

January 2009



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS



Looking for
Christ or Crisis?

What's Happening?

A few days ago, Cheryl Hubbard, professional assistant in the Southern Union trust services department, poked her head in my office and said she wanted an extra assignment for 2009. She was ready to go anywhere in the Union to preach an evangelistic meeting. She asked if I could help her find a church and community where she could preach as a part of the Year of Evangelism. She's an experienced lay evangelist, having already preached one evangelistic meeting in San Salvador.

Two days ago our Southern Union undertreasurer, Dennis Millburn, stopped by to share some things with me. Actually, since this is the time of year treasurers are working on the budget for the upcoming year, I thought that's what was on his mind. Not budgets or finances this time — he was all excited about the first evangelistic meeting he will preach next spring in Panama City, Panama, Central America. He told me he couldn't believe that others have heard about the first meeting he will conduct, and now he's been invited to preach another meeting next summer near Panama City, Florida. "What's happening?" he asked with a big smile, "I haven't even preached my first meeting, and already I'm being invited to preach another one."

I know what's happening. Time is short. The harvest is great. We've been praying for more evangelists to go and share the only hope of the world — Jesus' second coming. I'm thankful for the talented team that serves in the Southern Union office. These are God-centered, mission-minded leaders. Ron Smith, Southern Union executive secretary, and his wife, Yolanda, will be conducting an evangelistic meeting in Atlanta this coming spring. And Randy Robinson, our treasurer, will preach an evangelistic meeting in Atlanta in the fall. I could go on, one by one with our staff, for most are involved in evangelism in 2009.

My wife, Cheryl, and I have asked the Lord to help us know what our part should be. I have preached an evangelistic meeting in Atlanta in the past. Now we have been led to hold a Bible prophecy study in our home. We will invite every neighbor in our subdivision. We don't know who will come. We will study the present-truth themes in scripture that pertain to the time of the end. We are praying every day for our neighbors. Some we know and they've been in our home. Others we don't know. We have made ourselves available to the Holy Spirit.

Two nights ago at the Southern Union Evangelism Council, I met Ollin, who shared excitedly with me that he had just finished preaching his first evangelistic meeting in Mississippi. Four people were baptized at the conclusion of the meetings. He said it changed his life. As part of his work, he's on the radio every day, and he told me that after he got back to the radio station following his meetings, people called in and asked if it was the same person. He told me his voice had more excitement, and he was more animated on the radio after the experience of the Holy Spirit inspiring him during his first evangelistic meeting.

What is your intentional commitment for witness this year? I know the Holy Spirit will lead you.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Christ or Crisis?

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Religious Liberty Focus

Have you gotten the emails? You know the ones – the emails your friends have gotten and forwarded on to you relating to the hundreds of different predictions for the current financial crisis and end time events that well-meaning Seventh-day Adventists are circulating on the web. The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty faces the challenge of being the resource that many turn to when trying to verify these predictions and rumors, because we are so closely linked to Adventist understanding of end time events. In our study of these events, we have come to realize that we must all make a decision on what our focus will be upon, Christ or “the Crisis.” Admittedly, I have borrowed this title from

a colleague, but it was hard to resist since it captures the sentiment for the moment we are in right now.

Historically speaking, Seventh-day Adventists tend to get their feathers ruffled when there is a Papal visit to the United States. Understandably so, in light of Bible prophecy. We also get excited during presidential campaigns. Even if you don’t say it aloud, most Adventists wonder to themselves, “Will the Sunday Laws be ushered in during this administration?” Even in years when these two events happen independently of each other, we see an increase in the circulation of messages predicting doom and gloom. This year, we had a triple whammy of an election year, a Papal visit, and an economic recession visited upon us.

These predictions of doom and gloom have run the gamut of prophetic end time scenarios. The first started in October 2007 with widespread internet messages about Pope Benedict’s springtime visit to the United States. Those rumors purported to have “insider” information that revealed the pope’s visit was for the purpose of establishing the Sunday laws here in America. Even though the General Conference thoroughly investigated the information, finding it was indeed pure rumor and conjecture, other independent ministries picked up on the rumor and ran with it, some quite widely in the early spring and summer months of 2008.

By mid-summer, another crisis was upon us as the aftermath of the

housing loan crisis set widespread panic across the world, with rumors of recessions, absolute economic collapse, and more. Now internet mail, sermons, and videos continue to go out forecasting the financial collapse of the United States as months, maybe just weeks, away.

And still more internet rumors speak of crises like martial law being enacted, switching to a new monetary standard, and new currency. One email, which made it into my hands on seven different occasions, gave details on how “soviet troops” were waiting in the United States to be called to action at the command of the Illuminate. It encouraged Adventists to stock up on supplies or flee the cities before the end of September when all travel would be prohibited. Despite the fact that there are no “soviet troops” anymore (I would remind the reader the Soviet Union fell apart almost 20 years ago), there were many Adventists who wanted to believe it was all true and that this doom was eminent. We want to believe because we have waited so long.

We have a tendency to watch for one big thing to happen that will lead us into end time prophecy being fulfilled. However, events have been unfolding for years that many people overlook. Much has been made out of President Bush’s personal trip to the airport to greet the Pope in April. And yet, it is not the current events of the past year that have solely been fulfilling prophecy. Indeed, the religious liberty department is carefully watching, and praying, and discerning even the smaller, less-talked-about world events, as they relate to prophecy. In 1994, many ignored a major waymark of end times. In April of that year, Protestants in the United States came together with the Catholic Church to agree upon the document entitled, *Evangelicals & Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium*. Besides Protestant evangelical leaders reaching to join hands with the Roman Catholics, they also declared a truce at the end of the document when it comes to trying to convert individuals across other faith lines.

However, what the religious liberty department is most worried about is the spiritual well-being of our church members. Our concern with each of these internet rumors, whether they are true or not, is the state of mind that each member is left with after reading them. Most concentrate on the crisis at hand. None have left the reader confident and assured that all will be well in the end – if we remained centered on Christ. Without doubt we live in “end-times.” As people of prophesy we have been awaiting Christ’s return for more than 160 years. The Church is cautious now; we do not make time predictions. Our date setting days are in the past. Some will say that the Church’s caution means that she has fallen asleep at the wheel; therefore, many will look to other sources who claim to know and understand what is happening.

Ellen White gives us a word of caution in regard to prophesy and what has been revealed and what has not yet been revealed: “There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 112.

Christ’s disciples asked Him the same question we are asking ourselves these days: “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matt. 24:3. Christ’s answer is not in a sentence or two. He takes almost a chapter and a half to answer them. He goes on to warn them *three* times not to be believe in some very specific things. But, unless you study the Bible for yourself, you will not know these things.

Many church members wait six days in between studying their Bible.

Some expect their pastors to hand them everything they need to know in 25 minutes or less each Sabbath. But when time is short, and we really believe the crisis of the end is soon, it becomes critical for us to go back to the Bible and make *Christ* our focus. With our concentration on Him, the crisis will be but a blur.

This month we kick off a very special year of evangelism. If we are truly looking for signs of the end, if we truly believe Christ’s return is soon, then we have a tremendous job ahead of us for this next year. It is a job that will call upon each and every church member to take an active role. Is the final crisis upon us? Not yet. Ellen White writes, “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. . . . Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming” *Great Controversy*, p. 464.

If time is short, as we believe it is, then we cannot afford to focus on the crisis. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the revival spoken about above was what we are preparing to do with evange-



lism this year! Prophecy tells us there will be a crisis so that we are not caught unaware. The ministry of the religious liberty department is focused upon Christ, and we invite all to share that focus with whomever you come in contact in the new year.

Amireb Al-Haddad is director of public affairs and religious liberty for the Southern Union.

"I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me."

—Matthew 25:36 (KJV)

The Avon Park Church is implementing Florida Conference's prison ministries goal "to provide the opportunity for every inmate in the state to know Jesus Christ and have salvation."

Church members have served for many years at the Avon Park Correctional Institution (APCI). Three years ago, they started a new ministry at the Hardee County Correctional Institute, located 37 miles from Avon Park on Highway 62.

For a number of years, Sabbath services have been held at APCI on the third Sabbath of each month. Recently, prison ministries members were asked to conduct a worship service at the work camp each month and provide pastoral visits the third Thursday of the month. A number of books and videos have been approved for placement in the prison library. Revival meetings have resulted in the baptism of several inmates.

Bible studies are conducted at the Hardee County Correctional Institute on the first and third Monday mornings of each month, using the Discover Bible School Lessons. Meetings are also scheduled in the evenings at their work camp and at the main facility. As many as 100 inmates have attended, and two baptisms have resulted.

There have been some miraculous answers to prayer. Volunteers are not allowed into the prisons if it is storming with thunder and lightening. One Sabbath when they arrived at APCI, the sky was black, lightning flashed, and thunder rolled. Holding an earnest season of prayer, volunteers asked God, if it was according to His will, to stop the storm. In 20 minutes the sky cleared, and they were able to conduct a shortened service.

Programs at two prisons would not be possible without the help of 20 individuals who volunteer their time and talents, along with ministry director David Oliver. The team's chaplain, Burton Wright, has filled in as the prison chaplain, on occasion.

Getting clearance from the institution for each volunteer takes time and effort. On more than one occasion, senior chaplain Stephen Clark helped provide special

Following God's Command

BY BURTON WRIGHT, NAOMI ZALABAK

approval for the women's choir to perform, directed by Carolyn Rollins.

One of the social objectives of the prison ministries program is to help prepare confined individuals for re-entry into society. Avon Park Church community services staff, directed by Georgia Jones, provides a suitcase of clothing for the men when they are released at the end of their sentences.

A LESSON IN UNSELFISH SERVICE

BY KAREN SCHIMP

While Adventist academics are of great importance, educating our young people must be more than just classroom study. The true aim of Christian education is to teach our students the value and joy of service. One way Highland Academy achieves this

is by giving the students opportunities to serve others in the community or in time of disaster.

Just days after Hurricane Ike devastated the coastal areas of eastern Texas, Highland Academy learned there was a need for volunteers to help in the clean-up effort. Highland Academy students were eager to help. Arrangements were made, and a bus filled with students was soon on its way to Texas.

Despite the long trip and extreme heat, upon arrival the students were immediately put into teams and given tasks to complete. One team worked diligently in the community to clean up flooded homes, stacking wet and moldy possessions on the curb where large trucks would eventually haul them away. A second group manned a distribution line to supply ice, water, and cleaning supplies to local residents. The third team helped prepare and serve meals to hungry families in the community.

Housed in a high school in Bridge City, Texas, Highland students were amazed at the devastation around the area. But, they were even more amazed at the resilience, the positive attitudes, and the gratitude of people who had lost nearly



Jesse Baker, Chris Tozer, and Gabbie Clifford help empty a home of moldy furniture and belongings ruined in the floodwaters of Hurricane Ike.

everything they owned.

“The amount of damage that the water and mud caused surprised me. Seeing people’s possessions out on the road made me look at life with a new perspective,” explains sophomore

Megan van Meurs. “Being able to see gratitude on the people’s faces as we gave them food or helped them to get a new start in life was something that really made the trip worthwhile.”

When the students returned to Highland, it was obvious they had learned some profound lessons that could never be taught in a classroom setting. Freshman Holly Keener says, “I learned from my experience that we need to start focusing on Godly things and not earthly things. You can lose everything on this Earth that is precious to you in an instant, but God is always with you.”

During the two weeks Highland students were there, 31,537 meals,

14,739 bags of ice, 8,996 cases of water, and 4,826 ready-to-eat meals were distributed. The students were grateful to have had a part in serving people they did not know and who were in desperate need.

“Everyone had their eyes opened to God’s mercy,” shares John Eberhardt, a freshman. “God showed Himself to us in many ways every day.”

Becky Patrick, principal of Highland Academy, believes there is no better way to share the Gospel of Jesus than to help others in their time of need. “Highland Academy believes that God has called the youth to be His helping hands.”



Elijah Sullivan and Jordan Meekma help distribute ice and cleaning supplies to hurricane victims.

Students at Highland Academy gained a valuable, life-changing lesson — not from books or in a classroom. They learned by seeing first-hand the needs of others and responding with whatever resources have been entrusted to them. In this case, students used their time, energy, and talents in unselfish service to those in need.

Karen Schimp is development director at Highland Academy.



Emmylou Drusky and Matthew Freeman stack dinners on a table in preparation for serving the community.

Florida Hospital Celebrates 100 Years of Blessings

Florida Hospital Orlando celebrated 100 years of extending the healing ministry of Christ and the opening of the new Ginsburg Tower.

This 15-story, 675,000-square-foot patient tower is the tallest hospital building in Florida and will house 440 new patient rooms, as well as one of the largest emergency departments and cardiac catheterization labs in the country.

A key highlight of the Ginsburg Tower is its emergency department, which measures at 62,000 square feet. In addition, the Ginsburg Tower is designed with a major focus on cardiovascular

services and will now house the Florida Hospital Cardiovascular Institute. This 80,000-square-foot facility includes 12 cardiac catheterization labs, a rehabilitation center benefiting from views of Lake Estelle, cardiac stress testing areas, a chest pain observation unit, and much more.

A variety of colorful artwork graces the walls of the tower, including more than 500 pieces of photography depicting scenes from



The Ginsburg Tower was unveiled with a display of fireworks.

nature; a three-story, hand-painted mural to evoke a sense of healing and spiritual comfort; and a 200,000-piece mosaic masterpiece inside the chapel depicting Christ performing a healing

miracle.

“With all it encompasses, the Ginsburg Tower adds to the ever-evolving medical landscape in central Florida,” said Lars Houmann, president and CEO of Florida Hospital. “This new sanctuary of healing is our gift to the

community to honor our past 100 years and propel us into providing healthcare for the next 100 years.”

Park Ridge Hospital Celebrates Holiday Season with Local Non-Profits

Park Ridge Hospital, Hendersonville, N.C., hosted the seventh annual Holiday Magic: A Festival of Trees last month. Holiday Magic is a contest open to non-profit organizations in western North Carolina. Each organization brings a tree to

the grounds of Park Ridge Hospital and decorates it to portray the mission of their organization. The trees are then judged on three criteria: expression of mission, creativity, and effort. The grand prize winner is awarded \$10,000, second prize is awarded \$5,000, and third prize is awarded \$2,000.

During the life of the contest, Park Ridge Hospital has donated more than \$125,000 to participating local non-profit agencies in western North Carolina. This contest has given additional

community exposure to at least 170 different organizations during seven holiday seasons. Jimm Bunch, president and CEO for Park Ridge Hospital, said, “We are thrilled to continue the tradition of Holiday Magic. Organizations are always looking at creative ways to get their name out in the community, and this event offers them that opportunity.”

Previous grand prize winners include Bethel Church youth group. JeWana Grier-McEachin, leader of the youth group, said, “Our kids got to do things that they normally would not have been able to do. We did fun things like



A previous winning tree from Holiday Magic

go on a skiing trip; some of our children had never been skiing. But, we also worked hard and completed several community beautification projects. These things would not have been possible had we not won the Holiday Magic competition.”

—BY CHRISTINA VARBLE



The winning tree from a previous Holiday Magic entered by Bethel Church youth group.

I came so that they may **have** and enjoy **life**, and have it in **abundance**. John 10:10

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ARC Grand Opening Features Actor Clifton Davis



RON QUICK

The Raleigh Church Adventist Recreation Center (ARC) recently hosted its grand opening celebration on November 22.

Hundreds of people from the church and surrounding community were there for the celebration. The main speaker was Clifton Davis, actor, singer, composer, producer, and minister.

Davis is probably best known for his five-year run

as Reverend Rueben Gregory on the popular NBC television series “Amen,” and his earlier series, “That’s My Mama.” Davis holds a B.A. in theology from Oakwood University and a master of divinity degree from Andrews University. Davis also holds four honorary doctorates.

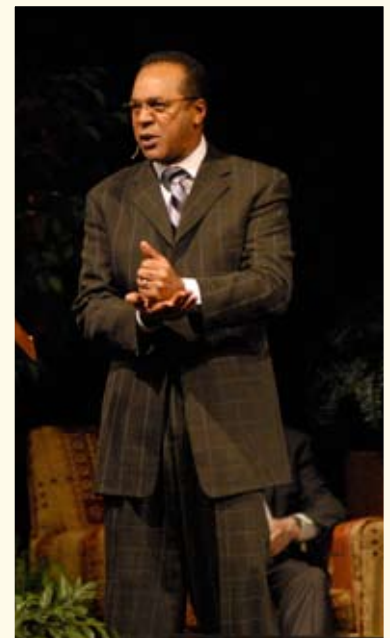
His energetic presentation was meant as an invitation: first, an invitation to church members to

use the new facility as a bridge to the community, and second, to invite the visitors to use all it has to offer. Most of all, he expressed the hope that this ARC be a light in the community for Christ.

The name for the new community center, the ARC, came from the story of Noah. God used Noah’s ark to save His people from the Flood. Raleigh Church hopes He will use the ARC to save as many individuals as possible during the last days of Earth’s history.

So far, the ARC has been doing just that. It was the venue for THE ROCK - Reach Out Carolina Kickoff; H.O.P.E. University’s “Wonders of Biblical Archaeology” with Ron Clouzet, D. Min, Th.D., and Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D.; and a six-week prophecy series, “Unsealing Revelation’s Mysteries,” among other events.

Bob Cundiff, Raleigh



RON QUICK



RON QUICK

Robert Cundiff (left), Raleigh pastor; Carolina Conference President Jim Davidson; Clifton Davis; George Morris, Raleigh historian; and Victor Brooks, long-time friend of Clifton Davis and director of Youthville, USA, located in Raleigh

Church pastor, shared, “In the weeks since our new facility opened, we have had about 400 non-Adventists visit our campus who have never been here before. It’s great being able to pastor a church that understands that it exists to share the Gospel with its community.”

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

MPA Students Spend Summer in Service to Others



BETH GRISSOM

The recruiting team from Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) spent the past summer serving the churches in the Carolina Conference. In seven weeks, the students provided some kind of service to eight Adventist churches as well as other churches and venues.

During the day, the

students worked on projects such as painting and decorating a youth room, painting parking lot lines, landscaping, cleaning attics, and assisting with evangelism materials and praise music. Then in the evenings after a hard day of work, the students would help out in Vacation Bible School. Throughout

the summer they were a vital part in Vacation Bible Schools, reaching more than 200 children.

The students preached and provided the entire church service for several churches. They also spent Sabbath afternoons going door to door praying for people in the community. They even provided fun family nights. At Nosoca Pines Ranch, the students assisted with programming on Sabbath during both Tween and Teen Camps.

The summer's grand finale was a 10-day Share-Him youth-led evangelistic series in Charlotte, N.C.

The MPA recruiting team provided praise and worship music for 15 consecutive meetings. They ran Moonlight Café, a place for the youth to visit and share with each other what they had learned during the meetings.

In 1 Peter 4:7-11, it says, "The end of all things is near Above all love each other deeply Offer

hospitality to one another without grumbling," which was their creed to live by. The young people memorized it, preached about it, and more importantly, they lived it. Each one of them prayed, loved, served, extended hospitality, and discovered the joy in giving God the glory.

"We learned sometimes the smallest things, like a thank you card, mean so much," said Shana Byrd, a junior.

Becca Anderson, a senior said, "We learned the tasks we dreaded most often brought the greatest blessing."

Lucas Tanaka, a junior, said, "Some of the jobs we were doing seemed like no big deal, but it made families cry because it meant so much to them."

Service may not be every teenager's idea of a great summer vacation, but each student has said it was the best summer of their life!

—BY BETH GRISSOM

ACA Hosts Field Day with Berean Junior Academy

Adventist Christian Academy (ACA) in Charlotte, N.C., enjoyed hosting a fun field day with Berean Junior Academy on October 9. Staff from both schools planned this event to bring area students together for fellowship and fun.

The day started with a worship thought by ACA teacher Roger Wiehn, coordinator for the day's events.

Then students participated in the 50-yard dash, softball throw, 200-yard relay, frisbee golf, and kickball.

Team effort, support, and positive attitudes were displayed. Students enjoyed getting to know each other, and voiced 100 percent participation in another fun field day. Berean Junior Academy will host this event in April 2009.



It is great to see leaders from Adventist schools merging their efforts

together for the benefit of the students.

—BY LAWANNA MCCOY

Ocala Church Celebrates Adventist Heritage



Norm and Barbara Middag were among Ocala's honored guests.

The Ocala, Fla., Church recently devoted an entire Sabbath for the joyful review of Seventh-day Adventist roots. Participants who

dressed in attire akin to that worn by early "Advents" enhanced the emphasis given to the day-long programming. Old-time hymns

reverberated throughout the church for special music.

"Docent Doings" was the Sabbath School theme presented by one teenager and four golden-agers. They presented interesting and unique experiences about volunteer tour guides who had served at the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich.

Norm Middag, former North American youth ministries director and a supporter of Adventist Heritage Ministries, presented the message, "Heritage of Hope," for the divine service.

The children's church message centered on the life of Ellen White as a

child, as portrayed by the students of Heritage Junior Academy and their principal, Linda Westbrook.

"The Past Revisited" was the Vespers program theme. Heritage Junior Academy students gave reports on The Great Disappointment. Also featured were Adventist pioneers, including William Miller and Rachel Oakes; an interview with James and Ellen White; a heritage knowledge quiz; and biographies of Joseph Bates and Annie Smith. The program closed with "The Smoking and Chewing Song" as a reminder of the temperance emphasis of the Adventist Church.

—BY BETTY KOSSICK

Pompano Beach Members Visit Halfway House

On the third Sabbath afternoon of every month, members of the Pompano Beach Church visit the Broward Intensive Halfway House to hold a religious service for the teenagers at the facility. The mentors for this program must be at least 21 years old, be fingerprinted, and have a background check run on them before they are able to help with the service provided by the church.

A typical Sabbath finds the director, James Bevel, and three or four church members being cleared through security and led into a large hangout room where some teenagers give their attention and others are in stand-by mode. After



Pictured are David Huggins (left); James Bevel, current director; Nicola Hamilton; Krisbel Pantan; and Daphne Hutchinson. "This program was spearheaded by Desmond Muller who was on fire for God," says Bevel. "Desmond came out of nowhere, plugged himself into our church, and got us excited about outreach."

introductions, a commercial based on the day's program is presented. "Some of these guys try to play hard to get," says Bevel, "so we'll start our meeting about five minutes from the time we finish our teaser to enable our group to do

some last-minute persuasion to stay."

The meeting begins with a welcome and appreciation for making the decision to participate. A special part of every program takes place when mentors and teens alike share their

testimonies. Scripture and prayer are followed with a topical discussion, and the teens are then given the opportunity to participate in a Bible game.

The Broward Intensive Halfway House has no bars on the windows; yet, it is a program with secure facilities to accommodate 24 high-risk male teenagers who are placed in the facility for nine to 12 months. Here, they receive comprehensive treatment in many areas, including anger management.

"To further help these teens," says Bevel, "we would like to start a follow-up program with them after they are released."

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Office of Education Defines New Roles

The Florida Conference Office of Education has seen a number of changes within the past few months, with new roles and job descriptions to better meet the needs of those the department serves.

Jim Epperson, Ed.D., has expanded his circle of influence. As the new vice president for integrated ministries, he continues with the Office of Education and also serves as administrator for children's ministries, family ministries, Pathfinders, youth/young adult ministries, and camp ministries.

"We have put all of these departments together to better facilitate communication and unite our efforts as we serve the same target groups," says Epperson. "For years, we have been working with the same kids. We have so much in common and so much to offer one another. We need to amplify our ministries, talk and plan together, and maximize opportunities to benefit from mutual visioning and carrying out projects that will draw our youth into a closer walk with Jesus."

The reorganization of these departments came as a result of an action taken by the North American Division a number of years ago, recommending that education and youth departments work together. As a result, Nury Perez, associate superintendent, has represented the Office of Education for the past two years, sitting on commit-



Florida Conference Office of Education leadership: Nury Perez (standing, left); Arne Nielsen; Frank Runnels; Jim Epperson, Ed.D.; Mayra Rodriguez (seated, left), Ed.S.; and Sandra Doran, Ed.D.

tees with colleagues from youth, Pathfinders, children's ministries, and family ministries, brainstorming ways to develop united methods of reaching youth. The creation of the integrated ministries logo for the new department was the first step in realizing that dream.

"We have a number of exciting things that are already beginning to take shape," Epperson says. "We'd like our kids more involved in the local churches and communities. All of us are absolutely elated with the possibilities of what our joint efforts can do for our youth."

Much of Epperson's time will be spent planning for the first-ever Florida Conference integrated ministries convention, which will involve teachers, Pathfinder directors, youth leaders, family life

coordinators, and children's ministries coordinators. "We are planning a great convention for February 5-7, 2010, where our teachers will benefit from and share with everyone in leadership roles involving the children of our Conference," says Epperson.

How does this affect the day-to-day business of the Office of Education? "I am no longer actively involved in supervising secondary education and handling personnel issues," Epperson explains. "My role now is more in terms of visionary leadership."

Arne Nielsen, superintendent, has assumed many of Epperson's former responsibilities. With Nielsen as the primary leader overseeing the supervision of education in Florida Conference, Frank Runnels has moved into the role of administrative superin-

tendent, assisting Nielsen with the supervision of upper elementary teachers and employment/personnel issues. Runnels comes from Forest Lake Education Center, Apopka, where he served as vice principal for the past two years. Experience he brings to the office includes the following: boys' dean, academy history teacher, grade 7-8 teacher, evangelist, missionary, and businessman.

The three associate superintendents continue visiting schools and working with teachers in a nurturing role. Mayra Rodriguez, Ed.S., is primarily responsible for child development centers, pre-K, and kindergarten teachers, as well as special education. Sandra Doran, Ed.D., supervises grades 1-4. Nury Perez directs the One-to-One program for the small schools, and has recently launched a literacy initiative for the upper grades.

As the newly-revised mission statement reads, "The Florida Conference Office of Education believes that the education of youth is a significant part of the evangelistic outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; therefore, our mission is to develop the God-given potential of students through a Christ-centered curriculum, quality instruction, and a grace-filled environment, creating Christian leaders who will remain rooted in their love for Jesus and their church."

—BY SANDRA DORAN, ED.D.

Nine Burundian Refugees Baptized in Knoxville

Adventist Refuge of Knoxville (ARK) ended its year-long voyage on August 23, 2008, as nine Burundians joined the

teers. Challenges ranging from translation to transportation were met with energy, enthusiasm, and commitment.



SARAH GIMBEL

One of the nine refugees is baptized at the College Hill Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

College Hill Church in Knoxville, Tenn. Seventh-day Adventist refugees from war-weary Burundi in central Africa arrived in Knoxville in the summer of 2007, and were welcomed by ARK, a coalition of eight Adventist churches from Georgia-Cumberland and South Central conferences. In cooperation with other agencies, ARK met urgent material needs, and laid plans for ongoing ministry, including the establishment of a worship service in Kirundi, the refugees' native language. According to its ability, each church contributed funds, supplies, and volun-

As they worked side by side, the volunteers earned mutual respect, gained one another's affection and confidence, and challenged the boundaries between congregations. Evenings and weekends normally spent in relaxation or household chores were willingly sacrificed in service. Resources normally devoted to personal use were freely given for those with a greater need.

The language barrier made spiritual ministry difficult. Benjamin P. Browne, South Central president, and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland president, agreed to share travel expenses for African

volunteers from elsewhere in the region. They brought a Kenyan teacher and his wife, Isaiah and Grace Orodo, who commuted from Nashville every other week in the spring of 2008 to preach, teach, and visit. They borrowed a Kenyan Adventist pastor, Enock Omosa, from Umoja Church in Raleigh, N.C., once per quarter. A chain of contacts were made at the Review & Herald Publishing Association, at a publishing house in Rwanda, and with a courier in Michigan, and God supplied Sabbath School lessons, Bibles, and books. Even the president of the East Central Africa Division, Geoffrey Mbwana, helped this project by carrying materials to the United States. The Holy Spirit, aided by these skillful assistants, prepared a harvest.

After one year in America, becoming self-

sufficient and learning about the American culture, language, and way of life, the Burundians were ready for another adjustment. No longer would they be refugees, guests of this country, and guests of the Adventist community. They were eligible and ready to become permanent residents of the United States, and members of a church in America. On August 23, representatives from several churches and three conferences rejoiced as Omosa joined the College Hill pastor, Alex Lampkin, to baptize five young men. Four Adventist adults, one man, and three women, were accepted by profession of faith. The privilege and responsibility of ministry to the Burundian group was transferred from ARK into the capable hands of Lampkin and his congregation.

—BY ISAIAH AND GRACE ORODO



SARAH GIMBEL

Nine refugees from Burundi were baptized.

Find more Georgia-Cumberland Conference news, resources, and information at www.gccsda.com.

FUSION Church Begins in Atlanta

FUSION, a Seventh-day Adventist ministry of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, started with a small group of people prayer-walking weekly in downtown Atlanta more than a year ago. They ministered to homeless, prostitutes, and drug addicts, as well as meeting local residents and business owners. God led them into a community where they did door-to-door surveys, allowing them to begin building relationships and spreading the word about the new church. They are unre-served about their mission: Search. Find. Form. Send.



The core team of FUSION prepares for a Fall Fest, the first of several "community bridge" events designed to make people from the community feel welcome to worship.

"This is what God has done for us in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ," says Chris Bullock, FUSION pastor. "It is God's mission. We are just joining Him in what He is doing. The church has been sent by Jesus Himself to take the Gospel to the entire world." FUSION's first public

worship took place on October 4 at the DeFoor Centre in midtown Atlanta. More than 75 people worshiped in the urban art gallery just north of downtown. The art on the walls bore witness to a group of people seeking something real: the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Attendee Gisselle V, said, "We worshiped together in music, fellowship, and fun. The most important part of FUSION that day was when the service brought up the fundamental part of being a Christian: to first love God and second to love others."

"I loved the atmosphere at Fusion Church. [Fusion is the] first Sabbath Church service where I'd be comfortable enough to invite others to come worship," shared Edwin B.

FUSIONchurch is having one worship and one community bridge event per month for the first six months to build a launch team. It will launch with weekly services on March 21, 2009.

—BY VALERIE RILEY

Boykins Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage



Bill and Nellie Boykin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Haskell Hall, former chapel at Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital, on October 13, 2008. Haskell Hall was the site where the Boykins were married on October 19, 1958, after they met in the spring of 1954 while both were students at Wildwood.

Bill Boykin serves as pastor of the New England, Ga., Church, and as chaplain of Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital.

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

Children's Ministries Grow in Augusta

During the past year, the Augusta First Church in Georgia realized that there was something happening below the surface — the children's divisions were growing exponentially.

Classes grew enough that Beginners were moved to the largest room available, and other classes

were divided or rearranged to provide more room for the students.

While the Sabbath School classes were growing, so were Pathfinders and Adventurers. Each group has more than 20 students, an increase of almost 300 percent.

Adventurer directors Fabiola Harper and Holly Fowler felt that Adventurers needed to be a family event. So, Adventurers was moved to Sabbath afternoon. Another positive addition has been the variety of

activities including walks to the swamp, visits to the botanical gardens, and encounters with birds at the conservatory.

One of the needs expressed by the church members has been a Children's Church. The first Children's Church saw more than 40 young people under the age of 13, and nearly 60 when including the teens who assisted in the program. It was noted that as the children sat in Children's Church, friends and family members who weren't regularly attending members were there because they had been invited to Children's Church.

—BY NATE ELIAS



Pathfinders and leaders make their way to a campsite.

Greenwood Church Baptizes Five New Members



Jerry Jones (back row, left), Tammy Gaede, Enda Brown, and Chuck Woods stand with the five young people who have been baptized.

Five people were baptized and became members of the Greenwood, Miss., Church on Sabbath, October 25. A few months earlier Jerry Jones, the local church elder, took to heart a sermon preached by Chuck Woods, pastor. Woods had challenged the members to bring visitors. "I want someone listening to my sermon that might actually learn something

from what I say instead of everyone having heard it so many times that they know my sermon before I preach it," said Woods.

The church holds its services on Sabbath afternoons, so the next Sabbath morning, Jones chose a section of town and began looking for people who would come to church with him. He was rebuffed by several groups until

he asked three girls. They answered with an enthusiastic, "Yes." Jones told them to get their parents' permission. When the three returned they brought six other young people with them. Jones couldn't fit nine youth between the ages of eight and 16 in his car, so he called his wife, and the two of them brought the guests to church.

Tammy Gaede, another member of the church, was serious about sharing Jesus with everyone she saw. She had recently discovered the Sabbath while studying her Bible and had left the church where she had been a member because of her dissatisfaction over the answers she received when she questioned her church leaders about the Sabbath. Gaede was used to leading people to Christ in a five-to-10-minute Bible presentation. Woods worked with

her to include information on the state of the dead, the dietary laws, and, of course, the true biblical Sabbath. Now Gaede saw this as a great opportunity to try out her new Bible presentation. So she and Enda Brown, a long time member who had caught Gaede's enthusiasm, began to share Jesus with these young people.

Three of them accepted Jesus and His salvation, and the other biblical teachings of the Church. Gaede and Brown didn't stop there. They went to the neighborhood where these children came from and continued to look for others willing to accept a loving Savior. The baptisms were a result of these efforts.

—BY CHUCK WOODS AND
REBECCA GRICE

Columbus Church Hosts New Start Health Fair

The Columbus, Miss., Church hosted its first health fair in a decade on November 16. The church's improved fellowship hall was used, and many church members participated.

The stations included blood pressure, BMI (body mass index), lung screening, glucose and hemoglobin scores, and vision and hearing tests. These machines were loaned by the Children's Clinic that is managed by the Skiwski family who are members of Columbus Church.

Several inventories on depression, cancer prevention, health style, and blood pressure, which were obtained from the Wellsource program, and there were food samplings and free recipes. After a thorough health analysis, the participants were invited to an excellent lecture on the prevention of cardiovascular disease by Jason Skiwski, M.D. Free spiritual literature was among many of the items offered to the participants.

This event was not only

a ministry to the community, but also to the church members. Libna Arroyo, health coordinator, is determined to increase health awareness in the district. "There are several ways we can reach individuals for Christ," she says, "and one of them is by encouraging better health." This event marks a turning point for health ministries which will be leading in



Food samples were offered by Nancy Skiwski (left), Libna Arroyo, Sharon Connell, and Violet Weatherby.

the efforts to reach the goals for souls in 2009.

—BY LIBNA ARROYO

Youth Rally Held at Bass Memorial Academy



After a Sabbath filled with worship and witnessing, the students participated in the first Bass Academy "Red Neck" games.

Teens from churches throughout the Conference gathered at Bass Memorial Academy on October 31 to participate in the annual Conference Youth Rally. The focus of the event was

to help youth understand what the characteristics of a Christian youth will be during the endtimes.

Javier Diaz, pastor of the College Drive Church near Jackson, Miss., was the

guest speaker for the weekend. Other guests included Ruben Cavarubias and the Yes Ministry from Southern Adventist University.

A major part of the weekend was taking the youth into the community where they used their boundless energy to work for God. Teens went to nearby Purvis, Miss., and gave away homemade cookies, laced with Bible verses, to people passing by. Also, 300 copies of the new sharing book by Shawn Boonstra were given away in Purvis by another group of teens. Other outreach activities included visiting children in the cancer ward at a local hospital, and visiting a nursing home to sing and give away

homemade cookies to the residents. The youth talked and prayed with everyone they met when the opportunity was permitted.

Saturday night following Vespers was a time for fellowship and laughter as the first ever "Red Neck" games were held. These included a NASCAR race consisting of boxes painted to perfection by each team. Needless-to-say, the race cars fell apart and the race itself was more humorous than an actual race.

The weekend was coordinated by Burney Culpepper, teacher and boys' dean. Others who helped were Jaime Pombo, pastor; various faculty; and many of the local church members.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Birmingham First Church Holds Singles' Retreat

What do you get when you combine a mountain wilderness cabin and 10 single adults, sprinkle generously with prayer and laughter, and mix with cool starlit evenings and warm sunlit days?

For this group, which was organized by P.J. Loftin and Donnie Olis of the Birmingham First Church, located in Hoover, Ala., the result was three days of blessings: long hikes through the brilliant fall colors in an almost untouched forest, explorations down a rocky creek bank, candlelight Vespers on Friday evening, and Sabbath service in a quaint lodge in Talking Rock, Ga.

Singleness at midlife can be challenging in every way, even for Christians. Finding empathy, a sense

of belonging, acceptance — an extended family — is a rare treasure.

The weekend's schedule was mostly unstructured, as some folks headed out in opposite directions to explore Carters Lake,

Amicalola Falls, and apple orchards. Others built a fire pit from native stones — a few black granite, some

white quartz. Conversations flowed freely as the group bonded and made lasting friends.

On Sabbath, the group moved to the lodge for services, beginning with a lesson on the atonement. After songs

of praise led by Jennie Bunton, Terry Beasley gave an inspiring sermon titled "Reflecting [Christ] Fully."

The memorable Sabbath ended at fireside with inspirational thoughts by Loftin and a solo of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Bunton.

"God's handiwork, friends... mostly I'll remember friends," says Harry Rhodes as he reflects on the weekend.

When the group departed for home — renewed, refreshed, feeling more whole — they took away memories and a strong sense of community, the loving, accepting kind for which God created people.

—BY GLADYS SHERRER



The group included Jennie Bunton (left, front), Lynn Bolney, Terry Beasley, Donnie Olis, Ruth Bun, P.J. Loftin, Harry Rhodes, Terry Vickery, and Ruth Ford.

Kid's Fair Reaches the Community



Gloria Driscoll distributed free balloons.

The Louisville First Church, following the lead of Tim Madding, pastor, is searching for and trying

new ways to introduce the community to the church. The most recent adventure was to sponsor a "Kid's Fair."

Activities enjoyed by the fair visitors were free. The activities included hay rides, color-printed photographs of participants, playing on huge inflata-

bles, games, popcorn, and balloons.

Food sales by Louisville Junior Academy introduced some to vegetarian hot dogs and cooking, and produced a sizable income for the school's programs.

Of the 250 who registered at the welcome booth,



The Kentucky National Guard provided the huge inflatable.

50 were visitors from the community.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER

Outdoor Education a Huge Success

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's Outdoor School is always exciting and filled with lots of activities. Each year about 100 fifth and sixth graders from schools throughout the Conference come together, along with their teachers, parents, and instructors from Southern Adventist University, for three days of outdoor education. There is no better place for this education to take place than at Indian Creek Camp.

Nature and all that it provides is a wonderful classroom for eager students to relate to and learn from. God has given so much in nature, and all need to take the time to be still and learn from Him. Ashley Gonzalez, a sixth grader from Madison

Campus Elementary School, offered this assessment of this year's experience: "Classes, taught by Southern Adventist University's outdoor education students, included beetles, butterflies, ants, fire building, acorns, spiders, fish,



The trebuchet was a favorite activity at the Outdoor School.

and trebuchets, which are medieval siege weapons similar to a catapult. Many felt that the trebuchet class was the most intellectually challenging as it included physics."

On Wednesday, the

last day, there was a test called the Envirothon. Students were tested on their knowledge of all class work. Awards were given to the schools scoring the highest. The three days were filled with lots of activities and learning, even though the weather turned cold and everyone had to bundle up to keep warm.

Matthew Davis, also a sixth grader from Madison Campus Elementary School, had this to say, "We were fortunate to have Southern Adventist University's outdoor education students come to be our instructors. All of the classes were very informative and fun. There was a wide diversity of classes such as fish, fire building, beetles, butterflies, ants, acorns, spiders,



What part of the fish is this?

and trebuchets. After completing class work, we had our test, the Envirothon. All of the students studied hard and did very well."

The annual Outdoor Education program of the Conference provides students with a hands-on learning experience unlike what can be offered in a traditional classroom. Students and teachers are grateful for the opportunity to learn about nature in the beautiful environment at Indian Creek Camp.

—BY LARRY BOUGHMAN

Highland Works to Fulfill Gospel Commission

The Highland Church hosted a prophecy seminar with speaker Jason Sliger on September 5. Members at Highland harnessed the power of intercessory prayer, friendship, and acts of kindness, as well as personal invitations, to help sow seeds for the series. Highland also conducted a prayer conference and 10 days of fasting and prayer.

Highland is located in Portland, Tenn., a small town of about 9,000 residents. Approximately 50 guests and 150 members were present on opening night. During the course of the four

weeks' meetings, 30 guests continued to attend. At the conclusion of the meetings, 14 individuals were baptized and joined Highland



Pictured are 14 new members who were baptized at Highland Church.

Church. Others are continuing with Bible studies.

One of the new members, Susan Prater, recalls her experience of coming

into contact with Adventism for the first time. She moved into her new home at the end of a country cul-de-sac in July 2007. She

noticed that several of her neighbors always cut their grass on Friday afternoons and went to church on Saturday instead of Sunday. She soon learned that these neighbors were Seventh-day Adventists, and the man that lived next door was the pastor of the

local Adventist church, David Hartman.

Over time, these Adventist neighbors befriended Prater, sharing blueber-

ries from their bushes with her and water from their spring. They also showed care for her and her ailing mother. When Hartman and his wife, Judy, invited Prater to attend the evangelistic series, she said, "Yes." At the end of the series, Prater made her decision to join the Adventist family. The thing that won her over was the feeling of peace she had when she was around members of Highland. She also said that, "The Seventh-day Adventist Church really stands for something, and your message has substance."

Kindness, friendship, personal invitations of the members, and the accepting atmosphere of a church led by the Holy Spirit contributed to the success of the meetings.

—BY RICHIE HALVERSEN

Ridgetop Church Participates in Fair Booth

Hundreds of pieces of literature, along with hundreds of bottles of water, were given away at the Robertson County, Tenn., Fair, August 2008. The booth was sponsored by Ridgetop Church.

Every piece of literature and every bottle of water was another opportunity to touch a person



HELEN KELLY

for Christ. As people were offered the free bottles of water, they could read

the sign beside the tub holding the water: "Jesus offers the water of life freely."

About 85 people signed up for the drawing, which included a choice of a set of *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*, or a music DVD by local artist Doug

Pratt. More than 30 indicated an interest in Bible correspondence courses, and others expressed an interest in various seminars, such as weight loss and smoking cessation.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Correction

The November issue of *Southern Tidings* incorrectly stated the date of Robert Sutherland's death as August 25, 2007. The correct date is August 25, 2008.

Decatur Celebrates 25 Years of God's Goodness



Pictured are Gasie and Godwin Mitchell (left), Mary and Ward Sumpter, and Eula and William L. Winston.

The Decatur, Ga., Church, was privileged to celebrate its 25th anniversary during the week of November 2, 2008. The church has been a mainstay in the community of metropolitan Atlanta since April 3, 1983.

The celebration week was one of reunion, with past pastors presenting messages each evening; fellowship, with the members and guests eating and

worshiping together during the week; and celebration, as many communed and celebrated God's goodness together.

The church was organized under the leadership of Ralph Hairston Sr., former president of South Atlantic Conference; and pastors Earl Moore, the late Joseph Hinson, and the late Dunbar Henri Sr., were called to lead and assist the new flock. The

group was originally called the United Decatur Church, but was later changed to Decatur Church.

When the call went out for charter members, 118 individuals from the surrounding area churches responded and elected Decatur their new church home.

Through the past 25 years, Decatur has conducted numerous evangelism campaigns and Revelation Seminars, which has resulted in the membership growth to more than 1,000. There is also a vibrant Pathfinder club of more than 50 members, and a 20-member, award-winning drum corp. Through the efforts of the late Harold Nesbitt, a day-shelter ministry for the homeless called "Operation Hope" was started. It expanded to a full-functioning night shelter, as well as a

food distribution center, counseling center, and a referral center for governmentally provided services. Later a transition house was purchased to aid in rehabilitation.

During the past 25 years, God has blessed Decatur with visionary pastoral leadership in Earl Moore; Ernest Young; Melvin Preston, under whose pastorate Decatur Adventist Junior Academy (DAJA) was built; William L. Winston; and Godwin Mitchell. Ward Sumpter, retired executive secretary for the Southern Union, has served as interim pastor since July 2008. He will remain at Decatur until the newly appointed pastor, Wesley Knight from Mt. Rubidoux Church in Riverside, Calif., has been installed.

—BY PAT CRAIG

Bible Studies Held at Medical Clinic

For four months, beginning June 2008, a group of enthusiastic individuals have been coming out on Friday evenings to the "Truth and Knowledge" Bible studies conducted by Richard Berry, M.D. Berry, a local elder at Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C., conducted the studies at Signet Healthcare.

The attendees covered topics which included the state of the dead, the sanctuary, and the difference between the law of Moses and the Ten Commandments. However, the



Several Pathfinders participated in the "Hands on America" clean-up day.

primary focus is always Christ's redeeming love for mankind.

The attendees learned the importance of searching the Bible for their own

answers, rather than depending on someone else's word. After completing the first set of lessons, the group was eager to learn more in a two-week Daniel

and Revelation seminar.

To date, four individuals have voiced their desire to be baptized.

—BY PORTIA DAVIDSON AND
DIANE ROUSE

Moody Honored by City and State



Nathel Moody was among six area residents of Loris, S.C., who were honored for their public service. The banquet was hosted by the Concerned Citizens Operation Reachout Organi-

zation, where the theme was "Public Service to Humanity: In the Eye of the Storm." The honorees were secretly nominated by members of the community, and were surprised about their nomination and awards.

Moody, a longtime resident of Loris, was the only male and only Adventist to receive the award. During the banquet, awards were given to Moody by the mayor of Loris for his hard work and best of service; and from Dick Elliot, senator of South Carolina, who spoke of his dedication

and involvement in helping others. Additional awards were presented to Moody by Tracey Edge, state representative, for volunteering time and talent in service to the community; James Frazier, county councilman, for his efforts and deeds in making the community, county, and state a better place to live and work; and the Concerned Citizen Operation Reachout Organization, for outstanding service and contribution to the community.

Moody is a member of the Emmanuel Church in Loris, and serves as the head

elder. He has been a member of the Adventist Church since the 1960's. Moody says he feels blessed in serving others. He visits and prays for the sick and bereaved often, and provides words of encouragement to prisoners. He is currently serving as president of the South Carolina Prison Ministries Federation.

Moody has been married to his wife, Clara, for 43 years. They have four adult children and one grandson.

—BY SHONDA MOODY-SHAW

Columbus Member Appointed College President

James Lowe Jr., Ed.D., is a native of Phenix City, Ala., and a graduate of South Girard High School. He received a scholarship to Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education. Later he attended American University in Washington, D.C., and received a master's in physical education and education administration. His educational journey did not end there. God blessed him to acquire an education specialist degree in administration and supervision from Troy State University in Phenix City, as well as a doctorate of education from San Francisco Technical University in California.



James Lowe Jr. (right) receives his charge from Bradley Byrne, chancellor of Alabama's two-year college system, at the installation ceremony.

Lowe has served as a teacher, head coach, athletic director, principal, assistant superintendent, administrator with the Alabama State Department of Education, vice chancellor of instructional and student services and college operations, and in the Department of Postsecondary Education for the Alabama Community System. In May 2008 he was installed as

the president of Bishop State Community College in Mobile, Ala.

Most recently, Lowe received a resolution from the Alabama State Board of Education for his leadership of the project Phoenix Team, which reestablished the academic, financial, and moral stability of Bishop State Community College; the state of Georgia for outstanding services to Chattahoochee Valley Community College; and a certificate from the President's Club of the Chattahoochee Valley Community College Foundation for his support to the college, foundation, and community.

Besides all of Lowe's

educational achievements, he is a man of prayer and does not hesitate in sharing his faith whenever he sees an opportunity. He has been a member of the New Bethel Church in Columbus, Ga., for 26 years, and a deacon and local elder (15 years as the head elder).

He has counseled many youth and helped them get into college by providing financial support, and assisted them in finding employment. He and his wife, Ann Reynolds Lowe, are promoters of Christian education, and are actively involved in helping the needy within and outside of the Church. They are blessed with one son and one daughter, both married, and seven grandchildren.

—BY WESLEY B. JONES

2009 Officers Conventions Scheduled

Benjamin Browne, South Central Conference president, announced the theme for the 2009 Officers' Conventions. He stated, "Our theme, for this year's Church Officers' Conventions is 'Keep the Fire Burning.'" He also shared, "The theme is found in the book of Leviticus 6:13, which says, 'The fire must



Benjamin P. Browne, South Central Conference president

be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.' The priests were to keep the fire burning day and night. The Bible states that we are a royal priesthood; therefore, we have a divine commission to keep the fire burning."

The Saturday/Sunday meetings will begin January

10 and 11, in Montgomery, Ala., with keynote speaker Wintley Phipps, pastor of the Palm Bay, Fla., Church, and president of the Dream Academy, Inc., in Palm Bay. The next meeting will be January 24 and 25, in Nashville, Tenn., with keynote speaker Barry Black, U.S. Senate chaplain, Washington, D.C. The last meeting will be January 31 to February 1, in Jackson, Miss., with keynote speaker Rupert Bushner, chaplain, Oakwood

University, Huntsville, Ala.

There is a special fellowship reception planned with the keynote speaker for each Saturday evening. Each weekend will be filled with workshops and training designed for church officers. Browne concluded his announcement comments with, "My prayer is that we will keep the fire of the Gospel burning brightly wherever we serve." Details: visit www.scc-adventist.org.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

Adventist Pastor Addresses NAACP

Roy Rugless, pastor of Trinity Church, Athens, Ala., and South Central Conference prayer ministries director, was invited as the keynote speaker to the Limestone County Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on November 8, 2008 — a first for an Adventist pastor in the Athens area. The event was hosted at the Round Island Creek Mission Center in Athens. The mistress of ceremony

It is no surprise he was chosen, because Rugless believes in community involvement. Prior to becoming a minister, he served at the Anti-Proverty Agency in Rochester, N.Y. He served as director of the Youth Employment Program for the disadvantaged, and chairman of a community symposium. He served in numerous other community activist roles for the amelioration of people and their surroundings. Rugless was in the process of running for political office when he was called to the gospel ministry.

The 2008 theme, "NAACP: Stability in a Changing World," opened the door of opportunity for Rugless to sow seeds of truth and build relationships through his messages and truth-filled literature. He gave gifts, the provocative book, *Will America Survive?*, originally published



Mayor Dan Williams (left), Wilbert Woodruff, Roy Rugless, Roderick Howel, Commissioner David Seibert, Willie Green, and Cristie Iletto

as *The Great Controversy*, and a copy of the popular *Message* magazine, which featured the cover story, "It's Time to Make a NewStart." In response to his moving words of inspiration, the people gave a standing ovation.

Attendees included the Honorable Dan Williams, mayor of Athens; the Honorable David Seibert, chairman of the Limestone County Commission; Olivia Sims, NAACP Alabama State, conference secretary; Troop 947, Boy Scouts of America; many pastors; and friends. Music was provided by Rachel and Rosalyn Malone, youth from the ACT-SO

program. ACT-SO is an acronym for the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics — a major youth initiative of the NAACP.

Rugless has recently been invited to serve on the Limestone NAACP executive board. He and the Trinity Church family have a burden for the community, and are making in-roads because they are dedicated to doing whatever they can to help people as Jesus did — minister to their need, then share the Gospel.

—BY RENATA DRAKE



Rugless highlights Message magazine article, "Will America Survive?" and shares an inspirational message with attendees.

for this grand gala was Christie Iletto, WAFF-TV 48, Shoals Bureau reporter.

Honors Student Selected to Attend Historic Inauguration

The University Presidential Inaugural Conference (UPIC) selects and invites young scholars and outstanding student alumni from around the world to attend the presidential inauguration. This year will be an historic event — the swearing in of the first African American president, Barack Hussein Obama. It is a high honor to be considered and accepted by UPIC. Nicole Delores Frazier, an outstanding scholar, is on that list.



MICHAEL HARPE

Nicole Delores Frazier, University Presidential Inaugural Conference scholar

Frazier is the oldest daughter of Albert and Claudette Frazier. The Fraziers serve as the pastoral team at First Love Church in Paducah, Ky., and Emmanuel Church in Hopkinsville, Ky. Nicole has two younger sisters, Rachel and Ashley.

Frazier, a student at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., was nominated as one of several hundred high school students, in the summer of 2006, to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. This was due in part to her leadership and academic performance (4.26 GPA). Students from across America were elected to attend several institutions as future pre-med

students. Frazier chose to visit Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. “It was a wonderful learning experience to participate with other young people from across the country,” says Frazier. “I shall never forget that marvelous privilege.”

Frazier’s experience with the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, as well as her academic status, qualified her for this invitation. Qualifications are strict, as it is held exclusively for alumni of the National Youth Leadership Forum, the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the International Scholar Laureate Program, and members of select honors societies. Inaugural schol-

ars must be enrolled in a post-secondary program during the time they attend the UPIC.

The Conference will honor these scholars as distinguished young leaders and accomplished students. As an inaugural scholar, Frazier will spend five days, from January 17 to 21, in special events and activities commemorating the inauguration of the president and vice president. She will

gain an understanding of the electoral process; witness the transition on the National Mall, the morning of January 20, when the 44th president of the United States is sworn into office; and experience firsthand the grandeur of the inaugural parade and presidential motorcade, as the president and vice president proceed from the U.S. Capitol Building to the White House. To conclude the day, she will attend a black tie gala.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

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Progress Village Conducts Unique Week of Prayer

The Progress Village Church in Tampa, Fla., recently conducted a unique Week of Prayer event.

Instead of inviting a minister to conduct the Week of Prayer, the organizers decided to utilize the families of Progress Village to facilitate the nightly meetings.

The focus of the Week of Prayer was families. "Since families are the backbone of the Church, we thought it was important to strengthen that foundation," stated one of the event organizers.

The devil is busy doing everything he can to break down families. With so many aspects to family life, the presenters chose topics

that were in the best interest of Progress Village families.

During the week Passard Dean presented "Honey! Where Is the Money?"

The Wilson family talked about "The Five Love Languages";

Tory and Gina St. Cyr presented "Conflict Resolutions"; and Michelle Tillman talked about, "Personality Types."



Jonathan Rolle is currently a drug and alcohol treatment counselor for Broward County Sheriff's Office in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He has also worked as a guidance counselor for the Dade County Public Schools System in Miami, Fla.

Jonathan Rolle, from the Mt. Pisgah Church in Miami, Fla., concluded the Week of Prayer as the Sabbath speaker.

Rolle also conducted two workshops: "What a Wonderful Family," and "Can I Save

My Child?" Rolle, a counselor for the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and founder and director of Summit Productions, stated, "The

workshops were designed to strengthened the relationships between parents and their children."

The workshops emphasized the need to reclaim families for Heaven and to guard the avenues of the mind. Rolle also encouraged each family to conduct daily family devotions.

The Family Life Week of Prayer culminated with an old-fashioned social after AYS.

The families of Progress Villiage were thankful to have been able to minister to each other, and they adopted the familiar motto, "The family that prays together stays together!"

—BY ROBERT WATKINS

Southeastern Honors Adventist Pioneers

Southeastern Conference recently conducted a retiree banquet to say "thank you" to retired Adventist Church workers who live within the Conference territory, which covers the southern portion of Georgia, and the state of Florida east of the Appalachian River.

The annual event is held during the month of November at the Conference office complex in Mt. Dora, Fla. The keynote speaker was Walter Douglas, Ph.D., who taught at Andrews University Theological Seminary, from 1969 to 2004. He taught seminary students, many who currently work for Southeastern, including

Hubert J. Morel, Conference president, and Gregory Mack, Conference executive secretary.

Douglas was introduced by G. Ralph Thompson, who served as the executive secretary for the General Conference from 1980 to 2000. Both men continue to serve the Church as pastor and associate pastor of the Golden Gate Church in Naples Fla.

"The banquet is our way of saying 'thank you' for the contributions these men and women have made to the Adventist Church," stated Milton Sterling, Conference ministerial director and event coordinator.

Other attending retir-

ees included Robert Walker, first Southeastern Conference secretary-treasurer; Lei La Reed, retired teacher; Ivan Vantage, retired Lake Region Conference executive secretary (1998-2000); Russell Bates, retired North American Division associate personal ministries director; Arlington Green, retired West Jamaica Conference treasurer and Northeastern Conference auditor; Samuel Campbell, retired Allegheny East Conference ministerial director; James Hicks, retired Southwest Region Conference personal ministries director



Walter Douglas, Ph.D., delivers the keynote address.

and Atlantic Union youth director; and Jocelyn Johnson, retired Northeastern Conference education director.

View the keynote address on Southeastern TV at www.secsda.org.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

Conference Pathfinders, Zion Hill Members Partner to Serve Community

The Southeastern Conference Pathfinders recently held the annual Pathfinder Federation at the Conference's camp ground in Hawthorne, Fla.

More than 500 Pathfinders attended the annual event, which brings Pathfinder clubs from around

the Conference together for a weekend of spiritual fellowship, camping, and other activities.

This Pathfinder Federation was a unique event, in that the Pathfinders teamed with the Zion Hill Church members to conduct a special community service event.

"It is my desire to see us conduct events that not only impact the event attendees, but also the members of the surrounding community," stated Caesar Robinson, Conference youth ministries director.

The special

event provided food, clothing, and school supplies to more than 100 families from Hawthorne, Fla.

"The food, clothing, and school supplies will help us out tremendously," stated Camille whose husband, Starsky, recently lost his job.

"In this time of economic difficulty, we wanted to do more than just conduct another event. Just as Jesus did, we wanted to meet the needs of the people," stated Ivan Daphnis, pastor of Zion Hill Church.



ROBERT HENLEY

During the community service event, more than 100 families from the Hawthorne, Fla., area received food and clothing.

Daphnis has been working with the community to share the love of Jesus Christ.

View the divine hour message delivered by Caesar Robinson and additional content at www.secsda.org.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



ROBERT HENLEY

Ivan Daphnis, Zion Hill pastor, bands out school supplies to young people from Hawthorne, Fla.

Conference Principals Gather for In-Service

The Southeastern Conference Office of Education recently held an informative principals' in-service.

Hubert J. Morel, Conference president, set the tone for the meeting with an inspirational devotional, which challenged the principals to "set the bar high." Morel stated, "I have an open door policy," as he encouraged the principals to visit with him.

Elisa Young, Conference superintendent of education, presided over the meeting. The agenda included the following: educational policies,

codes, and procedures that are mandates from the North American Division, Southern Union Conference, and Southeastern Conference education departments.

Carol Byrd, Conference associate superintendent, addressed curriculum items, and curriculum resources were made available for the principals.

Trina Bowden, Conference resource teacher, modeled exciting science demonstrations that principals were encouraged to use at their schools.

Regina Harris,

principal of Miami Union Academy, and one of

three individuals selected from Southeastern to attend the "Kids in Discipleship" seminar, presented some ways that pastors, parents, members, grandparents, and other individuals, can be utilized to serve as spiritual promoters for girls and boys. "Our prime reason for Adventist Christian education is to prepare our children to serve in this world, but most of all to enter into the pearly gates of Heaven with us," stated Harris.

—BY CAROL BYRD



ROBERT HENLEY

Trina Bowden, Conference resource teacher, illustrates how kitchen chemistry can be used to enhance science education. She is assisted by her daughter, Samara.

Adventist Musicians Honored at UCAA Music Legends Ball



Wayne Bucknor (back row, left), D.M.A., Oakwood University assistant professor of music; Cleveland Wilson, First Church, Huntsville, Ala., choral director of Inspirations of Faith choir; Walter Arties, Breath of Life Television Ministries; Paula Sanders Morris, UCAA president and founder; Lloyd Mallory, D.M.A., Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Maryland, pastor of worship; Cedric Dent, D.M.A., Take 6 performer, Middle Tennessee State University professor; Gale Jones Murphy (front row, left), songwriter, composer, choral conductor; Antoinette Wilson, First Church, Huntsville, Ala., choral director of Inspirations of Faith choir; Alma Blackmon, D.M., Oakwood University's Aeolians former director; Carla and Marci Wright, daughters of the late Eleanor Wright; Eurydice Osterman, D.M.A., Oakwood University professor, choir director, organist, composer

The United Christian Artists Association (UCAA) held its first Music Legends Ball on November 15, 2008, in Hendersonville, Tenn. The ball was the culmination for the fourth annual UCAA/VERVENT Music and Worship Conference, and honored legendary Adventist musicians, including Walter Arties; Take 6; Lloyd Mallory, D.M.A.; Eurydice Osterman, D.M.A.; Wayne Bucknor, D.M.A.; Gale Jones Murphy; Lamar Campbell; and Cleveland and Antoinette Wilson.

"It was a privilege and a blessing for me to

be honored by UCAA," shares honoree Osterman. "Sometimes I become so involved with the activities of my ministry that I don't take time to reflect on what I am actually doing. This honor gave me an opportunity to see what God has been doing through me and how my ministry has blessed others."

Lifetime achievement awards were presented to Alma Blackmon, D.M., and posthumously to Eleanor Wright. Blackmon spent many years educating and fostering musical talent on the campus of Oakwood University (formerly Oak-

wood College). Blackmon's daughter, Brenda Wood, NBC affiliate, WXIA-TV 11Alive Atlanta-based news anchor, and legendary singer/songwriter Roberta Flack, were in attendance to salute her. The finale was a salute to the late songwriter, Eleanor Wright, and her contributions to gospel music, such as the well-known song "A Better Day." Her daughters, Marci and Carla Wright, accepted her award.

Blackmon and Wright were also honored with scholarships established in their names for music

education students attending Oakwood University. "UCAA is pleased to honor those who have contributed to the fabric of our lives," said Paula Sanders Morris, UCAA president, founder, and conference director. Timothy McDonald, Ed.D., vice president for development at Oakwood, accepted the scholarships on behalf of the students.

The UCAA/VERVENT Music and Worship Conference is the signature event of the United Christian Artists Association, an organization established to support, promote, and em-

power gospel artists and music ministries within the Christian community.

Praise and worship leaders, choir directors, musicians, and Christian song writers and producers from around the world convened at the Riverside Chapel Church in Nashville, Tenn., from November 13 to 15. The conference consisted of workshops, musical performances, praise and worship services, and networking. Featured speakers included Jesse Wilson, D.Min.; Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min.; Andrea Trusty King, pastor; and James Doggette, D.Min. Workshops were conducted



Paula Sanders Morris, president and founder of United Christian Artists Association (UCAA), facilitates a discussion on Friday.

by Nancy Dudley; Roger Ryan; Eurydice Osterman; Gale Jones Murphy; Furman Fordham, pastor; Danita Jones; Loren Murraine, D.M.A.; and Dave

Gemzell.

The *variety* of Christian music and musicians represented was one of the things that made this year's UCAA conference

so special. Performances included traditional and contemporary gospel, a capella music, anthems and spirituals, soloists, instrumentalists, "island" music, and even opera by Angela M. Brown.

"This conference is indispensable for church musicians," said Osterman, "because it provides an opportunity for them to learn, grow, recharge their batteries, and take new ideas back to their home churches."

The 2009 conference will be in Nashville, Tenn., September 17-19. For details about the organization or the next conference, visit www.ucaaonline.org.

New Information Systems Director Appointed

Todd Mace came to the Southern Union Conference from the Potomac Conference where he served as information systems director for seven and a half years. He holds a B.A. degree in theology from Columbia Union College, and is a certified Microsoft engineer and trainer. He is accompanied by his wife, Kristina,

and two girls, ages 12 and 6.

Mace's passion is using technology for the mission of the Church, where he hopes it can provide new vehicles for innovations



in ministry. He looks forward to God's leading in the many exciting possibilities for ministry in the Southern Union.

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For more information, please call Rocky Davis or Jim Wilson at:
404-299-1621

Archaeology Library Opens

The William G. Dever Research Library, Southern Adventist University's new archaeology library, celebrated its opening on November 5, 2008 with a group of supporters and donors, including Dever himself.

After Dever retired in 2002, he donated the more than 800 volumes and 10,000 slides from his personal library to Southern's archaeology library, curated by Dever's former archaeology student, Michael Hasel,

a professor in Southern's School of Religion.

In addition to the De-

ver collection, the library includes many other rare volumes.

"We have the personal copies of some of the most famous archaeologists in the field," Hasel says. "They are not only a resource in and of themselves, but they're collectors' items, with notes in them from the archaeologists who owned them."

With its emphasis on Egyptology,

Near Eastern, and classical studies, the library is now one of the foremost archaeological libraries in the Southeast. It is a valuable resource not only for Southern students, but also for researchers and scholars from other universities.

"It's so exciting," says Hasel, "for me to be talking about the history of archaeology and to be able to reach out and get a book and say 'This is the guy who invented pottery typology.'"

—BY MELISSA SWANSON



William G. Dever speaks to guests at the Dever Library opening banquet.

Displacement Camp Brings Awareness

A portion of Southern Adventist University's lawn was transformed into a makeshift displacement camp on November 1 to raise awareness of the conditions that children in Uganda are faced with.

Students and community members were able to walk through cardboard reconstructions of crude homes. After the self-guided tour, "Go," a film that highlights a trip to Uganda

which 12 high school students, including one from Collegedale Academy, and their teachers took in the summer of 2007, was shown.

The event greatly impacted students.

"It makes me want to help people," says Christa Hand, senior psychology major. "I want to go out and try to make a difference and take the resources that God has given me to use them to

help other people."

Currently, students at Southern Adventist University are raising money for a secondary school in Uganda. Last year, they were able to raise \$15,000 that went to provide classrooms, latrines, school supplies, and more to help children in Uganda.

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI



As students and community members walk through a makeshift displacement camp, they witness the devastation that children in Uganda face every day.

Muffins for Malamulo Raise \$1,000

As students entered the student center one chilly day, the smell of fresh muffins wafted in the air. The muffins were found parked next to a box labeled "Donations for Malamulo" and were part of Southern Adventist University's efforts to help the Malamulo Adventist Hospital and College of Health Sciences in Malawi

get back on its feet.

The college recently failed a government inspection. Dorms and classrooms are overcrowded, and the facilities are in desperate need of renovations. If they are not improved, the school will be forced to shut down.

Kari Shultz, director of student life and activities at Southern, asked the staff and

faculty to bake muffins to raise money for the college. The project raised more than \$1,000 in two days.

Katie Partlo, planning and project manager for the Office of Marketing and University Relations, was among the many employees who baked muffins.

"It was great for staff to get involved," Partlo says.

"I thought, 'I can afford the flour and molasses to make gingerbread muffins.' It was fun to be a part of the effort."

Southern, along with 11 other Adventist colleges and universities in the North American Division, have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to help Malamulo.

—BY MELISSA SWANSON

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THEY WILL BE DONE

BY FRED PULLINS

Zack and Elizabeth would adamantly disagree with the sociological proponents who insist that it is impossible to fall in love at first sight. When they first attracted each other's attention while attending a social event during high school, it was love at first sight, at least so it seemed to Zack. Elizabeth is a little more cautious than Zack in supporting this assertion; however, she is not denying that her heart seemed to skip a beat when she first looked deeply into his eyes. Both of them recognized that the other had something uniquely special about them that required further exploration — exclusively.

Life has not always been a “They lived happily ever after” scenario for

Elizabeth and Zack. Like all of us, they have encountered their share of challenges. However, they have managed to confront and overcome these assaults on their marriage without compromising their fidelity, commitment to cherish each other through all types of adversities, and the love they pledged to each other on the fairy-tale Sunday they were married in 1969. Love for God and devotion to His principles constitute the glue that has held them inseparably together. Zack says, “Elizabeth has been, and forever will be, the only goose I want to quack with.” Elizabeth is silent, but her blush and the lingering admiring look she gives to Zack speak volumes.

It is a shame that one day this love story will be shelved to collect dust in the archives of life. Because of age, accident, or tragedy, these lovebirds' life novel will come to an abrupt end. Death is the inevitable conclusion of life. The desire for translation is admirable. I, too, would like to rise up to meet with the resurrected saints in the air. However, the stark reality is that most — if not all of us — will have to fall asleep before we experience the Lord's coming. Therefore, we should make preparation to take our rest from life, just as we do before sliding into our beds each night. How we rise in both cases is largely dependent on how prepared we were when we fell asleep.

If you died today, would your financial affairs be in order? Who would be in charge of your unfinished business? How would your money and other possessions be used? And the most important question is, "Will the accumulated blessings God has given you during life be used to His honor and glory after your death?"

A major challenge that faces Zack and Elizabeth is their son, Joseph. Unlike John, their older son who is a devout Christian and minister of the Gospel, Joseph's life has been one tragedy after another since he began using drugs in junior high school. What if Zack and Elizabeth die in an accident without making proper preparation regarding their estate, which is simply everything they own at the time of death? How do you think Joseph would use the share of his parents' estate that the probate court would award him? Would he use the distribution he receives to honor God in wholesome living or to support his drug addiction? In this case, drafting a will or trust can limit or even discourage the misuse of the distribution Joseph receives.

Did you know that you cannot die lacking a will? If you do not draft a will during your lifetime, the state in which you reside will draft a will for you at the time of your death. However, the state's will does not consider your desires to protect Joseph from furthering his addiction, helping John in his ministry, or benefiting deserving students who are struggling to pursue their education. The state is unemotional and does not consider your desire to benefit loyal and deserving friends or charity. Your state is dedicated to a distribution formula that will give your God-given assets to the devil himself if he happens to be your relative.

We don't own anything that we have in our possession. We are merely stewards of God's possessions, and He expects us to manage His possessions faithfully during life and after death. During our lifetime, aren't we expected to exercise good management, benefit others who are less fortunate, support God's work,

and grow the assets He has entrusted to our care? These obligations do not end at the time of death. We have the ability and responsibility to control the use of God's property after death. It's as simple as drafting a will or a trust agreement that expresses our desires relative to how the possessions in our care are to be distributed.

Most of us are of modest means and cannot give to our church, educational institutions, or independent ministries as generously as we desire. However, a will or trust agreement gives us the opportunity to make sizeable gifts to these entities when we no longer have need for our personal sustenance. A will or trust allows us to appropriately care for our families and fulfill our God-given responsibility to support His causes. Not only should we live faithfully, but also we must be careful to die faithfully.



We are counseled as God's stewards, "Let it ever be kept in mind that the present selfish system of disposing of property is not God's plan, but man's device. Christians should be reformers, and break up this present system, giving an entirely new aspect to the formation of wills. Let the idea be ever present that it is the Lord's property you are handling. The will of God in this matter is law. If man had made you the executor of his property, would you not closely study the will of the testator, that the

smallest amount might not be misapplied? Your heavenly Friend has entrusted you with property, and given you His will as to how it should be used. If this will is studied with an unselfish heart, that which belongs to God will not be misapplied," *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 328-329.

Preparing your will should be a thoughtful, spiritual exercise entered into with earnest prayer for divine guidance. Your will should be a living and lasting testimony to your faith in Christ and your dedication to spreading the Gospel and hastening Christ's soon return. Your will should be so arranged that it will be a clear reflection of your desires and purposes and those of your Lord and Master.

The making of an estate plan can be as simple as contacting your local conference, union office, college/university, or independent ministry to obtain confidential consultation about estate planning. The service is free and without obligation. In most cases, these entities can assist you in drafting the necessary legal documents through a licensed estate attorney without cost to you. If you would like to discuss your affairs with a stewardship representative to determine the best way to include the work of the Lord, contact the trust services director at any of these mentioned entities. Your discussions will be handled confidentially.

Zack and Elizabeth have lived lives faithfully to each other and devoutly to God. They now want to extend their devotion to embrace a time that extends beyond their lifetime together. They, like anyone, can accomplish this by taking the time to ensure that the possessions God has placed in their care are used to bring Him honor and glory. I'm sure that our Savior will say to his faithful stewards, "Well done good and faithful servants, you have been faithful over the few things; now I will make you rulers over many," Matthew 25:21.

Fred Pullins is director of trust services at Oakwood University.



The Unlikely Evangelist

BY DAWN MCLENDON

Vanessa Hollon is a nursing student at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS), planning to graduate in April 2009. Her goals include someday becoming a nurse practitioner, specializing in the field of pediatrics. Hollon heard about the annual Russian mission trip that the College sponsors during the Christmas holidays and thought it might be an activity she would like to participate in.

Hollon approached Reynold Acosta, FHCHS chaplain, to ask about the Russia trip. Acosta stated there were several College-sponsored trips — the winter trip, impacting children in orphanages; and a summer trip, an evangelistic outreach. He challenged her to go home and pray about whether or not the summer experience was the right trip for her.

Hollon recounts her story: “I never pictured myself as a preacher. While I was excited about the prospect of going to San Salvador, I had never spoken in front of a group of people. I really didn’t know what I was getting myself into, but I decided to accept Chaplain Acosta’s challenge and pray about the trip.”

She continues, “Each of us had

to raise the money for our plane fare, about \$700. I knew if God wanted me to do this, the money would come. I got the funds I needed.

“We met for about a month before the trip. We practiced how to prepare a sermon and how to get up in front of a group of people. But, I really didn’t know how tough preaching was going to be.

“I was teamed with Dee Perera. I preached the sermons, and she gave the *CREATION* health message. We were assigned a small church on the outskirts of El Salvador. The place was packed every night, with people looking in through the windows. Even rain could not keep people away; the church was always full in spite of the weather.

“Many people answered the Holy Spirit’s calling and made the decision to be baptized. One young man of about 12 years of age particularly made an impression on me when he decided to follow what he believed and get baptized, even though his parents were not members of the Seventh-

day Adventist Church.

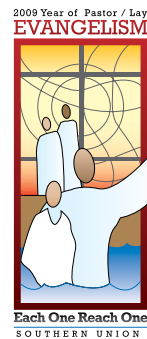
“Prior to going on the trip, I was a church-hopper, not a member of any particular congregation. As I preached the sermons each night, I learned more about the Bible and the Seventh-day Adventist faith. I knew this was where I belonged, and I made the decision to be baptized.

“I will never forget my summer in San Salvador. The people we met were so humble and so thankful for everything they have — even though by our standards they may not seem to have much. They were so giving; they gave us their best, even though it was probably a sacrifice.”

When asked if she would go on another evangelistic trip, Hollon responded, “Definitely! If God speaks to you, keep an open mind and allow Him to lead.”

Chaplain Reynold Acosta and Hollon are planning for her upcoming baptism.

For more information regarding the Year of Evangelism, visit: www.southernunion.com



SonSet Café

BY STAN DOBIAS

A Non-traditional Worship Service Attracts College Students

One of the challenges facing any Christian college or university is how to create a worship service for students that truly engages them in a meaningful way with their Creator. The traditional sermon approach often gets a mixed response. A sermon is more of a monologue than a dialogue, which welcomes questions and encourages discussion. Discussion-time is typically reserved for Sabbath School classes. But how often is the focus of the Sabbath School class directly connected to the sermon? The chaplains at Florida Hospital College of Health Science (FHCHS) were struggling with this very issue.

FHCHS enjoys a religiously-diverse campus with a large commuter population. The dilemma facing the chaplains was — *How do we create a worship service for students that engages both the mind and the heart?* We discovered that the best time to provide a service was on Friday evening. After an exhausting week, it was nice to take a break from hectic schedules and unwind in a casual environment.

Former chaplain Roberta Fish, along with student spiritual leaders, began a program several years ago called Revival Zone Café that embraced the need for both the social and spiritual aspects of a student's life. "We choose a Friday evening format to provide a chance for students to be revived spiritually while interacting in small group settings," stated Fish.

The next phase came when food was added. Then chaplain, Cezar Luchian, partnered with Reynold Acosta, a lay pastor and owner of a Cuban restaurant, who began providing food. Naturally, the attendance grew; food is always a draw for college students. More than 100 students gathered for praise music and worship. It was not



FHCHS chaplains spend time with students exploring spiritual matters.

uncommon for students to engage in Bible study late into the evening on the topic that was presented.

Soon Acosta sold his restaurant and became a full-time chaplain at the College. The Friday night worship experience continued to evolve, and the name was changed to SonSet Café.

Programs are planned by students and open to the young adult population of Orlando, not just students from FHCHS. Food is always part of the activities, giving participants the opportunity to fellowship before the spiritual programming begins.

"One of the focuses this year is to deliberately create an environment where all questions are welcomed," commented chaplain Stan Dobias. Rob Bell, pastor, in his book, *Velvet Elvis*, states, "A Christian doesn't avoid the questions; a Christian embraces them. In fact, to truly pursue the living God, we have to see the need for questions."

Using the model described in Bell's book, the chaplains encouraged the students to write down their questions. "The response was amazing," remarked Dobias. "We had pages and pages of material that we then divided into broad categories." It is from these questions that the worship services will

be planned for the remainder of the school year. Dobias further commented, "The intent is to focus on a question each Friday evening and then create a platform for discussion. Our job is not to answer all of these questions; we can't. Our job is to provide an environment in which students are free to voice what is inside. This is how faith is built."

Each of us is on a different pathway in our spiritual journey. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm of college students as they embrace God and gain a deeper faith as they embark on their own spiritual journey.

Students posed a variety of questions which will lead to SonSet Café topics for the remainder of the school year. With the uncertain times that we are living in, a forum for spiritual discussion is important to college students.

- If you could ask God one question, what would that be?
- Does God really know everything? And if so, is there really free choice?
- Why is there so much suffering?
- When will this heartache end?
- How did You come to be?
- When will You (God) return?
- How do I deal with a situation that contradicts my religion?
- Why do You love me so much?
- Why do You put up with me no matter what?
- Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church the right church?
- Is God really there? Although we worship Him, I find myself asking if He is real.
- How do we know that the Bible wasn't just made up?



Why Children's Ministries?

Is children's ministries important, and why? Why do we even do children's ministries?

Research tells us that a person is more likely to accept Jesus as Savior between the ages of 5 and 12. As people grow older, the likelihood of them accepting Jesus as their Savior declines dramatically.¹

Ages 5-12	32%
Ages 13-18	4%
Ages 19 and up	6%
When People Accept Jesus as Their Savior ¹	

Ellen White tells us in *The Desire of Ages*, "It is still true that children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the Gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences, and strong to retain the lessons received. The little children may be Christians, having an experience in accordance with their years."²

Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:3, "And He said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'" And in Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Children must be important to Jesus, so children should be important to us as a Church. We need to minister to the children as if they were the most important people on the Earth. Our children's ministries should reflect this. Our children should have the best rooms, the best furnishings, and the best leaders.

What do we do?

- Train and support our children's staff
- Use GraceLink curriculum
- Make classes fun and exciting
- Mentor our children into leadership
- Let our children know that we love and care for them
- Sabbath School
- Vacation Bible School
- Children's Church
- Holiday Programs (Christmas, Easter, End of School, and many more)
- Fall Festival

- Involvement in Church Service (Music, Scripture, Announcements, Offering, etc.)
- Train in outreach
- Educate parents in spiritual development of children
- We must do our very best in every endeavor for our children. Jesus expects no less.

Rhoda Burrill is the children's ministries director at Florida Conference.

—BY RHODA BURRILL

¹ Barna, George, *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, pg 34

² White, Ellen, *The Desire of Ages*, pg. 512



Living Life to the Fullest

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Emotional pain weighed heavy on the mother's heart, but the CREATION Health trainer and seminar participants did not realize this when she came to the CREATION Health meeting that night at the Forest Lake Church.

At the beginning of the meeting, people were asked to share good choices they had made that day and others they would change if they could do it over again. Most people talked about the usual things like, "I had a couple of donuts on the way to work, and some pizza, and ice cream when I got home."

But, out-of-the-blue, this hurting mother stood and said, "I told my teenage daughter this morning I didn't want anything more to do with her, and I wanted her out of the house."

The CREATION Health trainer encouraged her to share more of her story, then prayed for healing in their relationship.

During the next few weeks, the mother practiced the CREATION Health principles of making better choices, being optimistic, trusting God's leading, and ways of strengthening interpersonal relationships. Her relationship with her daughter improved. By the end of the CREATION Health seminar, everyone was thrilled to see them sitting happily side-by-side at the meetings. Their relationship had been restored by the marvelous grace of God, and His principles of total person wholeness.

Several years ago, Florida Hospital developed a new understanding and approach to the Seventh-day Adventist health message. After reading and re-reading the Genesis account of Creation, and after spending many hours considering God's plans for health,

Florida Hospital chose to use CREATION Health as an easy-to-remember acronym for full health. The letters of the acronym stand for:

- C - Choice
- R - Rest
- E - Environment
- A - Activity
- T- Trust
- I- Interpersonal Relationships
- O- Outlook
- N- Nutrition.

CREATION Health is a philosophy for creating whole person health by extending Christ's healing grace. It is a lifestyle where we strive to prevent illness, and live to create good health by making the following principles a part of our lives: making the better choice in the moment of decision, experiencing rejuvenating rest, enjoying an environment that soothes our spirit, remaining active physically and mentally throughout our lifetime, trusting and relying upon God, celebrating our interpersonal relationships, living with an optimistic outlook, and savoring wholesome nutrition that replenishes the body with energy and strength.

This philosophy is practiced and embraced throughout Florida Hospital. Every Monday morning during new employee orientation, two questions are asked: "How many of you want to work to manage disease only?" The second question is, "How many of you want to work to *create* health?" The response is unanimous: *everyone* wants to work toward creating health.

As we live these eight original principles of total person wellness given to us by the Creator, we can experience God's restoration physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

With this biblical model of whole person wellness, an amazing work can be done. Imagine the joy of seeing lives changed — of people welcomed into the Family of God — as they enjoy lasting happiness and longer life through CREATION Health.

In November 2008, the CREATION Health seminar was presented to a group of pastors in Orlando during a two-day "train the trainer" event. One pastor told the group that he had finally found what he had been looking for to take the health message to his community. Another pastor shared his intentions of introducing CREATION Health to his local ministerial association and the mayor. Derek Morris, D. Min., senior pastor of Forest Lake Church, said, "CREATION Health has made a tremendous impact as part of the health ministries of our church and has also changed my life! We plan to continue an ongoing CREATION Health seminar at Forest Lake Church."

We have been commissioned to restore hearts, minds, and souls and to help people experience the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10 — because God wants people to be healthy, happy, and well.

Let us continue working together in an all-out effort to bring health, healing, and hope to people. Let us introduce them to a caring Heavenly Father so that they will fall in love with Him and want to be with Him forever. That's CREATION Health.

To learn more about this transformational lifestyle seminar and how it can be used in your church or small group, please visit www.CREATION-health.com or send an email to Lynell.LaMountain@flbosp.org.

Princesas de Dios

El fin de semana del 15-17 de agosto se llevó a cabo el retiro de damas que contó con una asistencia de 200 hermanas. Los temas presentados fueron de utilidad para los desafíos que las mujeres deben enfrentar en forma cotidiana.

Se contó con la presencia de Yasmín Padilla, sicóloga reconocida en la zona de Greenville, SC, y otros estados en los que presenta seminarios de ayuda para la comunidad latina. En esta ocasión tuvo a su cargo temas como la autoestima, el abuso en todas sus formas, el rol de la mujer en el hogar, etc.

Babette Crofford, secretaria del presidente de la asociación, tuvo una

interesante presentación en la que mostró la forma de llevar una Biblia más liviana en la cartera y a la vez hacer que su lectura sea más ágil, separándola en cuatro partes.

La música fue inspiradora y estuvo a cargo del grupo Beloved.

El sábado por la noche, Dione Young de la iglesia University, enseñó a hacer arreglos florales para la iglesia, además de otras manualidades.

La presencia de Dios reinó en todo el evento, y las hermanas se mostraron agradecidas por las bendiciones recibidas durante el fin de semana.

—MARY ROMERO, ASISTENTE ADMINISTRATIVA DEL COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Docientas Almas

La iglesia de Mount Olive, NC, cuenta con 278 miembros. Hace muy poco tiempo completó la construcción de su templo, con capacidad para reunir a 485 personas. La hermandad está agradecida a Dios por la bendición de haberles provisto un lugar de reunión, y desean compartir Su amor con quienes los rodean. Con este fin se organizaron en grupos pequeños proponiéndose traer 200 almas al Señor, en un período que concluirá en junio del 2009. Están trabajando incansablemente en la persecución de esta meta, y Dios se está manifestando en su medio.

—PASTOR ELÍAS SANDOVAL, DISTRITO DE GREENVILLE, NC



Florida Noticias

Campaña Televisiva “Queremos ver a Jesús”

Las iglesias hispanas de Florida se unieron en un esfuerzo evangélico de cosecha, que tuvo lugar del 1-8 de noviembre, y llevó como título “Queremos ver a Jesús.” El mismo se transmitió en el edificio histórico de la Iglesia Central de Miami, primera congregación adventista hispana

de Florida. La compañía productora fue Crystal Clear Media Productions, propiedad de David López, miembro de la iglesia de Hialeah. Se contó con la colaboración de jóvenes del área de Miami que trabajaron en la producción y transmisión. La música fue interpretada por miembros de las iglesias

locales.

Este evento fue sólo una de las etapas de un proceso mayor. Temprano en el año se organizaron nuevos grupos pequeños integrales, y se confirmaron los ya existentes. Estas células no sólo tienen el propósito de brindar estudios bíblicos; también buscan llevar a la

comunidad el compañerismo cristiano, la oración, el estudio de la Biblia y la misión de Jesús, que constituyen gran parte de la esencia de la iglesia.

En agosto se organizó una serie de reuniones evangélicas en 500 grupos celulares. Como material de estudio se utilizó el curso

“Es tiempo de ver a Jesús.” Esta etapa culminó con cientos de gra-

duaciones en las iglesias, que coincidieron con el inicio de la campaña de cosecha. Durante la semana en que este esfuerzo tuvo lugar, se llevaron a cabo las elecciones presidenciales, pero estas no constituyeron un problema ya que las iglesias continuaron su tarea con entusiasmo. En la población de Immokalee, un hermano lavó el costado de un camión que estacionó en su propiedad, y desde allí proyectó la señal con una asistencia de 30 visitas.

El orador de la semana, Rolando de los Ríos, evangelista de la asociación y ora-

dor del programa de radio Revelación que se transmite en ocho emisoras del estado, presentó mensajes inspiradores, invitando a los participantes a fijar la mirada de fe en Jesús. El pastor de los Ríos sintió el apoyo de las iglesias quienes tuvieron días de ayuno y oración para pedir la presencia de Dios en este evento.

El programa fue transmitido por Esperanza TV y 3ABN que hicieron que el alcance traspasara las fronteras de Florida. En Francia, una fa-



Pastor Rolando de los Ríos durante la campaña de cosecha transmitida por Esperanza TV y 3ABN.

milia se reunía a las 2:00 de la mañana para ver la transmisión. También en Guatemala y otros países, familias completas se congregaban

para escuchar los mensajes.

El resultado de la totalidad de este esfuerzo evangélico desde sus comienzos hasta su culminación en la campaña de cosecha, fue 480 bautismos, e iglesias cargadas del poder que proporciona el trabajar para la ganancia de almas.

—IRMA GÓMEZ,
ASISTENTE ADMINISTRATIVA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Gulf States Noticias

Horas Extra Para Jesús

Inspirados en las consejos de Elena de White se decidió hacer de la actividad misionera un estilo de vida. Cada persona emplea su talento para la ganancia de almas en el lugar en que se encuentra. Quien no posee la habilidad de dar estudios bíblicos, pero tiene la capacidad de socializarse con facilidad, buscará amigos y los acompañará mientras otra persona les enseña la Biblia. Este es sólo un ejemplo de las tantas formas en las que se puede llevar almas a los pies de Jesús.

Por muchos meses se estuvo orando por nombres de amigos y familiares a los que se desea traer a Cristo. Ahora el plan es hacer una

hora extra de trabajo misionero a diario, dando un estudio bíblico. La idea es “20 estudios por persona en 20 días.” El plan se presentó en la iglesia de Hattiesburg a principios de noviembre, y una semana más tarde en Laurel. Ambas congregaciones recibieron este plan con entusiasmo. La hermandad se reúne todos los días antes de comenzar sus actividades, a las cuatro de la mañana, para orar por el Espíritu Santo, sabiendo que Dios está deseoso de derramarlo a quienes lo piden.

En la iglesia de Laurel tanto el anciano como el director misionero, el director de jóvenes con sus grupos pequeños y todos los lí-

deres, transmitieron un gran entusiasmo a la iglesia, y casi en su totalidad, los hermanos se comprometieron el sábado con este desafío. Estos líderes y otros más, trabajaban en Howard Industrial. El lunes, al presentarse a sus tareas, fueron detenidos por inmigraciones, y ellos junto a sus familias, fueron deportados a sus países de origen. Esto fue un golpe muy fuerte para la iglesia ya que un grupo grande de la gente restante, decidió regresar a sus países por temor a una situación similar, y esta congregación de 100 miembros, fue reducida a la mitad; pero el Espíritu Santo había descendido para quedarse. Se eligieron nuevos

líderes, estos organizaron una semana de capacitación para dar estudios bíblicos, y la iglesia con un fervor renovado, se abocó al plan sin desanimarse por los eventos.

El pastor de distrito, Nilton García dijo: “En diciembre empezaremos las campañas de cosecha en cada iglesia, y esperamos sobrepasar los 100 bautismos en el 2008.”

Se están dando más de 100 estudios bíblicos. El plan se está presentando también en Jackson, y no tenemos dudas de que allí el Espíritu hará también su trabajo.

—SARITA GARCÍA, DISTRITO MISSISSIPPI SUR

Campaña en la Iglesia Metropolitana

Con una asistencia promedio de 1,000 personas, se llevó a cabo en la iglesia Metropolitana de Atlanta, GA, una campaña de evangelismo a cargo del pastor Alejandro Bullón. A su terminación, más de 20 personas se unieron a la iglesia profesando su entrega a Dios por medio del bautismo. Durante este evento, se organizó también un programa de evangelismo infantil que congregó

alrededor de 100 niños por noche.

—PASTOR NEFTALY ORTIZ, COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Pastor Alejandro Bullón y vista parcial de la asistencia.

Inauguraciones

Las compañías de Cornelia y Athens, experimentaron la bendición de adquirir un templo y un edificio respectivamente. En este último, los miembros de Athens hicieron



Vista del frente del templo de Cornelia.

un excelente trabajo de remodelación, y compartieron hermosas experiencias durante la ceremonia de inauguración. Ambas congregaciones agraden a Dios por haberles dado el poder para alcanzar sus metas.

Iglesia de August

El pastor Jorge Quintana con el apoyo de los pastores B.J.Boles, Humberto Rosales, y la iglesia de habla inglesa de August, GA, dirigió su primera campaña evangélica, que culminó con tres bautismos. Dichos bautismos representaron el primer fruto del proyecto de plantar una nueva iglesia.

Kentucky-Tennessee Noticias

Evangelismo en Memphis, TN

Gran gozo hubo en el distrito de Memphis, TN, con el bautismo de 25 almas al culminar un esfuerzo evangélico llevado a cabo por los pastores Ismael Hernández, Mario Monzón y Pedro Rascan. La iglesia de Memphis también tuvo su propia campaña a cargo del pastor Rubén Bullón, con un resultado de 9 bautismos. Ambas congregaciones

agradecen a Dios por haberles dado el poder para alcanzar sus metas.

—PASTOR ARMANDO DE LEÓN, COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Ministerio Infantil

Treinta almas fueron bautizadas en el programa especial del día del niño. El ministerio infantil promueve a niños predicadores. Tal es el caso de Dilan Reyes, quien tuvo la meditación para los maestros que asistieron al entrenamiento pretrimestral de divisiones infantiles. La idea es que desde pequeños disfruten del gozo de servir a Dios.

—VANESA NOGUERA, IGLESIA DE LEXINGTON

Semana de oración

“Prueba con Jesús” fue el título general de la semana de oración presentada por las hermanas de la iglesia hispana de Lexington con el objetivo de fortalecer espiritualmente a las damas de la iglesia.

—VANESA NOGUERA, IGLESIA DE LEXINGTON

Campamento Familiar del Distrito Central de Carolina del Norte

Seis personas dieron testimonio público de su decisión de seguir a Cristo por medio del bautismo que se celebró en las playas de Myrtle Beach, SC, en el campamento anual del distrito central de Carolina del Norte. Este campamento fue organizado por la hermana Lucero Reyes con la colaboración de líderes de las diferentes congregaciones del distrito que incluye las iglesias de Emanuel, Redención, Gastonia, Concord, Maranatha, Rock Hill, Monroe, Marshville, Pageland, y opera bajo la dirección del Pastor Juan Reyes.

Durante este fin de semana se tuvo la oportunidad de disfrutar las obras de Dios en la naturaleza ya que el campamento se realizó en las instalaciones del parque de la ciudad de Myrtle Beach y todos los asistentes se alojaron en carpas. El terreno estaba dividido en lotes, y cada lote tenía una carpa. A la hora de comer, los integrantes de cada carpa preparaban su comida en su lote correspondiente. Fue una interesante experiencia de camaradería.

El pastor Perilla, procedente de Bogotá, Colombia, fue el predicador

invitado, y el pastor Efraín Poloche ofició la ceremonia bautismal.

—HERNÁN ZUNIGA, DISTRITO CENTRAL DE CAROLINA DEL NORTE



Pastor Poloche oficiando la ceremonia bautismal.

Southeastern Noticias

Compañía Brasileira

Cinco personas se unieron al pueblo de Dios el sábado 25 de octubre en la Comunidad Brasileira. Este grupo se organizó como compañía el sábado 26 de julio del presente año. Trabajan con entusiasmo para alcanzar a otros con el con el mensaje re-

dentor de Cristo. El pastor Rui Estefan realizó un cuidadoso trabajo de siembra, y los resultados se vieron a la terminación de la campaña que tuvo lugar desde el 22 al 25 de octubre.

—PASTOR ROGER ALVAREZ, COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Hermanos bautizados luego de la campaña dirigida por el pastor Roger Alvarez

Génesis Extiende su Mano

Bajo la dirección de la hermana Carmen Toledo, ex directora de ADRA en Puerto Rico, se inauguró el departamento de servicio a la comunidad con una demostración práctica del espíritu que mueve los engranajes de este ministerio, que es alcanzar a aquellos que buscan esperanza, y

aliviar sus necesidades.
—DANIEL OLACIREGUI, PASTOR DE LA IGLESIA GÉNESIS



Ceremonia de inauguración del ministerio de servicios comunitarios.

Obituaries

BARFIELD, Leona M., 93, born Oct. 4, 1914 in Allendale, MI, died July 14, 2008 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for three years. A private service was conducted by Frank Sheffield.

BOWEN DRAWDY, Myrle, E., 81, born Oct. 26, 1926 in Winter Haven, FL, died Aug. 12, 2008 in Winter Haven, FL. She was a member of the Winter Haven Church for 57 years. She is survived by one daughter, Brenda Duggar of Winter Haven; one brother, Gilbert Bowen from Haines City, FL; three sisters: Elisabeth McDonald from Sylvester, GA, Ernestine Eisenbise and Arlene Sheeford from Winter Haven; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Herman; one son, Barry; and one daughter, Annette. The service was conducted at the Oak Ridge Funeral Care, Winter Haven, by Pastors Walter Maier and Robert Beck. Interment was at Rolling Hills Cemetery, Winter Haven.

BROWN, Elder Everett Ray, 85, born Nov. 11, 1922, died July 29, 2008. He was a retired ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, serving most of his adult life either as a pastor or literature evangelist. He was a literature evangelist to the Amish people in Fort Wayne, IN. The Browns and the Gearys conducted evangelistic campaigns in Kokomo, IN. Pastoral service also included Nashville and Madison, TN. He and his wife served in denominational work for more than 40 years; sacrificing to give all of their boys a Christian education, which they totally believed in. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marguerite; five sons: David (Pam), Michael (Jane), Stephen, Joel (Eyvonne), Timothy (Montine); 11 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; three sisters; and one brother. He was a member of the Pikeville, TN, Church.

BROWN, Raymond C., 84, born June 28, 1924 in Vineland, NJ, died Aug. 12, 2008 in Chattanooga, TN. He was a member of the McDonald Road Church in Tennessee. He served his country during World War II in Europe as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Later he designed and organized the building of the first freestanding Church school in the New Jersey Conference. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Melissa Faith Brown. He is survived by his wife Alice E. Brown; two brothers: V. Clifford Brown of Florida, and Ted Brown of California; two sisters: Louise Mullen and Audrey Sypniewski of New Jersey; two sons: Raymond C. Brown Jr. of Lodi, CA, Christopher H. Brown of Ooltewah, TN; two daughters: Lauri B. Brown of Burtonsville, MD, Heidi Orndorff of St. Albans, VT; and three grandchildren.

CAUDILL, James Leon Jr., 50, born Nov. 19, 1957 in Huntsville, AL, died Sept. 6, 2008 in Meridian, MS. He was a member of the Community Church in Meridian. He is survived by his father, James Caudill; his mother, Billie Rachel Caudill; one sister, Rachel Williams; and two brothers: John Caudill and Leland Caudill.

CORBAN, Annie Mae Smith, 88, born Sept. 28, 1919 in Lucien, MS, died April 26, 2008 in Jackson, MS. She was a member of the Jackson College Drive Church. She served as a literature evangelist for 27 years. She was the first woman literature evangelist in the Gulf States Conference to receive a trophy for her outstanding selling achievements and dedication. She received recognition for her work every year for 27 years. She is survived by one son, Melvin Corban and his wife, Michele Corban; one daughter, Linda Corban; two brothers: Albert A. Smith and Richard Smith; one sister, Dora Nell Fisher; and three grandchildren; Stacie Glenn, Kimberly Neely, and Jonathan Evans.

CRAGO, Lucy Hendrick, 95, born Nov. 6, 1912 in Ionia, MI, died Sept. 6, 2008 in Collegedale, TN. She

was married to Noah Crago from Sept. 12, 1935 until his death in December 1985. She is survived by two sons: Rollin (Nancy) Crago of White City, OR, and James Crago of Pear Blossom, CA; one daughter Lorella (Larry) Howard of Ooltewah, TN; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. She had also been a member of the Mt. Vernon, OH, Church for more than 50 years before she moved to Tennessee in 1996.

CULPEPPER, Menveal Elton, 90, born Dec. 30, 1917 in Union Grove, AL, died March 7, 2008 in Huntsville, AL. He was a member of the Huntsville First Church. He was a World War II veteran. After joining the Adventist church in Nashville, TN, he used his salesmanship skills in the colporteur work. He served as publishing director for the Kentucky-Tennessee and Florida conferences; and associate publishing director for the Southern Union. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris; and all his siblings. He is survived by one daughter, Carole Rutter; one son, Ronald Culpepper; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

DARROW, Juanita Reynolds, 93, died Sept. 23, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest; three sisters; and three brothers. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law: Dr. Marjorie and Elder Leroy Bass of Washington Island, WI, and Mary Lou and Dr. Ronald Turk of Greeneville, TN; one son and daughter-in-law, Ernest and Helen Darrow of Taunton, ME; and nine grandchildren and their spouses. She was a member of the Greeneville, TN, Church.

DYER, Tamika, 31, born March 30, 1977, died July 24, 2008. She was a member of the Valdosta, GA, Church. She enjoyed reading her Bible, attending church, and most of all helping and encouraging others. She is survived by her mother, Debra Dyer; grandmother, Ester Dyer; and two sisters: Vinshean (Darren) Flemming and Ambral Dyer; uncles; aunts; and a special nephew, Zackary Williams II; all of Valdosta.

DYER, Debra, 49, born April 23, 1959 in Los Angeles, CA, died Oct. 26, 2008. She rededicated her life to Christ in the spring of 2008. She was a member of the Valdosta, GA, Church. She was preceded in death by her father, Clyde Dyer Sr.; brother, Bobby Dyer, and daughter, Tamika Dyer. She is survived by her mother, Ester Dyer; two daughters: Vinshean (Darren) Flemming, and Ambral Dyer; a special grandson, Zachary Williams II; one brother, Clyde (Marian) Dyer; and one sister, Doris (Bernard) Shiver-Shanks EULER, Elder Lyle George, 82, died Sept. 24, 2008. He was a retired pastor, teacher, and famed poet. He is survived by his wife, Esther Euler; one son, Dr. Gary Euler of Atlanta, GA; one daughter, Brenda Euler of Orlando, FL; two stepdaughters: Susan Parrish of Portland, TN, and Robin Bair of Moses Lake, WA; one stepson: Dr. William Hamilton of Calhoun, GA; and 14 grandchildren, whom he loved to beat in a game of ping pong. He was a member of the Greeneville, TN, Church.

GREENE, Marilyn A., 60, born Feb. 11, 1947 in LaCombe, AB, Canada, died Nov. 4, 2007 in Big Pine Key, FL. She was a member of the Marathon, FL, Church for one year. She is survived by her husband, Tyrone; one son, André; one daughter, Krystal of Big Pine Key, FL; and one brother, Donovan Stickle of Auburn, WA. The service was conducted at Marathon Church by Pastor Merlin Kretschmar.

GRIESSER, Patricia, 50, born Sept. 26, 1957, died Aug. 20, 2008 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Meridian Community Church. She is a survivor by one son, Morgan Griesser; and one daughter, Ede Johnson.

HANNA, Paula Starkey, 54, born Jan. 25, 1954 in Reedsburg, WI, died Aug. 21, 2008. She was a long-time member of the Boulevard Church in Madison, TN.

HARTWELL, Thelma Lorraine, 92, born July 2, 1916 in Jacksonville, FL, died July 13, 2008 in Chattanooga, TN. She was a registered nurse, a resident of Avon Park, FL, since 1951, a member of the Walker Memorial Church, and an artist. She also held membership with the Avon Park Women's Club, the Martin Severance Chapter, and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Donald C. Hartwell. She is survived her twin sister, Ella May Thomson Sorenson, formerly of Avon Park, FL; two daughters: Frances Robertson of Collegedale, TN, and Kay Carmicino of Pasadena, CA; one son, Ray Hartwell of Mohrsville, PA; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Interment is at Lakeview Memorial Gardens in Sebring, FL.

HOLVERSTOTT, Charles H., 91, born Nov. 1, 1916 in Dubuque, IA, and died July 31, 2008 in Dayton, TN. He was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. He had worked for Georgia-Cumberland Conference, Southern Missionary College, many self-supporting schools and sanitariums, as well as a helper in building the Canvasback Mission boat. He is survived by his wife, Grace Turner Holverstott; two daughters: Rose Marie Coolidge of Altamont Springs, FL, and Avalon Kraft of Anchorage, AK; and son, Charles M. Holverstott of Birmingham, AL. He was a member of the Ellijay, GA, Church.

JONES, Katherine Gregory, 82, born Nov. 8, 1925 in Union, SC, died June 24, 2008. She was a member of Union Church. She was predeceased by two children: Patricia Heaton and Coy Franklin Jones; and one sister, Betty Pridemore. She is survived by one daughter, Brenda Jones; two sisters: Janelle Bagwell and Carol King; three brothers: Edwin Gregory, Francis Gregory, and Dennis Gregory; eight grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great grandchildren.

KOSERUBA, Dr. George M., 94, born April 6, 1913 in Borden, Saskatchewan, Canada, died Dec. 23, 2007 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where he had practiced medicine in Wilmington, NC, as a pediatrician, for more than 66 years. He was a graduate of Loma Linda University Medical School in Loma Linda, CA. He spent his entire adult life in pediatrics, caring for infants and children of eastern North and South Carolina. He was a life-long member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Rotary International. He received awards from the city of Wilmington and other organizations for his service to the children in Wilmington. "Dr. K." as most people called him, always had a song on his lips, or was whistling. He walked with a bounce in his step that even a child couldn't duplicate, and gave hugs freely to all he greeted. He considered every young person as one of his own. His memory and the many lives that he touched are a continuing testament of a man who was truly a servant of the Lord. He was predeceased by his first wife Bonnie Carey Sullivan; his brother, Nicholas H. Koseruba; his twin sister, Vera Johnson; and sisters: Marguerite Hillard and Sarah Heinrichs. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two sons: Michael and David Koseruba; two step-children: Linda Fipps and James Casteen; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

CORRECTION: The birth date for Mary Cotton was incorrectly stated in the October '08 *Southern Tidings*. It should have been Sept. 2, 1926 rather than Feb. 2, 1926.

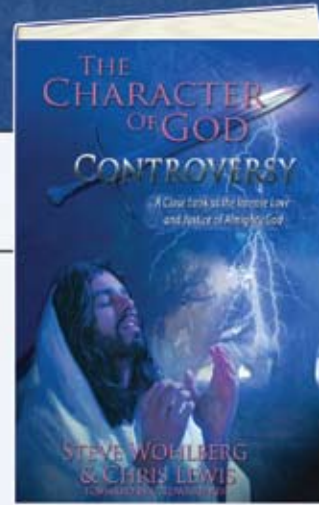
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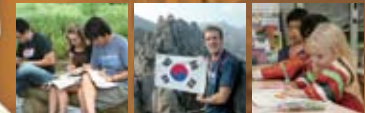


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SAVE 25% January 1-31, 2009! ABC Book of the Month: *The Apocalyptic Vision and the Neutering of Adventism*, by George Knight. Rediscover the only reasons for the Adventist Church to exist. Regularly \$10.99, SALE \$8.24. Available at your ABC, at www.adventistbookcenter.com, or by calling 1-800-765-6955. [1]

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CRUISE ALASKA. Seven-day southbound glacier route on Carnival's Spirit. Cruise will be hosted by Missions of Love, Inc., a non-profit corporation raising scholarship monies for Christian Education. Gospel vocal group "Except For Grace" will be in concert. For brochure, call Al Ferry, 661-889-0191 or e-mail al@missionsoflove.com. [1]

2009 NATURAL REMEDIES AND HYDROTHERAPY WORKSHOP

– Andrews University Seminary is offering its popular 6-day workshop, August 2-7. Includes university faculty, Dr. Agatha Thrash and Dr. Don Miller/Uchee Pines Institute; Dr. David DeRose/Compass Health; and Evelyn Kissinger, MS, RD, Director, Nutritionist/Lifestyle Matters, Michigan Conference. Info: www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw, fran@andrews.edu, 269-471-3541. [1]

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

at Wildwood Health Retreat. A 28 day live-in program focusing on lifestyle change to achieve permanent weight loss. A structured program emphasizing healthful living through health education, regular exercise, vegetarian diet, menu planning, cooking instruction, and spiritual health. Cost: \$2,795. Programs begin January 19 and February 16, 2009. For more information contact Darlene: 931-724-6706. [1]

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Member. For more information call: 323-321-2585 or email laaahomecoming@aol.com. [12]

MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION in Atlanta, June 23-July 3.

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Pathfinder Council – Jan. 9, 10. NPR.
Women's Ministries Mini-Retreat – Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Myrtle Beach
Lay Pastoral Assistant Training – Feb. 6-8. NPR.
Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 13-15. NPR.
Men's White Water Rafting Trip – Feb. 20, 21.
Communication Workshop – Feb. 22. Conference Office.
Glad Tidings Retreat – Feb. 26-28. NPR.

Florida

Complete calendar online – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>
Prayer and Mission Conference – Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Registration forms: Florida Conference churches or 386-454-1351.
Youth Ministries Convention – Feb. 6, 7. Sheraton Orlando–Downtown. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.
Women's Ministries Retreats – Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: sheryal.vandenbergh@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x134. Registration: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351.
 Feb. 6-8. English-language. Speaker: Heather-Dawn Small.
 Feb. 13-15. English-language. Speaker: Rose Otis.
 Feb. 20-22. Spanish-language. Speaker: Sara Bullón.
 Feb. 27-March 1. English-language. Speaker: Ardis Stenbakken.
French/Hatian Men's Ministries Convention – Feb. 7. Woodland Middle School. Details: blevielle@comcast.net or 561-352-8351.
Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: 800-765-6955. Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
 Feb. 7. Jacksonville Southpoint.
 Feb. 8. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
 Feb. 21. Naples.

Feb. 22. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Winter Haven.
 Feb. 28. Sunrise.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com
Kids in Discipleship Training Jan. 9-12. Collegedale, TN.
 Feb. 22-25. Collegedale, TN.
Elders' Certification – Jan. 23-25. Cohutta Springs.
High School Retreat – Feb. 6-8. Cohutta Springs.
Women's Conference – Feb. 21. Atlanta, GA.
Prayer Conference – Feb. 21, 22. Cohutta Springs.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online – www.gscsda.org
ShareHim Training – Jan. 9-11. University Parkway Church, Pensacola, FL.
Pathfinder Council Meeting – Jan. 9-11. Camp Alamisco.
Winter Pastors' Meeting – Jan. 11-14. Camp Alamisco.
Teachers' Inservice – Jan. 14-16. Camp Alamisco.
Teen Caving Invitational – Jan. 23-25.
Conference Executive Committee Teleconference – Jan. 28.
Opelika Church Grand Opening Workshop – Feb. 6-8. Camp Alamisco.
Education Fair – Feb. 8, 9. Bass Memorial Academy.
Singles' Retreat – Feb. 12-14.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board March 17. May 12. July 21.
Conference Executive Committee March 17. May 12. July 21.
Disaster Response Training – Feb. 27-March 1. Indian Creek Camp.
Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 6, 7. Prestonsburg, KY.
West Tennessee Festival of Faith – March 14. Memphis, TN.
Soul Impact Prayer Conference – April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.
Pastors/Elders Conference – April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.
Camp Meeting – May 22-30. Highland Academy.

Southern Adventist University

Classes Begin – Jan. 5.
PreviewSouthern – Jan. 22, 23.
Symphony Concert – Jan. 25.
Student Week of Prayer – Jan. 26-30.

Announcements

NAD Prayer Conference Pre-convention – Jan. 16-18. Myrtle Beach, SC. Details: 800-732-7587.

AHS Sunbelt Retired CEO Reunion – Jan. 23, 24. Avon Park, FL. Details: Bill Sager, 863-452-2593, email: wcsager@tnni.net or Tom Amos, 863-452-1979, email: damos@gmail.com or Jim Culpepper, 615-654-3311.

Health Summit Orlando will be bigger than ever – Several new seminars will be offered. Learn how to make a difference in your church, community, and home. Attend NAD Health Summit Jan. 30-Feb. 7. Featured speakers: Jose Rojas and Samuel DeShay. A special "Festival of Health" evening program will feature Pastor Derek Morris and a health expert speaking each evening. Obtain certification in three workshops of your choice. Early bird deadline is: Jan. 5. To register, call 1-800-732-7587, or visit www.nadhealthsummit.com. If you need brochures, call the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office at 1-800-567-1844, x338.

Union College Homecoming – April 2-5. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1954, 1959,

1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, and 1999. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Enterprise Academy Alumni Association 90th Anniversary All School Homecoming – April 10, 11. On the campus of Great Plains Academy, in Enterprise, Kansas. ALL alumni are invited to attend. Details: <http://www.alumni2009.org> or call Darcy Force, 785-263-8211.

La Sierra Academy '09 Alumni Weekend – April 24-Golf Tournament, April 25-Alumni Sabbath. Honor classes: '49, '59, '69, '79, '89, '99, '04. Keynote speaker: Lewis Walton. Come celebrate friends and memories on LSA Campus. Details: 951-351-1445 x 244 or Isak12.com to update personal information, find missing class members, and share news and class reunion gatherings. Large selection of yearbooks will be available to purchase.

Platte Valley Alumni Association Homecoming – April 25. On the Platte Valley Academy campus in Shelton, Nebraska. Details: <http://www.greatplainsacademy.org> or call Darcy Force, 785-263-8211.

Sunset

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30	Feb. 6
Atlanta, GA	5:40	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:05	6:12
Charleston, SC	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Charlotte, NC	5:22	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:55
Collegedale, TN	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:12
Huntsville, AL	4:46	4:52	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:19
Jackson, MS	5:06	5:12	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:37
Louisville, KY	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
Memphis, TN	4:59	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:32
Miami, FL	5:41	5:46	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:07
Montgomery, AL	4:51	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:15	5:22
Nashville, TN	4:43	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17
Orlando, FL	5:40	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:08
Wilmington, NC	5:13	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:45



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RICHARD O'FFILL



KEVIN JAMES



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CONFERENCE & EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION:

Register online at www.asisouthernunion.com or call Carol at 404-299-1832 x449

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