consuegra of Minneapolis, Minnesota, invited the couples to enter into harmonic unity by focusing on the "oneness" that should exist in marriage.

Later, presenters Mike and Brenda Aufderhar of Wenatchee, Washington, demonstrated how disagreements could be handled in a pleasant manner to foster the spirit of compromise in love.

Interspersed between each session, Willie Oliver, NAD family ministries director, distributed door prizes, including music CD's, marriage enhancement materials, and free tickets to attend subsequent FTDF celebrations.

All attendees were encouraged to



Presenters for the FTDF celebration are: NAD Family Ministries Director Willie Oliver and his wife, Elaine (far right); Pam and Claudio Consuegra; and Brenda and Mike Aufderhar, during a presentation where Willie and Elaine Oliver present the couples with new vows as they recommit themselves to each other and to God.

role-play and practice different techniques to improve spousal relations. Lunch provided an opportunity for the presenters to fellowship with the participants and answer questions. After lunch, Willie and Elaine Oliver presented a powerhouse message on the importance of intimacy and affection in marriage. The couples were encouraged to remember their obligation to show affection to one another.

Newlyweds Troy and Sherneth Pickens of Riviera Beach, Florida, embraced the FTDF celebration. Married in October 2007, Troy and Sherneth envisioned this event as a vehicle to help them establish their marriage as God intended. After eyeing the ad for FTDF in the January '08 *Southern Tidings*, Troy booked a room at the Hilton, and made plans to surprise his bride with a "honeymoon" weekend away from the daily tasks.

A number of long-time married couples were also ecstatic about this program. Three couples with more

than 50 years of matrimony attended FTDF. Already in possession of the secrets to having successful marriages, these couples wanted to learn new ways to keep their romances alive.

Ronaldo Da Cunha, family life pastor of the Miami Temple Church, attended FTDF to better serve his church of 1,300-plus members, comprising 82 different nationalities and ethnicities. Da Cunha claims a successful church reflects its married members who are in satisfying marriages. Contented couples maintain wholesome families. When a church has wholesome families, the church will have successful ministries.

FTDF ended on a spiritually high note with married couples reciting a modernized set of marriage vows, recommitting themselves to God and to one another. Troy Pickens concluded: "If I learn how to love my spouse the right way, then I can learn how to worship my God the right way. True worship starts at home where one's ministry begins."

Marya Latson writes from Ocala, Florida.



Newlyweds Troy and Sherneth Pickens of Riviera Beach, Florida, embraced the FTDF celebration.

Southern Plants American Chestnuts

"I'm planting American chestnuts," Steve Bontekoe, graduate outdoor education student at Southern Adventist University, announced several times this spring, each time receiving the same reply: "No, you're not! They don't exist."

The American chestnut, which once covered the east coast, was hit by a blight in the early 1900's, killing a majority of the



Steve Bontekoe (center) worked with students from Collegedale Academy to plant American chestnuts.

trees, but researchers have successfully crossbred the American chestnut with the blight-resistant Chinese chestnut, creating a blight-resistant American chestnut.

With the help of the American Chestnut Foundation, Southern's outdoor education program, and the Biology

Department, Bontekoe secured 41 blight-resistant seeds to grow on Southern Adventist University's campus.

This spring, with the help of a group of students from Collegedale Academy, Bontekoe placed the first seeds in the ground, starting the area's first and only University American chestnut orchard.

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

Homeschooler to Participate in National Robotics Competition Without Neglecting Missions

Andrew Donesky, 14 years old, secured his third consecutive win at the Adventist Robotics League Southern Challenge. This time, his team, the Brick Boys, achieved a perfect score of 400 in the Robotic Mission, something that has never before been accomplished by any team at the Southern Challenge. And this time — for the first time — Andrew will be able to participate in the national competition.

Hosted by Southern's School of Computing, The Southern Challenge attracted 11 teams from across the south to compete for an invitation to the national

competition at Andrews University on May 12. The Directors Award, including an invitation to the national competition, was given to two teams: The Brick Boys and the Gigabots from Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School.

This year, Andrew, the only team member who has been active for all three years the Brick Boys have been in existence, will for the first time join his team at the national competition. The Donesky family, who is very active in mission work, participates in a summer mission trip every year to a foreign country, leaving Andrew to choose between

robots and sharing Christ with others. Every year he made his mind up quickly.



Though this is the third year Andrew Donesky has won the Adventist Robotics League Southern Challenge, this summer will be the first time he is able to participate in nationals.

"I won't be able to make it," he'd say as he was handed the invitation for nationals. "I'll be on a mission trip again."

But, this year is different. Nationals will be held earlier, and Andrew's summer plans have taken a drastic turn. There will be no summer mission trip on the Donesky itinerary this year. Instead, they will be moving to the mission field indefinitely.

"The move is open ended," says Andrew. "We'll be coming back when God brings us home."

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

William G. Dever Library Arrives at Southern

Southern's Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum recently received a valuable professional library, containing 840 vol-

umes and 12 major journals, for the study of ancient Near Eastern history.

With this addition, Southern now has one of

the most comprehensive collections on Egyptian and Near Eastern studies in the southeastern United States.

The library will open

next fall. It will be housed in Hackman Hall, adjacent to Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and the archaeological laboratory.

Crystal's Witness

BY LORI FUTCHER

Last summer, Southern student Crystal Xu shared her love for Jesus with strangers in Texas and Florida. This summer, she hopes she'll have the courage to share this newfound love with her Buddhist family in China.

"My parents started to believe in Buddha when I was 12," Crystal explains. Before this, the family wasn't particularly religious, but when her father's estranged sister was converted to the religion and began speaking to the family again, everyone decided that a religion that brought family back together would be a positive change in their lives.

When it came time to find a school where Crystal could learn to speak English, however, a Christian school seemed like the best choice. Wanting their daughter to learn to speak American English, Crystal's parents learned of a school in Palau staffed primarily by American student missionaries. Deciding the small island, with fewer distractions than a big city would offer, would be the perfect place for their daughter to focus on her studies, Crystal's parents sent her to join a small group of Chinese students who were studying at Palau Mission Academy.

Needed Distraction

While lack of distractions was a good thing for Crystal, Southern alum Ken Norton, pastor of the Koror Church in Palau, noticed that the lack of available activities was causing problems as the youth found themselves with nothing better to do than hang out at the island's stores.

"We really need a youth pastor," Norton told his former assistant, Isaac James, who was living in Florida and about to graduate with an associate



Isaac James helped introduce Crystal Xu to Christianity through casual youth meetings during which topics of relevance to youth were discussed.

degree in graphic design. Becoming a missionary hadn't been in Isaac's plans, but he did have a soft spot in his heart for youth.

"I was definitely nervous because I'd never been outside of the southeastern United States," says Isaac, "but I decided it was time to make decisions not based on fear. This was something I needed to do."

As it turns out, the activities Isaac brought to the island were exactly what Crystal needed to open her heart to God's Word.

Making a Connection

Crystal had been accepting Norton's rides to church out of politeness, but having not made a personal connection with Christianity, she didn't get much from the sermons. Then she started going to Isaac's Friday night youth meetings, where she could enjoy fellowship with her peers while learning about the Christian God.

She enjoyed gathering with her friends in the church basement to share stories and prayer requests. Once this door had been opened, the things she learned in church and Bible class started to make sense. "History and science and a lot of stuff connect to the

Bible," says Crystal. "Why not believe the truth?"

Deciding to get baptized, Crystal called her parents with the news. But, their response was less than welcoming. "You can believe what you want," she was told, "but if you get baptized, don't come back home."

Crystal postponed her baptism for a little while, but before graduating from the academy, she joined her friends on a trip to the ocean where she gave her life to the Lord.

Facing the Family

Crystal did go home for a short visit before moving the United States to attend Southern Adventist University, but she didn't have the courage to tell her parents about the decision she had made.

"They can see I changed," says Crystal, saying that she was rebellious before her conversion experience. But, every time her parents asked about her new way of living, she found a way to avoid the question.

Isaac, who just graduated from Southern with his bachelor's, also says he's seen a change in Crystal. "She's been growing and she's put her Christianity into action," says Isaac. "It's been inspirational seeing someone I went over to reach come to Southern and become more than just a consumer Christian."

Now, a veteran witness for God who has conducted an evangelistic series in a Spanish church in Texas and colporteur in Florida, Crystal is headed home to face her biggest witnessing challenge of all — her own family. She can only hope and pray that the change they've already seen will help open their hearts to the words she will share.

ABUSE of POWER



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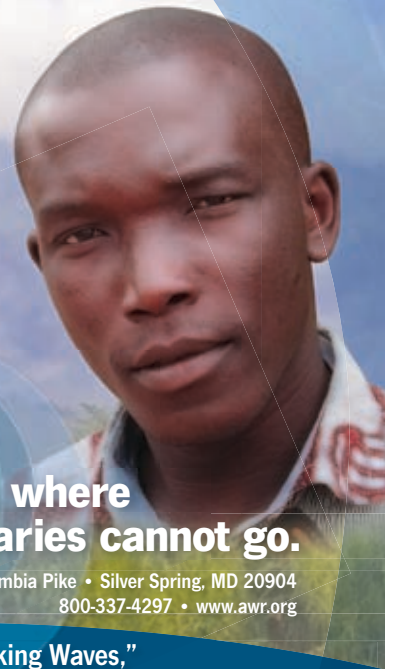
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CENTRAL FLORIDA REAL ESTATE - Let Bob Fulghum (SMC '54) with 25 years experience in real estate, help you with your real estate needs. I also do property management, 407-896-6080 or 407-758-5807. [6,7]

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FOUR MILES FROM Southern Adventist University and Collegedale Academy. Wooded 5-acre tract. Great hillside views, flat land, and a creek - \$109K. For more information, see <http://saddlezone.com/land> or call 423-236-4637. [6,7]

FOR SALE. Country home in Tennessee, 5 acres, woods, creek, 3 bedrooms, 3 ½ bathrooms, large kitchen, cedar cabinets, 2 offices, sunroom, living room, family room, fireplace, wrap around porches, screened deck, workshop. Asking \$315,000. 423-447-3349. [6]

HOME FOR SALE in Eden Gardens. Roomy 3-bedroom home for sale in Inverness, FL. Located on 3 lots at the end of Patience Lane in Eden Gardens, it's within easy walking distance of the Eden Gardens SDA Church. For details about this home with a large oak shade tree on one of the lots and a tranquil view of a seasonal lake, visit <http://www.CarolAHamilton.com>. [6]

FOR SALE. \$439,000, 6 acres close to SAU. One level home over walk-out basement for in-law. Swimming pool, barn, 4-car garage. 423-396-3200. www.EppyGreen.com. Crye-Leike Realtors. [6]

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HANDYMAN NEEDED. General maintenance skills: Light repairs in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, AC, etc. small, non-profit ministry, Advent Home, Calhoun, TN. FAX Resume to Blondel Senior: 423-336-8224; or call 423-336-5052. info@adventhome.org bsenior@adventhome.org [6]

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MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION in Atlanta, June 23-July 3. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit www.gcsession.org for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009. ©



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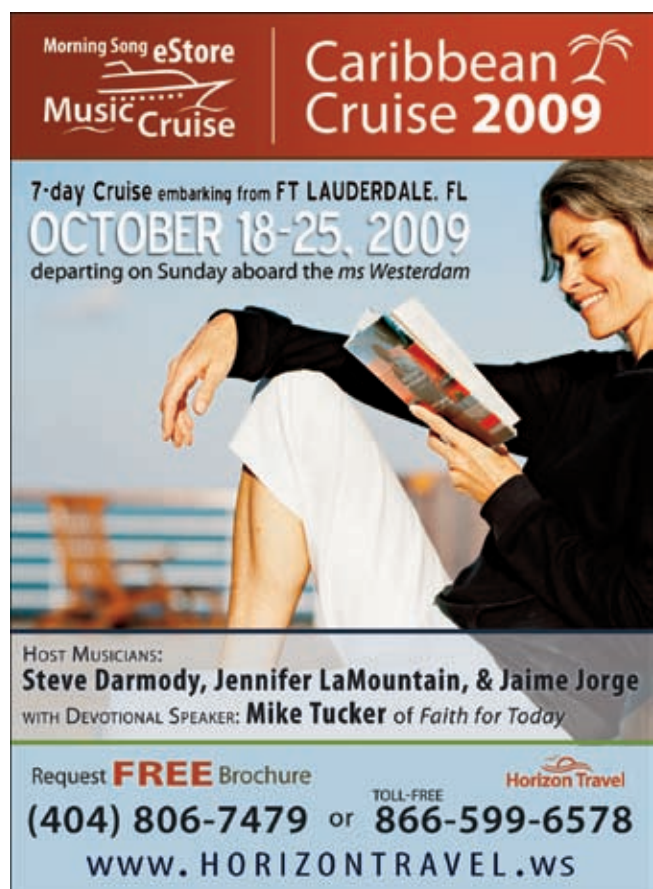
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Events Calendar

Carolina

ShareHim Lay Speakers Training – July 25-28. NPR.

Pastor's Family Retreat – July 27-31. NPR.

Florida

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

Florida Pathfinder Events—<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.asamcf.org/>, djmiller4000@embarqmail.com, or 386-789-3235.

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Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

June 28. Sunrise.

June 29. Plantation, Lauderhill, Temple Adventiste in Deerfield Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

July 5. Tallahassee.

July 6. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

July 12. Port Charlotte.

July 13. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

July 19. West Palm Beach.

July 20. Midport Road in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay)

July 26. Maranatha in Miami.

July 27. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach, Jupiter.

Evangelism Series

July 5-Aug.16. Homestead. Lester and Zula Pratt.

July 6-Aug. 26. Northwest Dade. Bill and Sunshine Waters.

Aug. 2-9. Tallahassee Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Melbourne. Lester and Zula Pratt.

Yucatan Mission Trip—July 14-23. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Spanish-language Family Camp—July 18-20. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 407-644-5000 x138.

Costa Rica Mission Trip—July 21-30. Host church: Tampa First. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

North Florida Back To School Rally—Aug. 9. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Lay Youth Pastor Training—Aug. 15,16. Orlando area. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Spanish-language Marriage Retreat—Aug. 15-17. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 407-644-5000 x138.

Liberación (Hispanic youth rally)—Aug. 22,23. Tampa Bay area. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Children's Ministries Fall Convention—Sept. 19-21. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: Transformed By His Love. Details: rburrill@cfl.rr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

West Coast Youth Rally—Sept. 27. New Port Richey Church. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online—www.gccsda.com

Pathfinder Teen Mission Challenge—June 1-17. Montana.

Communication Workshop—June 1.

Women's Leadership Certification, Level III—June 6-8. Cohutta Springs.

God in Shoes Evangelism—June 16-23. Atlanta, GA.

Olde Time Camp Meeting—June 19-21. Deer Lodge, TN.

Georgia-Cumberland Uganda Mission Trip—July 11-26. Uganda, Africa.

Health Emphasis Day—July 12. Roan Mountain, TN.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online — <http://www.gscsda.org>

Conference Executive Meeting — June 10. Conference Office.

Hispanic Youth Federation Weekend — July 18-23. Camp Alamisco.

Teen Mission Trip — July 12-28.

Convention for all Conference workers — Aug. 3-6. Bass Memorial Academy.

Birmingham First Church Homecoming & 110th Anniversary — Aug. 2. The guest speaker will

be former pastor, Paul Boling. Brakeworth school reunion will be held Saturday evening. Literature Evangelist Summer Retreat — Aug. 7-10. Camp Alamisco.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board July 22. Sept. 30. Dec. 9.

Conference Executive Committee July 22. Sept. 30. Dec. 9.

Hispanic Camp Meeting — June 6, 7. Highland Academy.

Madison College Alumni Homecoming — June 27, 28. Madison Campus SDA Church. Worship at 8:50 a.m. Honor Classes, 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958, plus all years in between. Details: 615-865-1615.

Pastors/Teachers Retreat — Aug. 3-6. Indian Creek Camp.

Literature Evangelists Summer Retreat — Aug. 7-10. Indian Creek Camp.

Conference Pathfinder Camporee — Sep. 25-28. Salt Lick State Park.

Women's Retreats Sep. 19-21. Young Women. Indian Creek Camp.

Sep. 26-28. I. Indian Creek Camp.

Oct. 3-5. II. Indian Creek Camp.

Hispanic Youth Retreat — Oct. 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

Announcements

Mid-America Union, Rocky Mountain Conference, and Centura Health — **May 31-Aug. 30.** Will be providing Sabbath services at Yellowstone National Park. Please plan to join these services if you will be visiting the Park this summer. Details: 303-282-3670.

Upward SDA Church in Flat Rock, N.C., will celebrate its Homecoming and Mortgage-burning Sabbath — **June 14.**

All past members, families, and friends are invited to attend this joy-filled Sabbath in celebration of the 30-year anniversary and debt-free new Sabbath School addition. A fellowship dinner will follow the Sabbath services; bring a dish and share the victory. Details: 828-697-9876.

Cruise with the Aeolians and Alma Blackmon to Cozumel, Mexico — June 19-23. See our website at www.aeolianalumni.org or call Tanja Spohn at 800-777-9529 EST, or email Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com

Eagle Church 100th Anniversary Celebration — July 25,26. Details: Myrna Ferguson, 208-939-6568; or myfer40@msn.com

Madison College Alumni Homecoming — June 27, 28. Honor classes: 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958, as well as all the years in between. Church service at 8:50 a.m., at the Madison Campus Church; be there and tell your friends too! Details: 615-865-1615.

Elder Care Ministry is a NEW program for seniors and caregivers coordinated by the North American Division Department of Adventist Community Services. This new ministry coordinates education and services related to aging, health, finance and social issues for senior in the church and community. Attend training for this cutting-edge ministry at the Adventist Community Services Convention June 29-July 5, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information and to register, visit www.plusline.org or call 800-732-7587.

Sunset

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 26	June 27	July 4
Atlanta, GA	8:46	8:49	8:51	8:52	8:52	8:51
Charleston, SC	8:25	8:28	8:31	8:32	8:32	8:30
Charlotte, NC	8:35	8:38	8:41	8:42	8:42	8:40
Collegedale, TN	8:52	8:55	8:57	8:59	8:59	8:57
Huntsville, AL	7:57	8:00	8:02	8:03	8:03	8:02
Jackson, MS	8:05	8:08	8:10	8:12	8:11	8:10
Louisville, KY	9:03	9:07	9:09	9:10	9:10	9:08
Memphis, TN	8:11	8:15	8:17	8:18	8:18	8:16
Miami, FL	8:10	8:13	8:15	8:16	8:16	8:16
Montgomery, AL	7:50	7:53	7:55	7:56	7:56	7:55
Nashville, TN	8:01	8:05	8:07	8:08	8:08	8:06
Orlando, FL	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26
Wilmington, NC	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26

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SPEAKERS

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Jo Ann Davidson
Dick Stenbakken
Raquel Arrais

ENTERTAINMENT

Gale Jones Murphy
Valerie "Tyger" Hazlett

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