



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS



Atlanta 2010

One Little Detail

As a boy I enjoyed practicing the piano because I enjoyed pleasing and honoring my piano teachers. I had the normal desires to give in to the temptation of shortcuts, but my teachers had a way of inspiring me to greater and greater ability because of their exceptional talent of mixing high expectation with affirmation and encouragement. As I progressed to more difficult classical numbers, it became a challenge to “conquer” every aspect of the piece. It was a joy to know I had mastered what at first seemed impossible.

When I was 13 I studied with a master musician who it seemed to me could play any piece of music. But, he was a stickler for details. Every detail. One afternoon during my lesson in his upstairs apartment, he asked me to play a difficult exercise that was very fast and technically challenging. I had practiced for hours and knew it by memory. While I was playing he heard a loud knock at the door and made his way down the steps to see who was there.

My fingers were flying on the keyboard. From the stairwell he yelled back at me that on the right hand I had used my third finger instead of the called-for fourth finger. I stopped in shock, for he was right. How could he tell without looking that I had substituted the fingering? When he came back up I asked him. “Every finger on the piano has a certain weight and produces a certain tone,” he shared. His trained ear could tell a slight mix-up of fingering even though the music was so fast the average person couldn’t differentiate.

I played the section again with the correct fingering, and it flowed more smoothly. He had noticed a micro-second delay because of the substitution. His ear had detected a slightly different tone. It has stayed with me. I respected him even more. I didn’t argue with him. I was glad he was so careful about what most people would think of as minutia because my goal was to be the best that I could be. I didn’t consider it criticism; I considered it caring, for he knew that I didn’t want to be the least bit sloppy in even the most difficult assignment. He taught me that attention to details produces excellence.

Whenever I fly I always hope the pilots are fanatical about details. When someone I love has surgery, I hope the surgeon is focused on the details. When I deposit my check, I hope the bank tellers pay close attention to every detail. Why would we be tempted to resent God for helping us with the details that make us better persons? In my mind it doesn’t detract from the knowledge that I’m fully and completely saved by grace. God loves me with such intensity, He knows that it’s the little things that will make a difference in my journey. Jesus liked it when a poor saint put a few pennies in the offering plate. God notices the little kindnesses and the desires we have to know His Word, not just generally, but specifically. The seventh day is a significant detail. Regular exercise is a life-enhancing detail. Beginning the day listening to God is a soul-filling detail.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Building *Momentum* for Atlanta 2010

BY REBECCA BROOKS

In preparation for the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences have been working together to share Jesus with the people of Atlanta.

Churches seem to be taking one of two routes – or both – in Atlanta. One route is to have one or a few people share with masses of people through public evangelism. The other route is to have masses of people each share with just a couple of friends, neighbors, or co-workers through friendship evangelism.



DAVE KETELSEN

Approximately 88 people participated in a recent 5K run hosted by the Peachtree City, Georgia, Church.



REBECCA BROOKS

Mark Finley, General Conference vice president for evangelism, talks with Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conference pastors from Atlanta on February 9 about plans for evangelism leading up to the General Conference Session.

“In all of my years as a Seventh-day Adventist, I had never given a formal Bible study to a non-Adventist. There had always been a part of me that felt I was ill-equipped,” admits Gregory Milton, a member of the Atlanta North Church. “I’ve always been told that our faith can only really grow when we are actively serving others and sharing God’s Word. I think every Christian recognizes the truth of those words. Still, despite my recognition of what I ‘ought to do,’ I have traditionally shrunk from my duty in taking an active role in Christ’s great commission.”

Here’s what made the difference for Milton: Bible Boot Camp. In an effort to help people like Milton, the Atlanta North Church began offering a program called Bible Boot Camp. It’s a class that provides a notebook full of Bible verses, articles, and lessons based on stories from the Bible.

“Our Boot Camp gave me that needed preparation ... along with some exhortation as well,” shares Milton. “With the resources laid before us, the encouragement heaped upon us, and assurances that God has prepared the way for us, I can no longer use the crutch of my former excuses in order to stay on the sidelines.”

Milton shares, “The Bible Boot Camp experience has been a blessing indeed. In fact, I am now in the middle of giving my first Bible studies. A friend with whom I had lost contact, literally almost knocked my door

down asking for them just as the Boot Camp drew to a close. I pray that God blesses our meetings together. Given the timing, it seems like a divine appointment.”

Like the Bible Boot Camp at Atlanta North Church, other churches around Atlanta are reaching out through evangelism and encouraging members to reach out to their own friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

The Peachtree City Church sponsors 5K runs and holds an annual Christmas program called “Truly Christmas,” which is intentionally held so church members can invite friends who may not have ties to the Adventist Church.

The Spanish First Church of Atlanta held a five-day series on how to control stress to reach out to the professional sector of Hispanic people in the city.

Five women at Duluth Church held a series of meetings to share the love of Christ with the community, and as a result, five people were baptized, and another four have been preparing for baptism.

Atlanta canvassers broke records for a team their size — 24 students and five leaders — this past summer, by distributing more than 20,000 health and religious books throughout the city of Atlanta and the surrounding area.

Several local Adventist churches have joined forces to serve homeless people in Atlanta, providing food, clothing, and literature at a homeless shelter each week.

The Atlanta chapter of the Adventist Muslim Fellowship Association recently held a health expo to help build a bridge between Adventists and Muslims.

And these are just a few of the outreach endeavors going on in Atlanta.

Plans are in place for Mark Finley, General Conference vice president for evangelism, to hold a four-night series in Atlanta, June 16-19, 2010 — just before the General Conference Session. The hope is that the coordinated efforts between



A Southern Adventist University student spends personal time with a young Muslim woman at a health expo held during the annual meeting of the Islamic Society of North America.

AMFA ATLANTA





Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic churches leading up to this series will result in a mass baptism following Finley's series.

The goal is for churches to simultaneously be giving Bible studies or holding evangelistic meetings, or

reaching out to those who have drifted away — then all of the people who have become interested in being baptized could come to Finley's series in Atlanta and be baptized together with thousands of others.

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, shared, "Our hope is that each church would be involved in multiple evangelistic outreaches dependent on its congregation, its vision, the needs of its community. We want to be intentional about evangelism in this year 2009, and even more so as we think about 2010. If this is going to happen in June on those four nights, something is going to have to lead up to it — and that is critical, even more so than what happens those four nights ... Only the spirit of God is going to make this something significant."

Finley shared his vision for evangelizing Atlanta, saying, "My vision for Atlanta would be that our churches work together in a coordinated effort to reach people for Christ in Atlanta. Every pastor should sense their part of a larger team: pastors are leading their members, leading people into prayer groups, getting them involved in small groups, the idea that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole, the idea that we can do something together that we can't do separately. God's vision is for one major evangelistic thrust that is part of a way of life, so God's vision is that evangelism becomes a way of life for us. And as it is that way of life for us, as we work



REBECCA BROOKS

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, encourages pastors at a planning meeting on February 9 to share the vision for evangelism in Atlanta with their church members.

together, we can see something happen that we couldn't see if we worked alone.

"We have a vision of all churches participating together," said Finley. "We see a thousand radical people praying. We see 500 to 600 lay evangelistic meetings in the spring and the fall. We see churches opening. We see thousands coming in cars and buses to Atlanta for June 16-19, 2010, before the General Conference Session. We see a great celebration that last Sabbath of at least a thousand baptized in one place."

In a joint planning meeting between Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic pastors on February 9, Mark Finley shared, "Atlanta is an amazing city. It's an educational center, a commercial center, a center of business and politics; and to think of the fact that two conferences — Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic — are focusing specifically on Atlanta to see men and women won for Jesus is, I believe, an historic event for North America. This can be a pattern of working together, a pattern of unity. It can set the tone for the North American Division."

Wright shared, "As we think about hosting the World Church in Atlanta, to me it would be natural to go on record with every delegate that comes, for them to know that North America is serious about evangelism too. It's different here, but we are as passionate about reaching lost people as anyone, anywhere else in the world."

“Evangelism means sharing that hope that is within each of us, especially as members of the Remnant Church,” said Lawrence Hamilton, South Atlantic Conference ministerial secretary. “Our Church is about reaching others, and I think all too often we’ve forgotten what the real mission is because of trying to keep up with the organizational, housekeeping kinds of things. So, we’re trying to get back to basics. We’ve always tried to do that, but 2009 is the year of emphasis.”

As Ed Wright puts it, “Evangelism is just the opportunity to do what Jesus asked us to do, and that’s to invite people who haven’t met Him yet to make a decision. I firmly believe that every member is an evangelist, just as every member is a minister. It’s a mission that we all share, not just the professionals and paid staff, not just the Mark Finleys of the world, but in fact, I might have more influence with my neighbor than Mark would. So if we can just capitalize on that reality, not just this year, but every year until Jesus comes.”

“Evangelism is not simply public evangelism; it’s letting Jesus shine through you,” said Finley. “It’s taking the hand of that man who has just been told he has cancer. It’s praying with the woman whose child has ADD (attention deficit disorder), and she’s having difficulty raising him, and she doesn’t know what to do. It’s bringing a food basket to the family that’s out of work next door. So, evangelism is sharing Jesus in every way possible through our practical lives, blessing other people, and touching them for God’s kingdom. You have to be intentional about evangelism. And, something like this vision for Atlanta for 2010 raises the profile of winning people to Jesus in their own minds, and when it raises that profile, we then are able to be more focused. I think that’s one of the great things about what we’ve done here today, and what we are continuing to do. It’s raised the profile so we can have more of an intentional focus.”

This is the “Year of Evangelism,” and in practical terms, this plan depends on every church and every church member.

Remember Gregory Milton of Atlanta North Church? He finds encouragement in the thought that “anytime someone is converted by the Word we share, it is because the Holy Spirit had already been working, and is continuing to work on that person’s heart. We really have nothing to do with it. It’s a wonderful relief in so many ways. It’s a wonderful thought that all I have to do is spread the Word before men in simplicity and truth with no alterations, contrivings, or enhancements. It’s God’s work, and, if I allow Him, I can be a simple tool in His hand.”

Do you want to help build the momentum? Try friendship evangelism in your neighborhood or workplace, find out how your church is embracing the Year of Evangelism, and look for ways to make evangelism part of your daily life so God can work through you. ✨

Rebecca Brooks is Georgia-Cumberland Conference assistant communication director.



VALERIE RILEY

“FUSION speaks the language of the unchanging and everlasting Gospel in today’s dialect,” said Chris Bullock, lead pastor of FUSION. “We are the only Adventist church of our kind within the 250 square miles that makes up Atlanta, inside the perimeter. Our prayer and vision is that we are the first of many.”



PARCHIA FLORES

The Atlanta North Church in Georgia is providing a Bible Boot Camp for its church members by training them how to give Bible studies.



DAVE KETELSEN

Close to 300 people were served last Christmas during the Peachtree City, Georgia, Church’s “Truly Christmas” community outreach program.

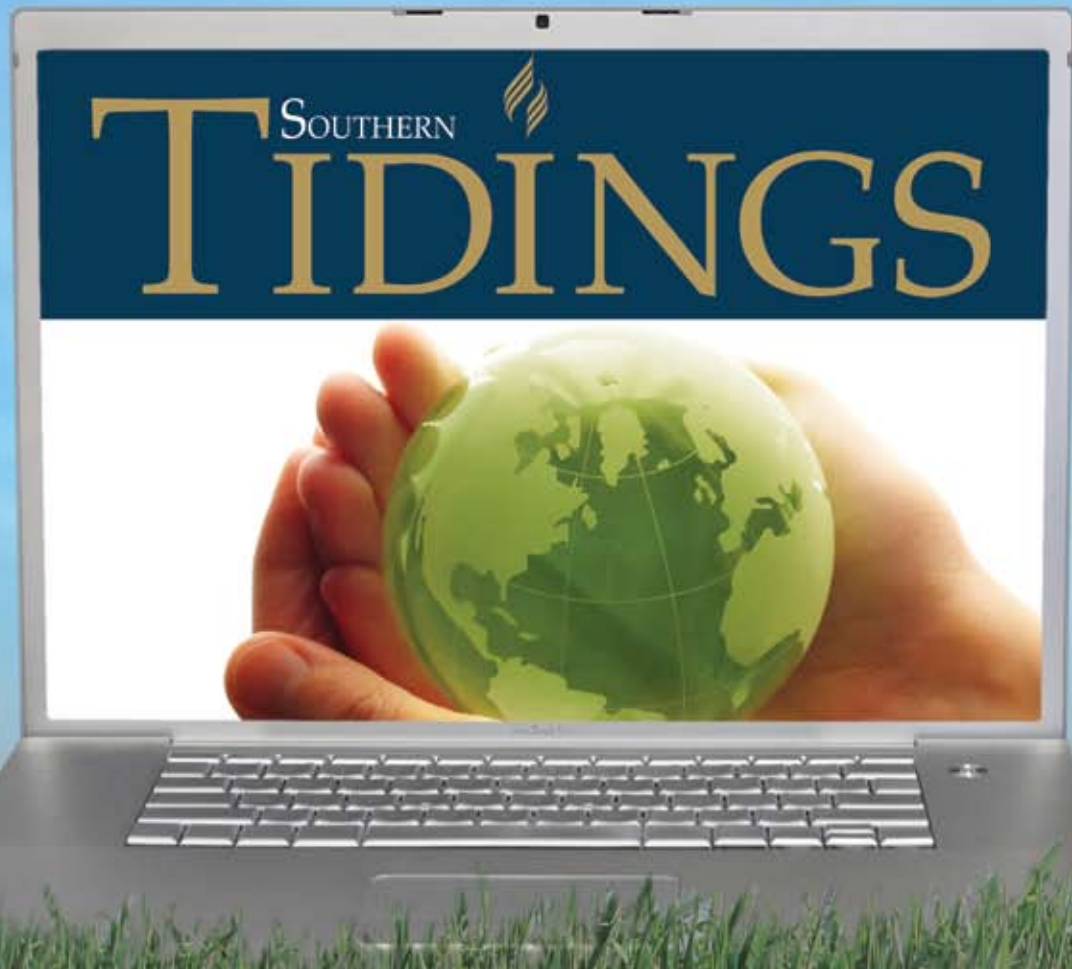


SUZANNE OCSAI

Atlanta program members celebrate how God blessed during the summer.

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20 Years of Growing In Christ



“We want to reach out to others and use our God-given talents and gifts for the furtherance of His Kingdom, both in supportive and in leadership roles,” stated Hazel Gordon, 1989 women’s ministries director, as she and her team began preparations for the first Women’s Ministries Retreat to be held in the Florida Conference.

“Twenty Years of Growing in Christ” through the women’s ministries program has brought many changes. From a modest beginning of one weekend in 1990, four weekend retreats now encompass between 1,600 and 2,000 women each year, with one weekend serving as a Hispanic Women’s Retreat. Two tracks

also run simultaneously with the main program: a teen track for ages 13-18, and a local church women’s ministries director track.

Introduced six years ago, Hope for Hurting Hearts Retreats serve as healing and educational opportunities for women who were sexually abused as children, and this year three of these retreats will be held. A retreat for victims of domestic violence will also take place this fall. “Women’s Ministries is helping to

make inroads into finding out how we can stop these things from happening and helping to heal women who have been victims of these things for years,” says Sheryal Vandenberghe, current Conference women’s ministries director.

“The goal of women’s ministries is to be a facilitator in fostering spiritual growth among women in the Florida Conference. Our objective is to involve women in discovering and utilizing their God-given gifts so that this goal may be realized,” says Pat Shanko, 1990-1999 director.

Florida Conference Women’s Ministries

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Florida Conference women's ministries directors, from left: Pat Shanko, 1990-1999; Hazel Gordon, 1989-1990; Sheryal Vandenberghe, 1999-present.

"We are intentional about making ladies feel spoiled and pampered at all of our retreats," says Vandenberghe. Recently, she joined with former directors Hazel Gordon and Pat Shanko to reminisce and share comments of women who attended retreats:

- "No one has ever gone to this much trouble for me."
- "I feel blessed that it is made so special for all of us."
- "This is the highlight of my year."
- "I look forward every year to coming, because I'm made to feel special."

Part of the success of Women's Ministries in Florida Conference has been the work of committee members who have helped directors plan retreats and other facets of the program, such as the following:

Local Level Women's Ministries — developed structure for local church programs

Women's Evangelistic Series — training for Women's Ministries 2009 project, "The Summer of Good News," to be held June-August in local churches

Charity Rose Award — recognizes women quietly doing God's Work for their families and for others

Dorothy Peters Scholarship — enables deserving women with limited incomes to attend retreats

Polly's Place for Abused Women — furnished a room at this facility



PHOTOS: LEE BENNETT

Friends at one of the four retreats in 2009 anticipate the Saturday evening banquet.



The Prayer Place is a little log chapel built at Camp Kulaqua by women of the Florida Conference for "people who come to this place of peace." Women raised a total of \$25,000 during a five-year period, one dollar at a time. The Prayer Place was dedicated with much joy and thanksgiving on February 3, 2007. ❖



Mentoring Little Disciples for Jesus

BY JOEL HENDERSON

According to statistics, when children are 13 years old they have formed their spiritual identity. In Malachi 4:6, God promises, “He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...”

“We are living in difficult times. Families are under attack. Satan has a plan to steal the hearts of our children. It is time to intentionally disciple them to stand tall for Jesus in this final era of Earth’s history,” states Don MacLafferty, director, Kids In Discipleship (K.I.D.) Ministry Center.

K.I.D. School, an outgrowth of the Kids In Discipleship ministry, brings intentional discipleship into the class rooms of Seventh-day Adventist Schools.

“Learning the steps to share my own personal relationship with Jesus with students was empowering. I recommend this training for every parent, teacher, and pastor in the Southern Union, as we endeavor to help each young person build a relationship with the Lord,” says Cynthia Gettys, Georgia-Cumberland Conference vice president for education.

While this ministry may appear to target children, in reality it strengthens whole families, which, in turn, have an energizing influence on entire congregations, schools and communities. “This comprehensive, hands-on training methodology

instills several of the core learning fundamentals from our Kids In Discipleship evangelistic approach, and applies them in a much different context — our school system,” states MacLafferty. At K.I.D. School, teachers, pastors, and parents learn how to work as teams to disciple the children in Adventist Church schools. In addition, it equips teachers to be secondary spiritual mentors. K.I.D. School encourages partnership between elementary school teachers and volunteer classroom chaplains. Young disciples are provided with opportunities to use their talents by sharing Jesus’ love in the classroom, at home, and in their neighborhood.

The K.I.D. School training curriculum incorporates a three-part sequence:

- To build a personal discipleship experience;
- To learn methods to disciple children in the context of the Church school;



Participants work together during a K.I.D. School training event.



K.I.D. School spiritually strengthens the entire family.

- To identify practical ways for teachers, pastors, and parents to collaborate in the discipleship of school children.

Several K.I.D. School training events have already been planned for 2009 across the North American Division, as well as at K.I.D. Ministry Center world headquarters at Collegedale Church. For more information, visit www.kidsindiscipleship.org or call 423-893-3266.

Kids In Discipleship in Collegedale, Tennessee, seeks to train parents to disciple their children for Jesus. Founded in 2002, K.I.D. seeks to teach children to be faithful, fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ. More than 300 churches have been trained, and of that number 26 are in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. ☞

Get Fit at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp

BY REBECCA BROOKS

For the first time Cohutta Springs Youth Camp (CSYC) is offering Fit for Life — a camp that helps young people lead healthier, spiritually-strengthened lives.

Fit For Life

Fit for Life Camp is a new three-week program designed to promote health and fitness. Each morning, campers will learn how foods affect their body, how regular exercise can change their life, and how to reach the goals they set. In the afternoons, they will enjoy the regular camp activity rotations.

“We want the young people that are in this three-week program to leave as experts on how to manage diet and exercise,” says Cohutta Springs Youth Camp director Rob Lang. “They will set achievable goals, have exercise routines to follow, and quarterly fitness events to anticipate, which will help keep them motivated to stay ‘Fit for Life.’”



Fit for Life is a new camp at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Georgia. This new program promotes health and fitness.

Lang says the idea of a Fit for Life Camp has been a growing conviction for him during the past two years. “With childhood obesity now affecting one in three children in our country and our Church having such a great health message, it seems so natural and long overdue

for such a camp to exist,” he says. However, this camp is not only meant to help with obesity, but to encompass a broader spectrum. “The truth is there are many thinner kids who are unhealthy in their practices of diet, exercise, and

wellness, too. We want Fit for Life to become a program that orients young people to healthful living and starts a health culture movement that can grow.”

“If they can get on the right track and develop healthy habits when they are young, then they will not be one of the unfortunate statistics the media is referring to,” says Lang. “I hope that many young people will want to be part of the Fit for Life movement, and someday

be wearing CSYC Fit for Life t-shirts proudly all around our Conference. I hope the energy these young people put into health and well-being will encourage their families to make lifestyle adjustments to bring them a more abundant life. And I hope healthy self-esteem and physical wellness will enhance their spiritual life, resulting in a stronger relationship with Jesus.”

During the 2009 summer camp season, Fit for Life Camp I (ages 10-13) will be held June 7-28; and Fit for Life Camp II (ages 13-17) will be held June 28-July 19. For the first season, these camps are limited to 14 campers. Registration for Cohutta Springs Youth Camp has already begun for summer camp 2009. Learn more and sign up today at www.cs-yc.com.

Rebecca Brooks is Georgia-Cumberland Conference assistant communication director.

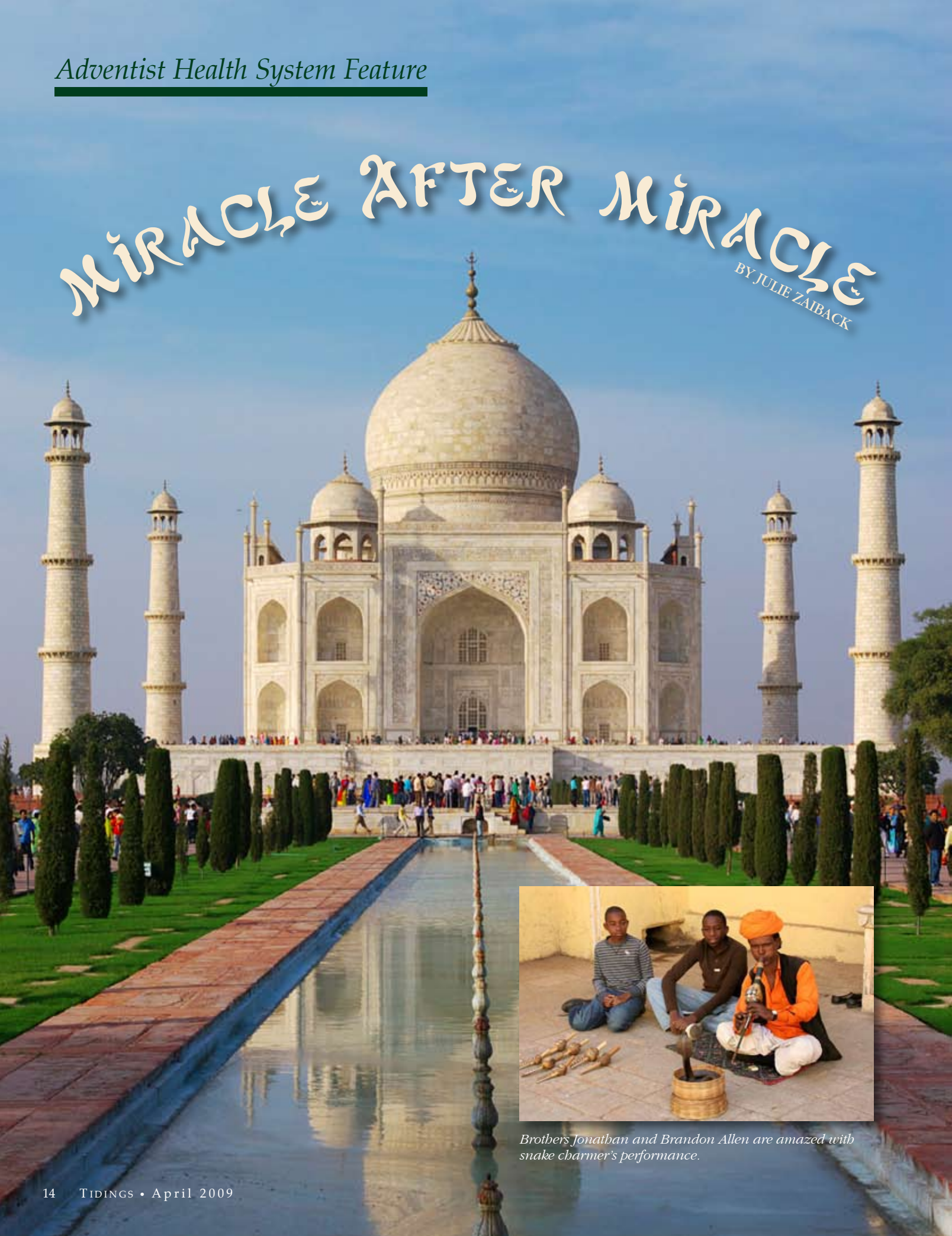


ALLISON GERARD

Healthier meals will be a focus of the three-week Fit for Life camp.

MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE

BY JULIE ZAIBACK



Brothers Jonathan and Brandon Allen are amazed with snake charmer's performance.

“Get under the bed — hurry!” Luis Allen, M.D., and his wife, Maxine, ushered their two sons beneath the king-size bed in their hotel room in Mumbai, India. Gunshots resounded in the hallway. Their bodies, pressed against the floor, shook from the vibrations of explosions going off within the building. All they could do was lie there — and pray.

Luis Allen, M.D., a geriatric psychiatrist at Florida Hospital, his wife, and their two sons were on vacation in India. The Allen family arrived at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel on November 25, 2008. Upon check-in they received a free upgrade to a room in the palace portion of the hotel.

On their final day in Mumbai, the family had a late start to their day, throwing their day off of schedule. After a late lunch and sightseeing, the family decided to go without dinner and visit the hotel’s renowned pool.

The night air still carried remnants of the day’s heat. In the background, a live band was playing, interjected by the sound of fireworks. Their youngest son refused to get into the water. Normally very cooperative, Luis and Maxine were puzzled by their son’s behavior. The family decided to return to their room early.

In their room, the sound of fireworks intensified. The Allens realized that the noises weren’t fireworks but gunshots. Alerted by his discovery, Luis began searching the Internet for more information. A CNN headline rattled the family — “Mumbai under Siege.”

The family could hear banging on hotel doors nearby followed by screams and rounds of gunfire. Hotel guests were being dragged from their rooms and murdered in the hallways. Fearing that their room would be next, Luis and Maxine staged a “hasty departure.” Hiding the boys safely under the bed, the couple unlocked the safety lock on the door, tossed their clothes haphazardly into bags and opened the safe. Luis and Maxine crawled beneath the bed, sandwiching their boys between them.

For the next 48 hours, the Allen

family remained under the bed, in a “coffin position,” only daring to come out to use the bathroom or retrieve some food in the mini-fridge. Miraculously, the young boys fell into a deep sleep. The family received texts from friends and family worldwide. As Maxine’s cell phone battery was running out, she sent a final text to her pastor, Jim Coffin, at Markham Woods Church in Longwood, Florida: “We’re in the Taj — pray.”



Luis and Maxine Allen stand outside their hotel in Mumbai, India.

As the hours passed, the family comforted one another with prayers and biblical stories.

“I remembered the story of Elijah,” Luis sad. “I was asking if God could just blind the eyes of the terrorist to our door. I remember just pleading with God about that, because I felt things were just closing in on us.”

Two days into the siege, the Allen family finally made contact with the police chief of the City of Mumbai, thanks to the efforts of a close friend who had been in contact through texts and phone calls. They were instructed to wait to be rescued.

After 48 hours of hiding, the Allens finally heard their codeword at the door: “Sheba.” The family was guided between groups of comman-

dos strategically placed down the hallways to ensure their safety.

“I looked back and I discovered that our doors were the only doors up and down the corridor that had not been bashed in,” Maxine recalls. “For me, that was my way of knowing that it wasn’t an accident — it truly was a miracle from God.” Within hours, the Allens were boarded on a plane back to the United States.

Today, back in their Florida home, the Allen family embraces each day as a gift from God. Their miraculous rescue has affirmed their faith that God has a plan and purpose for each of their lives. Looking back, Luis and Maxine recognize the many “mini miracles” that led to their survival. The upgrade from the tower to the palace removed the family from an area of the hotel that was heavily saturated with attacks. The late start to the day put the family on an unusual schedule which ultimately placed them in the right place at the right time. The youngest son’s unwillingness to swim led the family away from the pool, which was one of the first places to be attacked, and hardest hit. The Lord’s hand can be seen guiding the family, providing safety, wisdom, and strength to help endure the terrifying ordeal.

God’s guidance doesn’t stop there. The Lord has granted the Allen family the strength to use their experience as an opportunity to reach others.

“We had an opportunity to meet with friends who were not Christian,” Luis shares, “and yet we were able to talk about God, we were able to talk about deliverance, we were able to share our faith, something that had not happened before.”

Working in Christ-centered hospitals presents Luis with many opportunities to minister to others. This experience has become a part of his patient care, impacting how he deals with his patients.

“Going through that experience, especially with certain conditions that I treat in my outpatient practice in the hospital setting,” says Luis, “has given me a different sensitivity and a different perspective.” ❖

Creating a Culture of Commitment: Adventist Health System Hosts 19th Annual Conference on Mission

Adventist Health System's 19th annual conference on Mission took place February 26-28 in Lake Mary, Fla. More than 200 delegates gathered from Adventist Health System facilities, Seventh-day Adventist Union conferences and churches to explore and celebrate the organization's mission.

The theme, "Adventist Christian Identity," was the first part of a two-year focus on preserving the Adventist identity. Specifically, the intersection between physicians and mission was explored.

"This year's conference engaged with physicians in mission," explained Donald Jernigan, Ph.D., president and CEO of Adventist Health System. "Regardless of race, culture, or religion, we all come together to share in our mission to serve others by Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

The Benjamin F. Reaves keynote address, led by Ted

Hamilton, M.D., featured physicians in Adventist Health System hospitals whose professional and personal efforts are making a difference in the lives of their patients and colleagues. David Baer, M.D., from Porter Adventist Hospital, Denver Colo., A. Krishna Das, M.D., from Park Ridge Hospital, Hendersonville, N.C., and Lyle Wadsworth, M.D., from Florida Hospital DeLand, were highlighted.



Ted Hamilton, M.D., interviews A. Krishna Das, M.D., from Park Ridge Hospital during the keynote address.

This year's service awards ceremony recognized a number of individuals for their exceptional service and efforts. Adventist



Connie Footlick, from Shawnee Mission Medical Center, is honored by Don Jernigan, Ph.D. (left), president of Adventist Health System; Max Trevino, board chairman of Adventist Health System; and Samuel Turner, president of Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Health System's Crystal Angel Award, created to honor individuals in Adventist Health System who have made significant contributions in furthering the mission, was presented

to Randy Haffner, currently at Centura Health South Denver and Porter Adventist Hospital, Denver, Colo., for his work at Florida Hospital Orlando. A second Crystal Angel Award was awarded to Lars Houmann for his exceptional service at Florida Hospital, Orlando.

Adventist Health System's Community Service Award, developed to honor individuals who have demonstrated unyielding and selfless service to others, was presented to Connie Footlick from Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Shawnee Mission, Kans., and Sy Saliba from Florida Hospital, Orlando.

In acknowledgement of an exceptional Christian example and in appreciation of their compassionate service to others, Dave Ehrenberger, M.D., from Avista Adventist Hospital, Louisville, Colo., and Stephen King, from Centura Health, Denver, were honored with



Lars Houmann (center), president of Florida Hospital, is recognized by Donald Jernigan, Ph.D. (left), president of Adventist Health System; and Max Trevino, board chairman of Adventist Health System.

the Adventist Health System Christian Service Award.

Sabbath's worship service included a sermon from Louis Venden and musical performance by the Conference on Mission Ensemble, directed by Sharon Jernigan.

John Rapp, D.Min., regional vice president of ministries and mission at Adventist Midwest Health and conference delegate, enjoyed this year's conference theme, focused on the relationship between physicians and mission. "The Conference on Mission this year clarified both the role and impact of physicians in living our healing mission. The presentations by and about doctors Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ in their communities, reminded me of the grand tradition of Christ following physicians which goes all the way back to Dr. Luke and the gospel that he wrote."

—BY JULIE ZAIBACK

Southern to Become an All-Steinway School

Professors, students, and alumni alike shared excitement and refreshments as they mingled in the lobby of Ackerman Auditorium on January 22, 2009. Soft music drifted across the lobby as some took turns playing the piano nestled in the corner.

There was a reason these music enthusiasts were gathered in celebration. The first shipment of 21 out of 30 new Steinway & Sons pianos had been delivered almost two years after the idea had been born.

This first step toward becoming an All-Steinway

School means that Southern will soon be the 100th in the world, the fifth in Tennessee, and the only Adventist or Chattanooga school with this designation.

"I am humbled by the excitement this project is generating," says Peter Cooper, music professor. "I truly believe that this is a great moment for the



The first shipment of Steinway & Sons pianos was delivered on January 22.

School of Music and for all of us at Southern."

In addition to the new pianos that will be placed in teaching studios and select

practice rooms, a nine-foot grand will go in Ackerman Auditorium to be used for everything from student recitals to guest artists performances. Funds for this endeavor are being raised through Southern's Keys to Excellence Campaign.

"These quality instruments will serve our students, our university, and the larger community as well," says Ruth Liu, campaign chair. "The students' musical preparation here at Southern will enable them in turn to enrich the lives of people around the world."

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

Professor Holds *The Two Image Makers* Art Show

Brian Dunne, assistant professor in the School of Visual Art and Design, inspired students, faculty, and community members with his testimony, music, and artwork at the opening of his gallery show, *The Two Image Makers*, on January 19, 2009.

The evening performance began in Ackerman Auditorium, where Dunne shared how he came to realize the reality and depth of contrast between Christ, the ultimate artist, and Satan, the counterfeit.

"I wanted to bring out



Brian Dunne plays a song he wrote, titled "Dew Upon the Rose," during the evening performance.

that God is the original artist. He's made us artists,

but we're not original artists," says Dunne. "During my conversion with Christ, I began to notice that two huge philosophies sit at the base of art and all expressive media, and that many seem naive as to the origin of these philosophies."

After the program in Ackerman, audience members entered Brock Hall's art gallery to view Dunne's mixture of photography, paint, charcoal, and pencil pieces.

The message Dunne shared and the artwork on display impacted many

who attended the event.

"I am so pleased the whole thing was so well put together," says Byron Reynolds, Collegedale resident. "It so much depicted our walk with Christ and the struggles that artists have. It's so neat to be able to tie art together with spirituality."

If you would like to host a gallery showing of Dunne's artwork or invite him to speak at an event, email bbdunne@southern.edu or view his website, www.imagesofthelight.org.

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

Record Enrollment Continues at Southern

Despite the economic climate, Southern Adventist University continues to see growth in its student body. Currently, more students are attending than have ever

before been enrolled during the winter semester.

With a head count of 2,685 students — 2,478 undergraduate and 208 graduate — Southern has 111 more

students than were enrolled last year during this time.

"Our continued increase in enrollment, even in difficult times," says Gordon Bietz, president, "indicates

that our students understand the importance of getting a good education so to be well-prepared applicants in the job market."

—BY LORI FUTCHER

Communication Workshop Generates Enthusiasm



RON QUICK

The Carolina Conference communication workshop generated an overwhelming excitement for those in search of ways to build the communication ministry in their own churches. Its theme, "Exploring Communication," represented the need to help participants navigate their way through rough grammar terrain, wild and ferocious Internet glitches, and torrential downpours of poorly-taken photographs. Many in attendance felt the workshop provided vital and practical information in the areas of media, public relations, website management, print, and photography.

Attendance included

church clerks, pastors, communication directors, and those simply interested in learning more to develop their craft. Each 45-minute workshop covered topics such as developing relationships with the media, creating your

church website, and storytelling through the camera lens. R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director (pictured above, left), also discussed the guidelines for writing articles and the submission policies for the *South-*

ern Tidings publication. Other presenters were Mark Rumsey, news director for WFAE in Charlotte, North Carolina; Lucas Patterson; Raymond Earle; George Bustos; Ron Quick, Caro-

lina communication director; and Rebecca Carpenter, Carolina associate communication director.

To show support for everyone's efforts, the Carolina Conference communication staff initiated the Action Awards. The winners were Ellie Green for newsletter, Lorraine Wellman for bulletin design, Louise Venables for website design, Cheryl Perry for photography, and Joanne Brown for writing. Hopefully this will help encourage communication workers in Carolina Conference to continue building God's kingdom through their communication ministry.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER



RON QUICK

Lorraine Wellman (left), Louise Venables, Cheryl Perry, Joanne Brown, and Ellie Green

Love Was in the Air

Love was in the air for Valentine's Day at Nosoca Pines Ranch. This peaceful haven set the tone for a romantic weekend called "Romance at the Ranch." It was a time for couples to nurture their relationships in the beauty of nature and reflect on God's plan for married life.

The new Carolina Con-

ference family life director, Jo Ottinger, pastor, with the assistance of Ruby Haugsted, planned the event. This year's theme was "Warming the Heart of Home," and featured speakers Carl and Glenda Ashlock.

Each couple experienced the fun of learning to grow together in Christ.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER



RON QUICK

Sokoni and Jayme Scott (left), Jonathan and Julianna Collins, Elizabeth and Jason Barnes, Gary and Marta Davis, Michael and Dionne Morse, Gene and Lillian Barrett, and Jo Ottinger, pastor

New MPA Boys' Dorm Becomes a Reality

Excitement was in the air on the afternoon of February 22, as students, Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) staff, Carolina Conference officials, and members of the community gathered to see a dream come true. The new boys' residence hall was finally complete, and everyone was on hand to witness the ceremony that made it official. It was a dream that took nearly a decade to become reality, but was well worth the wait.

During the summer of 2000, new MPA principal Rick Anderson, along with Conference officers Ken Coonley, Ron Schmidt, and Rick Russell, toured the campus of MPA, discussing the current capital needs and future dreams for the school. It did not take long for them to direct their discussions and attention toward the deteriorating boys' dorm, and the urgent need there for attention.

The result of this campus tour was a resolve to make a high priority of the replacement or renovation of the dorm facility. This decision to move forward with the project was supported by the Carolina constituents at the fall constituency meeting at Nosoca Pines Ranch.

The major problem areas of the old dorm included the exterior siding, a leaking roof system, plumb-

ing, electrical system failures, and the fact that the concrete structural design prohibited simple repair work. Following the inspections of several builders and architects, the decision was made to rebuild rather than renovate after it was discovered that the cost would be similar for either.

President Coonley's appeal to the constituents was to donate \$100 per church member toward the project. As funds started coming in, they provided opportunity for needed land to be purchased, and land cleared to make way for the new facil-



SARAH GRISSOM

ity. In addition, new roads were put in place, underground drainage systems, and other utility preparations were made.

With Coonley's retirement, the new Conference president, Jim Davidson, energetically took over. Coonley was asked to chair



GEORGE GROW

the Academy Development Committee. With a plan to raise \$1.5 million during the next year, they met with much success through personal visitations and fundraising dinners supported by the Academy choir and handbell groups.

Throughout this process, it was evident that God was leading. Among the miracles were architects and builders being led to Conference leadership, neighbors willing to swap and sell land, another neighbor purchasing a piece of land donated to MPA for development purposes, and a smaller piece of land not used by MPA.

By the spring of 2007, sufficient funds and plans were in place to begin construction. The dorm finally became reality to the campus students and staff during the ribbon-cutting and dedication service.

Davidson challenged MPA students to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them by living in such a beautiful place — to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus as well as take opportunity to share that love of Christ with the world.

The new boys' dorm is a beautiful facility overlooking center campus. The dorm can house 66 boys, and includes a dean's residence home, room for an assistant dean, a recreation room, laundry, chapel, lobby area, and exercise room. There are security doors and camera systems, a fire sprinkler system, and individually controlled heating/AC systems. The total cost for the dorm miraculously held at approximately \$2.5 million, and it is free of debt!

Ryan Gillen, a junior and resident assistant, states, "It was a long time coming, but it was well worth the wait."

—BY RICK ANDERSON

Ambassador Church Celebrates Family Day

The Ambassador Church in Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., combined with their city and United Way of Broward County, September 22, 2008, to celebrate Family Day. A free family-style spaghetti dinner was served to church members, public officials, and members of the community as they reflected on the importance of family spending time together.

Family Day is an initiative promoted by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA). Research by CASA at Columbia University in New York, N.Y., consistently shows that children who eat dinner on a regular basis with their families are less likely to smoke, drink, or use drugs. Conversations that go hand-in-hand with



Henoc Paulicin Sr. (left), Ambassador Church pastor; Thomas Douglas, Holy Temple Holiness Church pastor; Hazelle Rogers, Broward County commissioner; Levoyd Williams, former Lauderdale Lakes commissioner; and Barrington Russell, Lauderdale Lakes mayor

dinner help parents learn more about their children's lives and better understand the challenges they face.

Henoc Paulicin, Ambassador Church pastor, believes this type of program will help the church

become more community oriented as it:

1. Contributes to a reduction of drug and alcohol use among youth of the community.
2. Develops a relationship with community

leaders that may lead to evangelistic opportunities.

3. Involves more members so they can interact with community leaders and others.

—BY SHARNETT MORRIS

Orange Cove Couple Celebrates 61st Anniversary



Floyd and Ethel Levens, Orange Cove, Fla., Church members, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary, February 10, with special gratitude. Last November, doctors

sent Ethel home from the hospital to die. "You don't know my God," she told them upon leaving.

The life-time Florida residents met on Bokeelia Island in 1947 and married one year later. They joined the Fort Myers Church in 1957, following a search for something deeper than what they had seen in other denominations. Eight years later, the couple moved to the Jacksonville area where they continued to share their spirit of hospitality.

Floyd served the Jacksonville Church for a combined total of 45 years as a head elder, Sabbath School teacher, and assistant treasurer. Ethel made an impact with

her presence as community service director, church social director, and flower arrangement director. Her talent for painting landscapes and animals has brought joy to gift recipients for more than 60 years.

Before retirement, Floyd worked in the commercial fishing and life insurance industries, while Ethel labored as a hospital cashier and a public school food service employee. In retirement, they enjoy working side by side in the yard and garden.

The couple has one grandson, Shawn. Their only child, Stanley, died in 1993.

—BY TERESA WILES

New Smyrna Beach Church Accepts Challenge

For the year 2009, Southern Union Conference challenged every church to increase membership by 10 percent. The New Smyrna Beach, Fla., Church accepted this challenge and invited Florida Conference's evangelistic team of Lester and Zula Pratt to hold a Revelation Expo series, beginning January 10.

By the end of the meetings, February 14, six people were baptized and two joined the Church through profession of faith. The following Sabbath, two more joined by profession of faith. These 10 individuals increased the original church membership of 43 by more than 20 percent.

Members were not looking at this challenge as a contest, but as an urgent calling to help the Holy



PHOTOS: LYNNE WAINSCOTT

Lay pastor John Gray (left) and evangelist Lester Pratt (right), with new members at New Smyrna Beach Church: Edna McMullen (left), John Bressler Jr., Joyce Gillisse, Brad and Catherine Papp, Susan Dumond, Kyla Chesber, and Rebecca Clements.

Spirit lead as many individuals as possible to Jesus. Under leadership of lay pastor John Gray, the church has planned more evangelistic programs throughout

the year, as well as getting involved in community outreach through C.H.I.P. (Coronary Health Improvement Project).

—BY LYNNE WAINSCOTT



Thomas and Linda Reichard

Prime Minister Worships at Maranatha Church

The Honorable Bruce Golding, prime minister of Jamaica, joined members of Maranatha Church in Miami, Fla., where he was given a special welcome at a Sabbath worship service. Maranatha Church, which has a large Jamaican membership, was the second of three stops in his first official visit to south Florida since he was elected.

Golding extended greetings from Jamaica and expressed pleasure in worshipping at Maranatha. He exhorted the congregation to embrace their cultural heritage and enforce the



PAUL STEWART

Keith Harding and his wife, Claudette, presented a plaque expressing appreciation to Prime Minister Bruce Golding of Jamaica.

strong family values that they were taught while growing up in Jamaica. "We have to go back to ba-

sics, where children were taught manners and people had a sense of right and wrong," he said.

Keith Harding, pastor of Maranatha, encouraged the prime minister to rely on God for strength and wisdom and to consult Him before making any major decision. Hands were laid on the prime minister as God's blessings was petitioned for him and the members of his administrative team.

After the service, the prime minister and his team toured William A. Kirlaw Junior Academy, and he promised to return to worship on his next visit to south Florida.

—BY LESONIE WALKER

Gainesville Church Breaks Ground

The Gainesville, Ga., Church members gathered at 2695 Old Cornelia Highway at noon on Sunday, January 25, to participate in a ground-breaking ceremony, and the launching of the construction phase of the building of their new church facilities.

Dale Tunnell Sr., pastor, led out in the service, encouraging every mem-

ber's participation during the upcoming building project. He demonstrated the need for all the members to be involved by giving out pieces of granite stones as they arrived at the scene. He placed a bucket on the ground and invited the youth to put their stones in the bucket, then leadership and other people groups in the church family were in-

structed to throw a stone in until everyone had tossed their stones in. He then assigned certain members to dump in sand and cement, followed by specific youth who put large nails in the bucket. It was then mixed together and Tunnell poured water into the bucket symbolizing his role in sharing the water of life as the spiritual leader of the

Gainesville congregation.

The final ingredient, a piece of mesh wire, was placed in the bucket by Ed Wright, Conference president, representing the involvement of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. The ingredients were all mixed together at the pastor's signal. This ornament created by the church members will become a permanent landscape feature of the new church. It will stand as a symbol and a reminder that their church was a product of everyone working together under the blessings of God.

The service ended with the more traditional ground-breaking. Several invited guests and members manned shovels to turn a spade full of dirt pointing to the commencement of their church building project.

—BY MITCH HAZEKAMP



TAMMY WILLIAMS

Dale Tunnell Sr., pastor of the Gainesville Church, pours water into the bucket where church members are creating a landscape feature to symbolize working together on building their new church.

Camp Offers Spiritual Bodybuilding Attraction

Cohutta Springs is now offering Spiritual Bodybuilding — a Bible-based morning attraction.

Rob Lang, Cohutta Springs Youth Camp director, describes it as a Bible-marking class that will allow young people to go home knowing five key Bible truths they can flex their spiritual muscles on, which means they will be able to open their Bibles and share these truths with others.

"I have been trying



BRIAN YOUNG

Spiritual Bodybuilding is a new Bible-based morning attraction at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

to figure out how to attractively include Bible

study more intentionally into camp for some time," said Lang. "As I was reading Revelation last October, the light came on for spiritual bodybuilding."

When asked how he hopes campers will respond to Spiritual Bodybuilding, Lang shared, "I

hope they will find the Bible extremely interesting...I hope they will want to continue their spiritual bodybuilding and continue to understand more truth about Jesus and share more and more."

Registration for Cohutta Springs Youth Camp has already begun for summer camp 2009. Learn more and sign up today at www.cs-yc.com.

—BY REBECCA BROOKS

High School Retreat Enriches Lives

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp bustled with more than 140 people during the February 7 weekend. Sponsored by Georgia-Cumberland Conference youth ministries, the sixth annual High School Retreat, which provides a rich spiritual experience for public high school and home school students, was held at the camp.

"It's something that I really needed, something to get back in touch with Jesus," said Alex Scarborough. "There's something here for everybody."

Many of the youth returned after attending last year's retreat. "I came last year and had such a great time, and I hope to come here many years after," Javette Jairett stated just

before leaving on a biking excursion.

The youth reap a rich spiritual experience, and also take advantage of the wonders of God's creation while canoeing, biking, and hiking. "There's never a dull moment," said Jazar Williamson, as he headed out for his evening activity.

The youth are not the only ones having a good time. Larry Colburn, a sponsor from the Newport, Tenn., Church, shared, "I watched as these young people, these Adventist teenagers in high school, have gotten acquainted with each other, praised the Lord together, and interacted. It has been absolutely refreshing. I feel it gives the young people just another taste of the goodness and the love of God.



NICK CLARK

Students lead out in song service during the weekend High School Retreat.

I am so thankful that this is currently being implemented in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference."

Rob Lang, Conference youth director, states, "The truth is, in the right environment with collegiates that can talk their language, they are blown away by the

power of scripture and what it means to praise God. And that's what this weekend is about. It's a Bible conference for our high school students who aren't in our schools and would not otherwise have this kind of experience."

—BY NICK CLARK

String Festival Brings Music to Many

The sound of vibrating string music filled the air at the annual Georgia-Cumberland Conference Elementary String Festival, February 6. Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church was filled with around 70 young, talented musicians playing soulful,

classical music from the likes of Vivaldi and Bach. Rhonda Burnham, director of music at A.W. Spalding Elementary School in Collegedale, Tenn., served as the event clinician.

"I am amazed at the dedication of the students and their hard work and

the talent that the students displayed during the festival," said Dawn LeMaitre, String Festival coordinator and director of marketing for Georgia-Cumberland Academy. "I am thankful to Rhonda Burnham for her dedication to this ministry. I think the concert went really well, and the students and the clinicians should be proud of serving God in this manner."

According to Kevin Kossick, Georgia-Cumberland Conference regional education director, the festival was created with three objectives in mind:

- To provide an opportunity for the young people

of Georgia-Cumberland Conference to socialize in a highly supervised fun environment;

- To give students an experience at the next level of education in a secondary setting;

- To improve the skill-set of the student musicians who attended the event.

"Thanks to the hard work and planning of Rhonda Burnham and Dawn LeMaitre, all of the objectives were exceeded to the level that most of those who attended the Friday night performance were amazed at the quality of music," added Kossick.

—BY BRIAN YOUNG



BRIAN YOUNG

Rhonda Burnham directs the young musicians at the Elementary String Festival.

Hoover Christian Blends Traditional Classes with AE21 Distance Learning Program



Ariel Lorenzo (left), Cason Reasner, Angelica Marbury, and Chelsea Joffrion are full-time AE21 distance learning students.

For some time the members of the Birmingham First Church, located in Hoover, Ala., had expressed an interest in their church school continuing through 12th grade. They were supportive of Bass Memorial Academy and the boarding school experience, but they wanted another option for students who chose not to go away to school.

Mark Grice, former principal of Hoover Christian School during that time, knew it would take several years to build to this point. In the interim what would happen to the graduating students who had already decided, for whatever reason, not to go away to school? When Grice received a request for transcripts and a recommendation from another local Christian school for one of their 10th grade students, he knew there had to be an answer.

He decided to visit another school in the Conference which was using the AE21

distant learning program. He was impressed and brought the idea to the school and church board. They were very supportive and voted to go ahead with the program. It was decided that the first year Cason Reasner, the student whom Grice had received a transcript request from, would be the only student taking classes full time, and if it worked well, the school would expand the program the next year.

There are now four full-time and seven part-time students. Reasner will be graduating this spring; her enthusiasm for the program is evident. "Distance learning allowed me to stay home and still get an Adventist education," she explains. She's enjoyed meeting students from all over the country. "Even though I don't get to see them every day, we still talk on the phone, instant message each other, and I see them in person at our two get-together times."

Angelica Marbury, 11th

grader, enjoys the flexibility of the program. "I have more time to study," she says.

"It's helped me to get more organized," says Ariel Lorenzo, 10th grader. He adds, "When you take distant learning classes without the teacher standing over you all the time, you have to learn to be self-motivated."

When asked about the quality of the work, Chelsea Joffrion, 11th grader, replies, "My mother says that I'm doing college-level work."

Her mother is a retired Lt. Colonel from the Air Force, and though not an Adventist, chose Hoover Christian School for Chelsea because of the academic quality.

The part-time students are in the ninth grade. "The AE21 curriculum perfectly supplements the ninth grade course offerings, and provides an exciting hybrid of distance learning and local instructional programming in our situation," explains Gaylan Herr, current principal.

Herr is impressed with the quality of the instruction, the high level of work expected of the students, and the flexibility shown by the AE21 administrators.

The school, church, and Conference

have been supportive. Herr states, "The financial support from the church has been essential since there was a cost to get started. New computers, furnishings, and guidelines needed to be put in place, and a high school library had to be established."

Herr emphasizes the importance of good facilitators, and facilitators Brenda Joseph and Misty McFall have worked hard implementing the program in its first full year of operation. The director of high school operations, David Haley, has made sure that the AE21 program meshes well with the school's offerings, and he has served as a tutor for some of the upper level classes. Haley has also been asked to teach a class in finance for the AE21 program.

When Grice and Herr consider the success of this program, they both concur that distance learning may well be an important link in securing the future of Adventist education.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



The AE21 curriculum perfectly supplements the ninth grade course offerings to create an exciting mixture of distance learning and local teaching.

Conference Holds Education Fair



The Bass gymnastics team members help teach visiting students how to build a pyramid.



Choir participants practice with Bass music teacher, Ginny Ziesmer.

More than 140 students from Adventist schools throughout the Gulf States Conference attended the annual Education Fair at Bass Memorial Academy on February 8 and 9. The fifth through 10th grade students and teachers chose who would participate in each category. The categories included a wide range of

subjects such as math masters, geography, choir, art, Bible, gymnastics, and drama. Bass academy teachers and students helped with judging and activities. Bass music teacher Ginny Ziesmer coordinated the choir practice and performance. Coach Burney Culpepper and the Bass gymnastics team conducted a gymnas-

tics clinic. They and their students gave a demonstration on Sunday evening. Ribbons and awards were presented to overall categories winners, as well as individual participants.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Sixth grader Sarab Lau received first place overall ribbons for geography and math.

Bass Students Conduct Sabbath Services

Learning to serve is part of Bass Memorial Academy's (BMA) motto. As part of a church visitation program, the students are learning skills that prepare them for church leadership.

Each Sabbath, groups of students travel to a different church in the Conference territory, where they lead out in the worship service. The students do all parts of the service, from the opening song to the sermon. It is a moving experience to hear a teenager intercede in prayer on behalf of an entire congregation.



ZyQuonna McGill (left), Corey Willig, Chris Readus, Lisi Wixwat, and Joel Westberg, students from BMA, conduct Sabbath services at Fairhope, Ala., Church.

Glen Marshall, Bass Memorial Church pastor, began working with a group of students at the beginning of the school year

to prepare sermon topics and organize materials and thoughts, giving valuable guidance and input as they prepared sermons on vari-

ous subjects. Their choice of topic always reflects the influence Seventh-day Adventist Christian education has had on their thinking, focusing on the grace and mercy of a loving God, and our duty to fellowman.

The students are consistently well received by the church members. This positive feedback is affirming and encouraging, and gives the students the confidence they need to serve as leaders long after their school days are over.

—BY KIM TWOMLEY

Church Visitor Becomes Messenger of Truth

Last fall the Stearns Church in Stearns, Ky., was already excited about the recent baptisms. They were neither expecting nor seeking out the man who walked through the door a little late one Sabbath morning. It turns out he was a testimony in the works.

Art Hollers, as they found his name to be, was a man who had found God, but was still searching for truth. He was currently attending a church and, although he was dissatisfied with the biblical discrepancies in his church, he continued to seek God. During



Art Hollers (left), receives a set of the *Conflict of the Ages* series from Gary Shepherd, pastor.

a visit to his local library, he came across *The Great Controversy* in the giveaway bin. After reading it, Hollers was convinced that

he needed to find the church that endorsed this message.

After some difficulty with the address, he was able to locate Stearns Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was delight-

ed to find a very welcoming congregation and eager pastor. He met privately with Gary Shepherd, pastor, to discuss the Bible, and

after the second meeting, he asked, “What do I do to join?”

After he had gained a clearer understanding of Adventist beliefs, Hollers was welcomed into the church family by profession of faith in February. He has since accompanied the pastor to a revival half way across the state, and is proving to be a valuable and passionate messenger of newfound truth. Shepherd jokingly refers to Hollers as, “the Adventist waiting to happen!”

—BY PAVIELLE DICK

Boulevard Church Holds Lay Evangelism Event

His finger slicing through the air for emphasis, seven-year-old Kenley Ambrose strode across the church platform as he preached the Gospel, leading Boulevard Church members and non-members to the feet of Jesus.

Ambrose was the first sermon presenter of the evening on Wednesday, January 14, in the Boulevard Church lay-led evangelistic series. Meetings were held from January 9 to 24.

On the following Wednesday evening, 17-year-old Christopher Tugman and his mother, Jeanette, shared clear and concise sermon presentations on the state of the



Sermon presenters include Eddy Thompson, Kevin Counts, Bob McCracken, Ron Mellor, Kurt Berger, Christopher Tugman, Jeanette Tugman, Dallas Bradley, Nicole Goodwill, Rich Herrera, Ricky Carter, Jasmine Carter, Desireé Fernando, and Fredra Gladson. Not pictured is Paul Kulokov.

dead, and the blessed hope of Christ's soon return. Their presentations were made even more poignant to those in attendance who knew of the loss in June 2008 of their beloved grandfather and father, Basil Tugman, a long-time church elder at Boulevard.

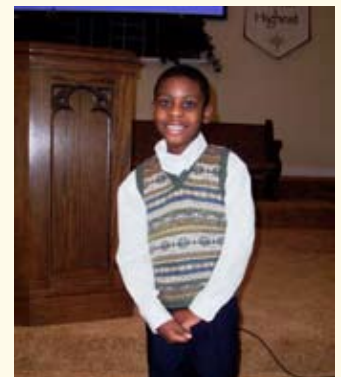
Those in attendance Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights were blessed with a “double-header” event as two Boulevard lay preachers presented the Revelation of Hope Series, bringing truth and encouragement for today. Each

evening started with a health nugget and slide presentation. During a brief break, between seminar evangelistic sermons, Boulevard members gifted in hospitality shared delicious and nutritious snacks each night. Following each evening's second sermon

presentation, the Boulevard host or hostess for the night held a drawing for a Conflict of the Ages series book given to the winning guest in attendance.

Boulevard looks forward to a July/August seminar with Amazing Facts evangelist Darrin Bartel, and the church has plans to host another lay-led evangelism event in the fall.

—BY VIVECA CLARK



Kenley Ambrose

Teams Tumble with Terrific Talent

On Thursday, January 22, 225 students representing 14 schools arrived at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn. The event was Acrofest 2009, an annual gymnastic workshop run by Southern Adventist University's Gym-Masters.

After warming up, the students separated into various stations to learn new skills or practice old ones. On Friday morning, the young gymnasts went through the rigors of seven different stations.

Friday afternoon, the gymnastic team members from both Highland and Madison Academies taught the group how to build pyramids for the Saturday evening show. Then came the long awaited contests

for headstands, handstands, frog stands, butterflyes, and hand-to-hands. Prizes were given to the winners in each category.

On Saturday evening, the Acrofest participants had the opportunity to demonstrate before a live audience the pyramids and routines they had put together. All of the routines looked sharp, and the crowd was impressed with how much they had learned in such a short period of time. It was followed by an entertaining performance by the Gym-Masters.



Acrofest 2009 performed before a live audience at Highland Academy.

hoping to always be caught. For all of them, Acrofest means being sore for a whole week after it's over.

"Acrofest serves as a wonderful opportunity for students from all over Kentucky and Tennessee to unite for a few days, and to work on gymnastic skills. We are hap-

If you ask the students what Acrofest means to them, their answers will vary. For tumblers, it means finally getting their round-off back handspring, or learning a new move. For flyers, it means getting thrown around all weekend

py to provide this chance for them to view Highland and spend a few days seeing what it might be like to be a student here," shares Chadd Watkins, Gymnix coach.

—BY KYLE WILCUT

Student LE's Willing to Go — Anywhere, Anytime

This winter, 16 students worked in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and had the privilege of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Savannah, Tenn.

The group included students who attended Antillean Adventist University, Highland Academy, and some who were home schooled. They united to bring hope to those who may not normally have missionaries knock on their door.

On one occasion, it was 19 degrees when it started to rain. The students were not deterred by the

weather. The leadership team purchased rain ponchos and umbrellas for the team. They kept calling for more books and prayer.

Evan Paulson shivered as he made his way from house to house, but when he arrived at the door, his face changed as if he was on fire for Jesus. The group never complained about

the weather conditions and kept working.

The students also conducted a Week of Prayer during the last part of the campaign. After working in the field all day, the students participated each night through testimonies, music, and the spoken word.

As the work time drew to a close on the last day together, the leader announced over his radio that it was time for pick up. But, Ines Quispe and Lorenny Moreta just wouldn't stop. Running

as fast as they could, they knocked on one more door. They received a big spiritual blessing when they found the occupants had just been praying for a sign from God. When the two young women in pink showed up at their door, it was the answer to their prayer.

The students are grateful to John Johnston, pastor, and the members of the Savannah Church for hosting the program, and for the prayers and encouragement of church members everywhere, as they step out in faith and work for Christ.

—BY CESAR QUISPE



South Atlantic Mourns the Passing of Harry Williams

Harry Williams, son of the late Robert and Albertha Williams, was born on

November 5, 1940, in Moncks Corner, S.C. He passed on Wednesday, February 4, at Trident Medical Center in Charleston, S.C.

Williams grew up in Philadelphia, Penn., where he received his elementary and secondary education. He received an associate degree in correctional science from Temple University, and an associate degree in inner city training from Philo-Ford School in Philadelphia. Williams graduated from Oakwood University in 1979, and received a bachelor of arts in theology and correctional science.

Additionally, he completed studies for youth missionary leadership sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Williams had a story to tell to all nations. He was called to the South Atlantic Conference as a pastor in August 1979. He served as an evangelist for the United Prison Ministries and baptized members in 46 states in the United States, as well as Russia and Romania.

In addition to serving as an evangelist, he worked in the areas of inner city min-



istries, and in schools in drug prevention/counseling. He also conducted many "How to Stop Smoking" seminars; served as the director of a Better Living Center; held

summer camps for inner city youth; conducted tent, church, and youth meetings; and was active in the Prison Outreach Ministries.

He received numerous awards, including Southern Union Conference Youth Ministry Award; Outstanding Accomplishment in Serving Fellowman, Philadelphia Prison Ministries; Southern

Union Conference Youth & Temperance Award; Outstanding Work, Volunteer Service Program Award; and the U.S. Virgin Islands Community Service & Prison Ministry Award.

His life was a living testimony of the power of Christ, and he used his testimony to lead thousands to Christ. At the time of his death, he was pastoring Shiloh Church in Charleston, S.C.

Williams was preceded in death by his daughter, Azriel M. Williams, and leaves to cherish fond memories, his wife, Sherry L. Williams, one daughter, two sons, other relatives, and friends.

CAA Bakes Bread as a Witness to Community

Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) in Whiteville, N.C., is no ordinary school. The goal of evangelism permeates from the Praise Tabernacle Church congregation, who built the school first and then the sanctuary. Besides including Jesus as a part of each subject, the school strives to put in practice the love of Jesus as well.

Under the direction of Karen Taylor, principal, at least once per month, the students visit residents at Premier Living Nursing Home in Lake Waccamaw, N.C. "I think it's good for us and good for the residents," says Jessica



Karen Taylor, CAA principal, smiles as she holds a copy of the feature article published in the local newspaper.

Davidson, a fifth grader at CAA. "We visit them and tell them about Jesus so that they can have a better relationship with Him."

Gardening and bread making are part of the enrichment classes at the academy as well, and have brought awareness of the

school to the community. Vegetables are sold seasonally. "We have collards and mustard greens left now," adds Davidson. Bread is baked two days each week by students. Bessie Wagner, a bread maker who volunteers and is a member of the Whiteville Church, has contributed her

time to help lead out in this project. The students have learned how to make oatmeal-raisin, herb bread, apricot-walnut-raisin, honey wheat, sunny soy, pumpkin-raisin, wheat-oat-barley, and pioneer bread. "It helps the community," says Aisha McLeary, speak-

ing of the bread making, "and teaches them good health tips." Ariel, a second grader, comments, "I like the honey wheat the best." Only natural products are used. The students grind their own flour from selected grains and use honey as the sweetener.

The bread making has been noticed in the community, and a feature article was published in the local newspaper, *The News Reporter*, on January 15, 2009. Making bread not only teaches the students a skill that can be used at home, but its sales provides revenue to help with the school's financial burden.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.

Mount Olive Holds Concert for Youth, Community



Pictured are Casey Ricks (left), Mount Olive Church pastor; Virginia Brown, soloist; and Vanard Mendingball, South Atlantic Conference president.

The Mount Olive Church in Athens, Ga., hosted an uplifting concert and program for the community entitled, "Inspiring Youth to Discover their Hidden Potential."

Many talented artists

from Mt. Olive and the community shared their gifts in song and poetry for an unforgettable evening of inspiration.

The concert was part of a series of programs designed specifically to address one of the challenges

of the communities: how to motivate the youth to reach their full potential.

In recognition of this challenge, in the spring of 2008, the members partnered with the local sheriff's

department, and invited Wintley Phipps to participate in a youth initiative. He spoke and sang for the young people on the theme, "An Evening of Inspiration and Hope."

Four major segments were planned for the series to afford the youth and other attendees the opportunity to see and experience outstanding talent, and to realize that they too can achieve success and fulfillment.

Jemuel Anderson, a gifted pianist from Orlando, Fla., not only performed but shared with the young people how he discovered his talent and how they can do the same for themselves.

Another invitee was

Virginia Brown, a soloist who blessed many with her heartfelt melodies and brief messages of love, hope, and faith in God. She was followed by the Mount Olive New Dawn Choir; the Howard Sisters, a local celebrated and accomplished gospel singing group; Unspoken, the men's vocal ensemble of Mount Olive; the Tolera Sisters; Shernette Ricks; and Shayla Robinson, who shared an original poem.

The members were very appreciative for the assistance of Eric Johnson, who initiated and coordinated the programs.

—BY ODELLA THOMPSON

Stephan Davis Installed as New Pastor



Patricia and Stephan Davis

Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C., Philadelphia Church in Council, N.C., and Macedonia Worship Center in Lumberton, N.C., welcomed their new district pastor, Stephan Davis. Davis, his wife, Patricia, and two teenage daughters, Stephanie and Paige, were greeted as they assumed their new duties.

The Praise Tabernacle

Pathfinder Drum Corp signaled the opening of the divine worship service, followed by the praise team, asking God's presence to be near. Since the district includes a church school, the Carolina Adventist Academy Choir also performed special music.

Lawrence Hamilton, Conference ministerial secretary, officiated in the pastoral installation service as the new pastor, his family, and the congregation pledged to place Christ first, to seek guidance of His Spirit, and to work together for the hastening of His coming.

Special presentations were made to the Davis family, but the best gift

of all was the presentation of 12 baptismal candidates who wanted to start the New Year with Christ. These candidates had attended Bible study meetings held at Signet Healthcare, a medical practice owned and operated by Seventh-day Adventists in the Whiteville community.



Stephan Davis (right), pastor, assisted by Leon Verrett, elder, baptizes one of the 10 candidates, Lillian Benjamin.

On January 3, 10 of the 12 candidates were baptized by Davis at Whiteville Church. The remaining two are planning to be baptized in an upcoming baptism. There was special significance in the locale of the baptism as well, since the Whiteville Church had allowed Praise Tabernacle

members to worship there for two years while their edifice was being built. Whiteville's first elder, Chesley Brown, enjoyed the reunion, as well as the chance to meet the district's new pastor.

Davis was previously the pastor of the Warner Robins and Americus, Ga., district.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.

Magazine Street Hosts Emancipation Day

The Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition (IMC) held its annual Emancipation Proclamation Day worship service at the Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky., Kennedy Luckett, pastor.



DAVID R. LUTMAN

Bishop Walter A. Jones Jr., pastor, Baptized Pentecostal Church of Holiness, presented the IMC Kingdom Ministry Award to host pastor Kennedy C. Luckett (right), Magazine Street Church pastor.

The following are excerpts of an article titled, “The Most Joyful New Year Noises,” from the Courier-Journal.com, which chronicles the event:

“Members of Black churches gather every New Year’s Day to celebrate the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, but this year’s celebration took on added poignancy with the upcoming inauguration of Lincoln’s first successor of African descent.

“‘In American history, this year strikes a most profound chord in all of our hearts,’ said Frank Smith, new president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, in prepared remarks at yesterday’s Emancipation Proclamation Day service.

“The coalition’s meeting drew about 250 people.

“The service’s focus on President-elect Barack Obama was highlighted by the use of his photo on the printed order of worship.

“Smith noted Obama’s use of the phrase, ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ coined by civil-rights icon

Martin Luther King Jr.

“‘Now is the time for our country, our communities, our churches, and even the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition to seize every opportunity to make a difference to the glory of God, to have hope in these difficult times, and to come together,’ Smith said.

“The coalition also honored civil-rights activist and former state Senator Georgia Davis Powers with a leadership award...

“Also honored were the leaders of the host congregation, Magazine Street Seventh-day Adventist Church, which worships on Saturdays.

“It has routinely allowed the use of its building on Sundays by other congregations getting started or seeking refuge after fires.

“‘Their arms are wide enough to include all Christians,’ said A. Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, which held

services at the Magazine Street Church for two years after a 1970’s fire.

“[Rev. Clay] Calloway [executive director of the coalition] ended his term yesterday as president of the coalition, although he remains executive director.

“The move underscores the development of two closely parallel organizations — the coalition itself and a related Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition Inc.

“The latter focuses on programs such as promoting housing and leadership development in western Louisville, while the unincorporated coalition will continue to do advocacy work, he said.”

—BY PETER SMITH

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DAVID R. LUTMAN

Listening to a fiery sermon by outgoing IMC president, Clay Calloway, associate pastor of St. Stephen Church, were Kennedy C. Luckett (left) of Magazine Street Church; Charles King Jr., presiding elder at Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and Jacqueline King, pastor of Stoner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Pritchetts Celebrate 72nd Anniversary



It was Easter Sunday in 1935, on Cleveland Street in New Orleans. They spoke, exchanged names, and started a conversation. It was then that her stepmother, Lucille, invited him into their home for a visit. Neelma was mortified, for her hair was not combed, she had no shoes on her feet, and wore a dress several sizes too big. “That is how we met,” she stated. This meeting would eventually lead to marriage on July 11, 1936, in New Orleans, La. If marriages are for the lifetime of a spouse, at 72 years of married life, Edgar and Neelma Pritchett have exceeded some lifetimes. The love and devotion they share leave those at South Columbia Church in Columbia, Miss., totally inspired and amazed. Her advice to those who wish to know how they have been married for 72 years is quite simple: “Learn each other’s ways. And, put your trust in God; you both need to be together in knowing, loving, and serving God.”

—BY FRANCENA J. MCKNIGHT

Orchard Park Celebrates a Century

One hundred years ago (1908), the first African American Seventh-day Adventist Church was established in Chattanooga, Tenn. Later an evangelist was commissioned to come in 1913 to conduct a tent meeting where 18 individuals were baptized.

For several years, the church was without a permanent home. Then another company of 13 dedicated members merged, and the two groups became one. At that time, the church was named East Eighth Street Seventh-day Adventist Church, Napolenon B. Smith was the pastor. They worshiped at this location for 44 years.

Then, Patrick E. Vincent, D.Min., led by the Holy Spirit in 1979, led the members into a new church building located at 951 North Orchard Knob Avenue. The name was changed to Orchard Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.



KATHY PURNELL

In 1979, the church family moved into the new building located at 951 North Orchard Knob Avenue. The church name was changed to Orchard Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Benjamin J. Browne, South Central Conference president, greeted worshipers during their 100th celebration.

The celebration was held October 24-26, 2008. The theme was, "Remembering Our Past, Celebrating Our Present, Envisioning Our Future."

The former pastors were invited to conduct the varied celebration services. Benjamin Jones, pastor, opened the festivities Friday evening with Vespers and an Agape Feast. Patrick Vincent, preached for Divine Worship, and Antoine Maycock, presented an historical sketch of Orchard Park. The Sabbath was concluded with a Vesper thought by Willie Black. On Sunday morning, Samuel Thomas Jr., presented the prayer breakfast message.

During the years, the Orchard Park family has been actively involved in ministering to the neighborhood.

Today a plethora of outreach ministries continue to

serve the community, from providing the basic needs of food and clothing for the homeless in the downtown area, to assistance with housing and utilities for seniors.

Health screenings, expo block parties, Bible studies,

dollar-stretch dinners, Vacation Bible Schools, lifestyle cooking classes, and Operation Prayer are some of the ministries the members have been involved in. Orchard Park also sponsors the Spanish Mission Adventist Church in the Highland Park area in Chattanooga, Tenn.

A. Llewellyn Williams, current pastor, said, "It is a blessing Orchard Park was established in Chattanooga for 100 glorious years. We are privileged to minister to our fellow citizens, sharing the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ."

He also stated, "Serving the Lord in this community is both exciting and excruciating, and the future is only known by God. The passion, spirit of love, and commitment to Jesus Christ that resides within the hearts of this church will continue to demonstrate that God's leading in Orchard Park's ministry, for 100 years, is not in vain, but well justified."

—BY JANICE WALWYN AND JOYCE BOVELL

Swintons Celebrate 50th Anniversary



One warm August evening, 50 years ago, Harry and Daisy enjoyed a dinner together at the home of her grandmother, "Big Mama." When Big Mama left the table after dinner, Harry took that opportunity to ask Daisy a very important question, "Daisy, will you marry me?" She looked into his eyes and without hesitation answered, "Ye..." but before Daisy could get the "s" sound out, Big Mama was shouting and celebrating with much excitement and activity. They were married four months later.

On Sunday, December 28, 2008, The Swintons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Huntsville, Ala., Art Museum. The event, hosted by their five children, Harry Jr., Jeffrey, Lorelyn, Dawna, and Marsha, was well attended by friends and family.

According to the Swintons, "The key to a successful marriage is serving God, serving others, and doing things together."

—BY LILLIAN LESTER-REDCROSS



KATHY PURNELL

Most recent Orchard Park Church pastors: Llewellyn Williams (left), Willie Black, and Samuel Thomas Jr.

Honor Students Tour Federal Reserve

Eighth grade and high school Honor Society students in Southeastern schools were all able to be a part of arranged tours to the Federal Reserve Bank in Miami, Fla., for the south area students, and Jacksonville for the north and central area students.

This special educational tour allowed the students to see that the operations of the Federal Bank resembles the activities that occur

in private businesses. They were informed by tour coordinators that reserve bank activities serve primarily three audiences — bankers, the U.S. Treasury, and the public.

The students in attendance were informed that the Federal Reserve offers financial services to banks and the U.S. government, to foster competition, innovation, and efficiency in the marketplace.

The learning process of the federal banking system was very informative for all of the students.

Special videos were shown to the students, and they were able to tour the areas where money was stored, and compare counterfeit money with authentic.

Students received handouts for “Your Credit Rating,” “Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft,”

and “How to Establish, Use, and Protect Credit.” The students were recipients of videos and handouts that are very vital to their learning of the Federal Reserve system.

Each student received an Honor Society pin from the Conference’s education department as a reward for their accomplishments as Honor Society students.

—BY CAROL BYRD

Perrine Member Elected Officer of the Year

Officer Angela Berry, a member of the Perrine Church in Miami, Fla., was recently awarded the Citizens’ Crime Watch Police Officer of the Year 2008 award, for Miami-Dade County.

A five-year veteran, Berry is assigned to the Cutler Ridge district station in Miami.

Berry goes above and beyond what is expected of her in all her activities by interacting with and assisting members of the community. She meets various social needs and issues of concerns ranging from homelessness, poverty, drug abuse, unemployment, and education to many other quality of life issues.

Berry has been instrumental in successfully carrying out several activities involving the annual Safety Fair at Perrine Church and school fair.

She has distinguished herself in the line of duty by placing her life at risk to make the community a better and safer place.

This was evident when she, on September 13, 2007, found herself engaged in a situation where a fellow officer was shot and killed.

Berry, at no time during that operation, considered retreating despite

the deadly intentions of the shooter.

An award letter to her stated, “clearly your actions were the reason that many more lives were not lost.”

Presently she serves as an Honor Guard for the Miami-Dade Police Department and was recently accepted as a negotiator in training for the department.

Berry finds time to work with the youth, especially 12- to 15-year-olds.

Each semester she teaches a life skills course through the Elijah network program. The program helps teens learn to control their anger, and to deal with peer pressure, the influences in advertising, and decision making.

To further assist these teens, she enlists the support of community leaders and local businesses to provide school uniforms, book bags, and school supplies, especially to those from low- or no-income families.

Berry is dedicated to her church. Despite her job commitments, she still finds time to be a faithful member of the Antonio Wilson Legato Vocal Ensemble.

She has also served in various capacities, including Adventurer leader, Children’s Choir director, church security officer, and the women ministries department.

She also serves as an event planner for Southeastern’s youth ministries department.

Her many awards include District Citizen Advisory Committee Officer of the Month for November 2006, December 2006, September 2007, and October 2007; Life Saving Award 2008; Silver Medal of Valor 2008; Employee of Excellence Award 2006.

She has also received numerous commendations from Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioner Dennis Moss.

—BY MILLICENT TAYLOR



Officer Angela Berry places her life daily in the hands of the Lord as she serves the people in Miami-Dade, Fla.



Each One Reach One
SOUTHERN UNION

Repositioning Southeastern for Evangelism in a Post-Modern Age

During a Conference-wide webcast, Hubert Morel, Southeastern president, challenged every member to participate in some form of evangelism. “Every thing that we do must be evangelistic,” he exclaimed.



ROBERT HENLEY

Dennis Ross, Southern Union ministerial director, evangelism coordinator, and global missions director, shares with the pastors of Southeastern that evangelism is the life-line of the Church during workers’ meeting.

“To fulfill our role in assisting the North American Division to reach its goal of baptizing 100,000 new members, we must change the way we fulfill the mission of the Adventist Church.” Morel has set a goal to baptize 10 percent of Southeastern’s membership — more than 37,000.

To achieve this goal, a multi-layered approach of traditional and non-traditional evangelism campaigns will be utilized.

Repositioning the Conference for Evangelism

To begin the process of repositioning the Conference, Morel organized a “Vision Casting Summit” for

the Conference administrators and ministries directors. During the three-day event, the administrators and ministries directors crafted a new vision for Southeastern.

Citing Ephesians 4:11-12, Morel shared, “We have strayed away from the original design of the Church, which calls for the pastor to train and equip the members of the Church to work in conjunction with the pastor to win souls for the kingdom.” He called for every ministries director to rethink how they support the mission of the Church. Freddie Russell, Allegheny West president, served as the keynote presenter for the summit.

Pastoral Preparation

To prepare the pastors for evangelism, the focus of the fall and winter workers’ meetings was also evangelism. Morel shared with the ministers, “The current structure of the Church, in which the pastor is expected to be the lone voice of evangelism, will not work today.” You can view selected seminars at www.secsda.org.



ROBERT HENLEY

Patrick Vincent, D.Min., equipping the more than 900 attendees to Southeastern Leaders’ Summit for evangelism.

Lay Preparation

More than 900 church officers converged in Orlando, Florida, for the seventh annual Southeastern Conference Leadership Summit, February 6-8, 2009.

The three-day training event equipped the laymen to do evangelism in this post-modern world.

While the summit itself was a success, Morel stated, “True success will be determined by the way we implement what we have learned, and the way we perform ministry in our local churches and communities that will eventually result in baptism of new members.”

Three major evangelistic campaigns will be held in the cities of Tampa, Orlando, and Ft. Lauderdale.

In an effort to make those campaigns more relevant, the Conference’s evangelism committee has examined ways to enhance the meetings. Some strategies include conducting meetings in store fronts, utilizing mass media and social media (such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube), and creating websites for each effort that will provide additional content.

Each pastor has been encouraged to conduct at least two evangelistic campaigns. With approximately 70 ministers pastoring at a total of 140 English, Hispanic, and French-speaking churches, Southeastern is poised to reap many individuals for the kingdom.

Every administrator and ministries director will



ROBERT HENLEY

“It is unacceptable to just stand still; you must move forward,” stated Wintley Phipps as he challenged Southeastern’s pastors to utilize non-traditional methods to evangelize the post-modern society.

conduct at least one evangelistic effort. They have also planned to work together to support campaigns in Bartow, Florida, Fitzgerald, Georgia, and Valdosta, Georgia, by conducting seminars and workshops in their various ministries’ disciplines, leading up to and during those campaigns.

Nicole Brise, Conference women’s ministries director, has scheduled 15 evangelistic campaigns that she will conduct.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

TIP FROM THE EVANGELIST

“The more we know Christ, the better we can represent Him to others.”

America's Invisible Generation

BY ROBERT HENLEY



In America there are more than one million homeless young people who call the streets of our cities home. Alone and hurting, these invisible Americans, as young as eight years old, have no where or no one to turn to for help.

The Conference's youth ministries department made a difference in the lives of many of Florida's homeless youth, when it presented a donation of \$1,200 to Covenant House in Orlando, Florida, during the annual Southeastern Youth Convocation weekend, held January 23 and 24.

Caesar Robinson, Conference youth ministries director, wanted to make an impact in Orlando. "Thousands of Adventists converge



Caesar Robinson presents Maria Mayola, Covenant House Orlando community relations director, with a check for \$1,200. Pictured with them are members of the Conference's youth ministries council: Ivan Sanky, Pathfinder Federation president; Vivian Bryant, South Florida Adventist Youth Federation president; Emmanuel Caesar, Haitian Adventist Youth coordinator; and Sherrie Barton, departmental secretary.

on cities throughout the Southeastern Conference, attending Conference-sponsored events each year, and no one knows that we have been there,” states Robinson.

When asked why the Covenant House, Robinson replied, “Many of the young people Covenant House provides shelter for are Adventist youth.”

As a pastor for more than 20 years, Robinson has seen his share of homeless Adventist youth. He also stated that Covenant is doing a work that we should be doing.

The donation amount was generated by the admittance fee for the convocation’s “Old Time Social” held at Forest Lake Academy Gym.

Founded in 1972, Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in America providing shelter and other services to homeless, runaway, and throwaway youth. There are two facilities in Florida, Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando.

Every day nearly 175 youth are reached via street outreach, crisis shelters, transitional housing programs, and aftercare.

In addition to providing food, shelter, and crisis management services, Covenant House offers counseling, case management, transportation assistance, and referrals.



Sherrie Barton (right) gives a personal clothing donation to Maria Mayola and Covenant House.

Younger teens can attend school full-time on-site in Ft. Lauderdale or at area schools in Orlando. Both sites offer tutoring for completion of the general equivalency diploma (GED).

Youth also receive counseling aimed at pregnancy prevention. Teen parents are provided with parenting skills training.

Employment assistance is provided to help older teens find and maintain jobs, while life skills instruction gives them guidance on budgeting and preparing to live independently. Staff assist with family reunification whenever possible.

Last year Covenant House Florida provided immediate crisis shelter to nearly 1,600 homeless

youths, and reached many more through street outreach, transitional housing, and walk-in/aftercare services.

“We go into the community by van and by foot to reach out to youth trying to survive on the streets. Outreach workers provide immediate assistance and referrals for long-term needs,” states Maria Mayola, Covenant House Orlando community relations director.

Covenant House also provides healthcare services via on-site clinics at no cost to the youth. Both sites offer drug and alcohol education, and substance abuse treatment includes the Covenant House Addictions Management Project (CHAMP) in Ft. Lauderdale, and referrals to similar services in Orlando.

To learn more about Covenant House or find out how you can make an impact, visit www.covenanthouse.org/faithcommunity. ❄

Homeless But Hopeful

Watch how Covenant House provides a second chance at life for Ada, and her daughter, Leany, online at www.secsda.org. Keyword: homeless.

Covenant House Annual Report Card on the U.S. Homeless Youth Crisis:

- The number of homeless and impoverished youth in our country is growing; 18- to 24-year-olds make up the highest percentage of individuals living in poverty.
- Since 2002 in the United States, the percentage of older adolescents living in poverty has grown by 10 percent.
- The percentage of older adolescents experiencing mental health distress is on the rise. In New Jersey alone, the percentage rose to 143 percent from 2002 to 2006.
- Unemployment disproportionately affects 18- to 24-year olds, with rates around two times the unemployment rates for older adults.
- If you are a youth coming out of foster care, you are more likely to become homeless. One-third of the 70,000 homeless youth helped by Covenant House come directly from foster care.
- Once homeless, youth are at a much greater risk for becoming incarcerated. The number of arrests for 18- to 24-year-olds has increased for prostitution (17 percent), drug violations (19%), weapons charges (25 percent), and vagrancy (28 percent).
- The three leading causes of death for 18- to 24-year-olds are unintentional injury, homicide, and suicide.
- 18- to 24-year-olds accounted for one in four of all homicides in 2005 — a 15 percent increase from 2001.
- 18- to 24-year-olds account for one in 10 of all suicide victims.

3er Festival de Laicos de la Unión del Sur

Jorge Mayer, director del ministerio hispano de la Unión del Sur

Mil personas entre delegados laicos y pastores de siete de las ocho asociaciones de nuestro territorio, se dieron cita del 6-8 de febrero en Lake Yale, ubicado en Leesburg, FL, para participar del tercer festival de laicos organizado por la Unión. Este es un evento que se ha estado organizando cada cinco años, y tiene el propósito de instruir e incentivar a las iglesias en su participación en las diferentes formas de evangelismo. El orador principal fue el pastor Alejandro Bullón, evangelista retirado de la división sudamericana, quien como siempre impartió mensajes inspiradores que llenaron de entusiasmo a los participantes en el cumplimiento de la misión. Como complemento se dictaron seminarios de evangelismo simultáneos a cargo de los pastores Alejandro Morgado, Hernán Tavera y Frank Ottis. Algunos de los asistentes prepararon una serie de dramatizaciones ilustrando las técnicas de evangelismo aprendidas, que fueron presen-

tadas en un escenario montado por ellos mismos de una manera altamente profesional.

Al finalizar el evento, los hermanos asistentes recibieron la invitación a comprometerse a orar para traer tres conocidos a los pies de Jesús durante el año 2009. A cada persona que aceptó el reto se le dio una mochila con los materiales necesarios para poder instruir a los interesados. Mil fue el número de mochilas que se entregó, y se ha recibido un pedido equivalente para distribuir en las iglesias, como resultado del testimonio dado por los delegados en sus congregaciones.

Saliendo de los esquemas en los que se había estado trabajando, se está organizando otro festival a llevarse a cabo el año que viene. Esperamos de esta manera que el objetivo de nuestra iglesia sea grabado en las mentes y corazones de nuestros miembros, y el evangelio alcance pronto toda región, tribu lengua y pueblo.



Jóvenes de la Iglesia hispana de Orlando que formaron parte de la dramatización.



Un Sueño Hecho Realidad

Pastor Rolando González, iglesia de Sebring, FL.

Luego de un incansable esfuerzo bajo el liderazgo de varios pastores que pasaron por la iglesia de Sebring, FL, el 6 de diciembre se cortó la cinta inaugural del templo con capacidad para albergar a 300 personas, construido por la compañía de los hermanos José y Nori Martín, anciano y secretario de la iglesia respectivamente.

La ceremonia comenzó con la apertura de las puertas y el coro dirigido por el profesor Mario Meneses cantando "Abrid las puertas del templo." El pastor Michael Cauley, presidente de la asociación, tuvo el mensaje central y Carmen Rodríguez, en represen-

tación de dicha entidad, entregó un cheque de 20,000 dólares que fue una bendición para este proyecto. Talentos locales alabaron a Dios por medio de la música, y se presentaron testimonios de experiencias vividas en este proceso que ayudaron a ver la presencia de Dios en medio de cada cosa que se hizo.



Pastor González cortando la cinta inaugural



Georgia- Cumberland Noticias

Evangelismo Radial

Mariel Lombardi, editora, Southern Union Conference

Luego de intensas negociaciones, preparativos y oración, la iglesia Primera de Atlanta puso en el aire el programa semanal Fuerza para Vivir, en Radio Luz (1190).

Los pastores Joel Barrios y Luis Cavallero están haciendo un excelente trabajo en la conducción y presentación de los mensajes. Después de sólo cinco programas, más de 100 personas llamaron a la estación de radio mostrando interés por los temas que se presentan, y deseos de conectarse con la iglesia. Ocho oyentes ya han asistido al templo a participar de diferentes eventos, y otros han manifestado su interés

por conocer más acerca de este mensaje. En cada salida al aire se obsequian los libros El Deseado de Todas las Gentes, El Camino a Cristo, y CD's.

El programa sale al aire los miércoles a las 10:00 de la mañana, y puede ser escuchado también on-line visitando la página www.1190radioluz.com

La iglesia ha separado un presupuesto para llevar a cabo esta tarea, y también ha recibido y espera continuar recibiendo donaciones que serán de gran bendición para este proyecto de evangelismo mediático.



Pastores Barrios y Cavallero durante la transmisión del programa

Georgia-Cumberland Noticias

Camino a Belén

Lic. Daniel Figueroa, tesorero, iglesia Primera de Atlanta

“Camino a Belén” fue el proyecto evangelístico de navidad que la iglesia Primera de Atlanta presentó a la comunidad hispana. Durante los tres meses previos a esta fecha, se unió en oración y como un solo cuerpo, los participantes prepararon cada detalle del proyecto. Se transformó el estacionamiento de la iglesia en la histórica aldea de Belén, y entre soldados montados a caballo, multitud de vendedores en el mercado, ovejas, aves, chivos, y otros animales, se organizó una trayectoria que llevaba a los asistentes en grupos de 25 personas por las

diferentes etapas de la historia del nacimiento de Jesús. Más de 1.000 personas sin contar los niños, fueron testigos de esta hermosa historia de amor. Vecinos de origen hindú, filipino y anglosajón, se dieron cita en este evento, y continúan visitando la iglesia en la actualidad. Para ello se ha creado un ministerio de traducción simultánea con tecnología de avanzada, que interpreta los servicios de la iglesia cada sábado para aquellos que no hablan español.

Se ha decidido continuar presentando este programa cada año durante el segundo

fin de semana de diciembre. Este proyecto unió más a la hermandad en su misión de evangelismo. Se espera que este año se duplique el número de visitas para la gloria de Dios.



Campeonato de Fútbol Inter Asociaciones

Lic. Daniel Figueroa, tesorero, iglesia Primera de Atlanta

Luego de diez años de no haber llevado a cabo esta actividad, ocho iglesias pertenecientes a las asociaciones South Atlantic y Georgia Cumberland participaron en un campeonato de fútbol organizado por la iglesia Primera de Atlanta. Durante cinco semanas, jóvenes, niños y adultos, cada uno en su categoría, participaron en partidos amistosos desde las

9:00 de la mañana hasta las 9:00 de la noche en las instalaciones del condado Gwinnett.

Esta actividad no fue simplemente deportiva. Se oró y compartió momentos de camaradería que lograron que los participantes se sintieran parte de una gran familia: la familia de Dios.

Kentucky-Tennessee Noticias

Retiro de Jóvenes

Pastor Armando de León, coordinador del departamento hispano de la asociación

Con un record de asistencia se llevó a cabo el retiro de jóvenes de la asociación, del 17-19 de octubre. El pastor Sergio Monterroso inspiró a los presentes con la presentación de los temas. “Este ha sido uno de los mejores retiros a los que hemos asistido,” fue

el comentario de muchos.

Se tomaron decisiones firmes de seguir el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida: Cristo.

El domingo se realizaron actividades aeróbicas con el propósito de educar a los jóvenes en los hábitos para mantener un cuerpo sano.

La iglesia de Memphis hizo un excelente trabajo de integración de los participantes, y se utilizaron muchos de los talentos presentes para la gloria de Dios.



Planes de Saluda

Rebecca Caballero, secretaria del departamento hispano de la asociación

Seis jóvenes fueron bautizados al terminar la semana de evangelismo presentada por Maurilio Velazquez en la iglesia de Saluda, NC. Al finalizar la ceremonia, doce personas respondieron al llamado y se preparan para bautizarse próximamente. La iglesia se ha unido en un intenso trabajo misionero con el propósito de hacer que el número de miembros alcance los 100 en el 2009. Otro blanco para un futuro inmediato, es establecer una iglesia en Greenwood, donde ocho personas se reúnen todos los sábados. Se está orando fervientemente ya que "...la mies es mucha, y los obreros pocos" Mateo 9:37



Bendiciones en Dalton

José Reyes, pastor voluntario de las iglesias de Ebenezer y Saluda, SC

El sábado 24 de enero la iglesia de Dalton, GA, recibió la visita del secretario de la asociación, William Winston, quien entregó un cheque de 30,000 dólares en calidad de ayuda para la adquisición de un templo.

Por la tarde el pastor Efraín Poloche efectuó la ceremonia de ordenación de tres ancianos y cinco diáconos. Los oficiales ungidos representaron las congregaciones hispanas del distrito a cargo del Pastor Caban, que incluye las iglesias de Roswell, Adairsville y Dalton. Al final de la ceremonia se extendió una invitación a seguir a Jesús, y Bryan de doce años expresó su deseo de bautizarse.



Primer Bautismo en Orangeburg

Efraín Poloche, coordinador del departamento hispano de la asociación

El sábado 29 de noviembre, el flamante grupo de Orangeburg, SC, llevó a cabo su primer bautismo, que fue oficiado por el pastor Poloche. El líder de la congregación, pastor Héctor Rodríguez, ha puesto un notorio esfuerzo en el impulso de la actividad misionera, y los frutos se pueden ver.

Al finalizar la ceremonia, varios padres trajeron a sus hijos para ser presentados ante Dios, y recibir su bendición. Seguidamente se llevó a cabo la ceremonia de santa cena, con la colaboración del pastor José Reyes.

Sin lugar a dudas, este fue un sábado lleno de bendiciones.

Seminario de Laicos

Lady Uribe, iglesia de Carrolton, GA

El 23 de noviembre se llevó a cabo un seminario para laicos a cargo del pastor Ezequiel González, procedente de Santo Domingo. Se contó con la representación de las iglesias de Marietta, Carrolton, Doraville, Roswell y Chamblee. Los pastores Uribe, Quintiana, Juan Reyes y Poloche apoyaron el evento con su presencia.



Retiro de Varones

Lady Uribe, iglesia de Carrolton, GA

Los hermanos de la asociación tuvieron el privilegio de participar de uno de los retiros más inspiradores que se hayan organizado. Se contó con la presencia de los pastores Aner Ramírez y Héctor Rodríguez quienes se encargaron de las predicaciones centrales y las meditaciones respectivamente.

El domingo el pastor Almerida instó a los jóvenes a buscar a Cristo en los días de la juventud. Varias visitas respondieron a los llamados de bautismo, y cada participante se comprometió a ser una bendición para su familia e iglesia.



Retiro de Jóvenes

Efraín Poloche, coordinador del departamento hispano de la asociación

En un ambiente de alegría y espiritualidad se llevó a cabo el retiro de jóvenes hispanos de la asociación. Los participantes fueron recibidos por Xiomara Poloche, y disfrutaron de las predicaciones del pastor Daniel Pabón quien se ha desempeñado como capellán y profesor de academias adventistas, pianista, y cantante de ópera. Los maestros de ceremonia y encargados de la música fueron el pastor Uribe y su esposa Lady, quienes pusieron emoción y alegría en cada parte del programa.

La congregación de Thompson liderada por Herty Arévalo, fue premiada con una lap-top por haber sido la que más participantes llevó al evento. El segundo puesto lo obtuvo la iglesia de Dalton, con un reproductor de DVD como premio.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty in Outdoor Education. Earned doctorate in outdoor education or related field preferred. Responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, collaborating with faculty, and mentoring students. The applicant must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should submit a resume and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, email: sep@southern.edu; fax: 423-236-1765. [4-6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty in the area of Teacher Education. Criteria include an earned doctorate in inclusive or special education or related area, K-12 classroom experience, and a commitment to Christian education. Responsibilities include teaching, coordinating field experiences, and mentoring students. The position requires applicant to be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Interested individuals should submit a resume and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean. Email: sep@southern.edu; fax: 423-236-1765. [4-6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Director to develop and implement a new master's program in Social Work. A doctoral degree in social work or a related field, a master's

degree in social work, and at least two years of MSW practice experience are required. Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Dr. René Drumm, Chair, Social Work & Family Studies, Southern Adventist University PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370 or rdrumm@southern.edu, 423-236-2768. [4-6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Nursing seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and SDA education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, drbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [4-6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Nursing seeks Mental Health nursing faculty member who loves teaching and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and SDA education. Masters in Nursing required. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, drbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [4-6]

BLUE MOUNTAIN CREDIT UNION near Walla Walla, seeks CEO. Master's degree with 5+ years' financial management experience preferred. Excellent leadership and communications skills are essential, along with lending, finance, and computer expertise. Send resume, cover letter, salary requirements to: BMCU Board Chair, 520 S. College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324. [4]

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BOOKS – More than 250,000 new and used Adventist books in stock at www.LNFBooks.com. Looking for a publisher? Free review of your manuscript. Call 1-800-367-1844 or visit www.TeachServices.com. [4-10]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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RVs!!! Adventist-owned and operated RV dealership has been helping SDAs for more than 30 years. Huge inventory. Courtesy airport pickup and onsite hookups. Satisfied SDA customer list available. Call toll-free: 888-933-9300. Lee's RV City, Oklahoma City. Visit our website: www.leesrv.com or Email: LeesRVs@aol.com. ©

EIGHT NATURAL REMEDIES with James Johnson, M.D. Phone/fax 615-523-2136. Email education@jjohnsonmd.com. Online and correspondence courses for laypersons and professionals. www.geocities.com/jjohnsonmd/remedies.html. [4]

Advertisements

SPONSOR A CHILD! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, clothes, and medical. Adventist Child India is an official project of the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventist. 308-530-6655. www.adventistchildindia.org or childcare@sud-adventist.org. [4]

NEWSTART LIFESTYLE PROGRAM at Weimar Institute of Health & Education: Our 18-day NEWSTART Lifestyle Program reduces the risk of and reverses obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, fibromyalgia, stress & other degenerative diseases. For more information, call 800-525-9192 now! Read testimonies on our website: www.newstart.com. [4-1]

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT LIFESTYLE PROGRAM at Wildwood Health Retreat. YOUR HEART'S DESIRE is 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 May 3 and June 7, 2009. For more information, contact Darlene: 931-724-6706. [4,5]

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COURSE is now online! It features the most up-to-date health information and the undiluted Three Angels Messages to help you save on medical bills and prepare for the end times. This training will better equip you to share the gospel. Apply today: www.healthevangelism.com. [4]

ONLINE CEU CREDITS – Nedley Depression Recovery Program and Training the Trainer, (Director and Facilitator training). 16 units of CEU available. Register at dmedley.com, or call 800-778-4445. [4-9]

SEEKING ADVENTIST STUDENTS AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. If you know Adventist students attending Clemson University in South Carolina, contact professor Rhondda Thomas, rhonddt@clemson.edu, 864-656-5417. The Clemson Seventh-day Adventist Church has started a campus ministry for students. See the church website for more information: www.4thangelonline.com. [4]

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS FOR LOCAL CHURCH ELDERS – Georgia-Cumberland Conference: Sabbath, April 18, 2009, 3:00-6:30

Attention Adventist Attorneys and Law Students

Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys

Membership in the society is open to all Seventh-day Adventist Attorneys and Law Students. For membership enrollment and additional information please contact: Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys, PO Box 849, Decatur GA 30031-0849 404-299-1832, x435 or email us at: ssaa@southernunion.com

p.m. Collegedale Community Church, 4995 Swinyar Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363. All local church elders and spouses, as well as pastors and laity leaders are invited to participate in this dynamic training event, hosted by the General Conference Ministerial Association to enhance the effectiveness of church leaders. All seminars translated into Spanish. Free of charge. No registration required. For directions or more information, please contact Ricardo Bacchus at 301-680-6514 or bacchusr@gc.adventist.org. [4]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners, and mailing services? Call HOPE'S Customer Service Representative free at 800-274-0016 or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver-on time! [4-12]

YOUR CHOICE OR THE STATE'S



Did you know:

If you don't have a valid will, the state will decide the future of your estate?

Protect what matters most:

Contact your conference's Planned Giving and Trust Services office to protect your family, investments, and estate.

Carolina: Ken Ford, 704-596-3200
 Florida: Jose LeGrand, 407-644-5000
 Georgia-Cumberland: Mitch Hazekamp, 706-629-7951
 Gulf States: Tui Pitman, 334-272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee: Lin Powell, 615-859-1391
 South Atlantic: Lawrence Hamilton, 404-792-0535
 South Central: Michael Harpe, 615-226-6500
 Southeastern: David Long, 407-869-5264

Events Calendar

Carolina

Share Him Festival – April 9-11. Atlantic Union College.
Adventure Fun Day – April 11, 12. NPR.
Mount Pisgah Academy Alumni Weekend – April 17-19.
MPA Graduation – May 16, 17.
Elders' Retreat – April 24-26. NPR.
Mother/Daughter Banquet – May 10. Charlotte.

Florida

Complete calendar online – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>
Florida Pathfinder Events – <http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.
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
Vacation Bible School and Sabbath School Training/Workshops – Web: <http://www.floridaconference.com/childmin/>
 April 12. Spanish-language. Winter Park Spanish Church. Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.
 April 18. English-language. Miami Temple Church. 3:00-8:00 p.m. Details: rburrill@cfl.rr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.
Florida Spring Bike Tour – April 12-15. Details: tracyandbeth@gmail.com or 352-586-7621.
Florida Prison Ministries Programs – Details: fbartonsr@yahoo.com, 352-728-1229, or 352-408-1844.
 April 18. Pompano Beach Church.
 April 25. University Church in Orlando.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online—www.gccsda.com
Alumni Weekend
 April 17-19. CAA. Collegedale, TN
Health Rallies
 April 11. Cleveland, GA.
 April 18. Tifton, GA.
 May 2. North Knoxville, TN.
Good Friday (No School) – April 10. GCC Schools.
Kids in Discipleship Training – April 12-15. Collegedale, TN.
Pathfinder Camporee – April 16-19. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.
Andrew Ishee, Gospel Musician – April 18. Atlanta Metro Church. Atlanta, GA.

Elders' Training Seminar Event – April 18. Collegedale, TN, Community Church.
Collegedale Academy Day – April 21. Collegedale, TN.
Cohutta Springs Development Associates Retreat – April 24, 25. Crandall, GA.
GCC & SAC Evangelism with Pastor Bullón – April 25-28. Caravan from church to church.
Dibels Assessment Week – May 4-8. GCC Schools.
Un Nuevo Dia: Reunion de Demas – May 9. Knoxville, TN.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gccsda.org>
Investiture Services
 April 11. N. AL. Floral Crest Church.
 May 3. Central Alabama. Birmingham First Church.
 May 9. Pensacola. University Parkway Church.
Executive Committee – April 7. Conference Office.
Outdoor School – April 14–17. Camp Alamisco.
Share Him Training – April 17–19. Huntsville Central.
Adventurer Family Fun Weekend – April 24–26. Camp Alamisco.
Alabama Area Hispanic Women's Ministries Meeting – May 9. Birmingham, AL.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Soul Impact Prayer Conference – April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.
Pastors'/Elders' Conference – April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.
Literature Evangelist Spring Campout – April 24-26. Bailey's Point at Barren River Lake.
Conference Association Board
 May 12. July 21.
Conference Executive Committee
 May 12. July 21.

Southern Adventist University

SonRise Resurrection Pageant – April 11.
PreviewSouthern – April 16.
Jazz Ensemble Concert – April 25.
Semester Exams – April 26-29.

Announcements

Oakwood University Alumni Weekend – April 9-12. On the campus of Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. Details: www.oakwoodalumni.org or 256-726-7039.

Enterprise Academy Alumni Association 90th Anniversary 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.

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend – April 24, 25. North Aurora SDA Church. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor Classes, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1999. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, and Church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES, POSTAGE IS EXPENSIVE. Send it to shona@cross.co.za /or call Shona Cross at 630-428-4182. Don't miss it!

Ramah SDA Junior Academy Alumni Reunion – April 24-26. (Formerly, Ramah Parochial School located in Savannah, GA) Would like to hear from its former teachers, students, and former pastors of the West Broad SDA Church to participate in its annual alumni reunion commemorating 95 years of service. Please contact Alumni President Marian Pelote at 912-236-1480 or register online at Ramahsda.tripod.com.

La Sierra Academy 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 Isaalumni@lsak12.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.

Atlanta Metropolitan Church – Andrew Ishee, Gospel Musician – April 18. Missions Revival Weekend with Joedy & Judy Melashenko of The Quiet Hour – May 1, at 7 p.m. and May 2, at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Everyone invited! Details: 404-289-1748.

Lake Nelson SDA School 50th Anniversary – May 16. Former students, teachers, principals, board members, and pastors are encouraged to attend. Details: 732-981-0626, or emaragoto@lakenelsonsdaschool.org or www.lakenelsonsdaschool.org

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake/Great Lakes Academy Reunion – June 11-14. Alumni and schoolmates of 1959 and earlier from Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959. Details: Contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.GLAA.net

Madison College Alumni Homecoming – June 26-28. Honoring Class of 1959 and those attending/graduating from 1950-1964, will be honored as well. Friday evening, Sabbath, and Sunday breakfast, all at the Madison Academy campus. Details: Jim Culpepper 615-654-3311.

Wichita Adventist Christian Academy 50th Reunion – Sept. 18-20. Details: 316-267-9472 or waca50th@yahoo.com

	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	May 1	May 7
Atlanta, GA	7:59	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:21	8:26
Charleston, SC	7:41	7:46	7:51	7:56	8:01	8:06
Charlotte, NC	7:46	7:52	7:57	8:03	8:09	8:14
Collegedale, TN	8:03	8:08	8:14	8:20	8:25	8:31
Huntsville, AL	7:09	7:14	7:20	7:25	7:30	7:36
Jackson, MS	7:22	7:27	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
Louisville, KY	8:07	8:14	8:21	8:27	8:34	8:40
Memphis, TN	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:39	7:45	7:51
Miami, FL	7:38	7:42	7:45	7:48	7:52	7:55
Montgomery, AL	7:06	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:26	7:31
Nashville, TN	7:10	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:40
Orlando, FL	7:44	7:48	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:05
Wilmington, NC	7:34	7:39	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01

Camp Meeting 2009 Schedule

CAROLINA

Portions of Camp Meeting will be viewable at www.carolinasda.org

Hispanic

April 17-19 Nosoca Pines Ranch

English

May 24-30 Theme: "Christ, Our Cornerstone" Lake Junaluska, NC

Speakers: Mark Finley, Michael Hasel, Dennis Ross, and Ty Gibson

Seminar Presenters: Julio Barillas, Steven Bohr, Merlin Burt, Ed Reid, Paul Richardson, Mary Ann Walden, Carol Zarska, Teenie Finley, Rick Howard, Russell Burrill, Michael Kulakov, and Charles Burkean

Musical Guest: Michael Harris

Eastern Carolina Oct. 16-18 Oak Island, NC

Speaker: Philip Samaan

Musical Guests: Jaime Jorge

FLORIDA

115th Annual Camp Meeting

May 22, 23 Theme: "More About Jesus" Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL

Venue: Satellite or Internet broadcast. A multi-cultural/multi-generational worship experience featuring music blended with prayer and scripture in a variety of languages. Note: There will be no events or camping/accommodation facilities at the Forest Lake Academy campus.

Details: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Korean

May 15, 16 Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA

English

May 27-30 Theme: "Come, See, Go, Tell" Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN

Speaker Wednesday/Thursday: Dick Tibbetts

Speaker Friday/Sabbath: Ron Smith

Hispanic

June 12-14 Georgia Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA

Olde Time

June 18-20 Deer Lodge, TN

Speaker: Ron Halvorsen

Southern Deaf

Aug. 27-30 Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA

Northeast Tennessee

Sept. 25, 26 The Oaks, Greeneville, TN

Speaker: Jiri Moskala

GULF STATES

May 22-30 Theme: "It's Harvest Time" Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS

Speaker 1st Sabbath: Derek Morris

Musical Concert 1st Sabbath: Michael Harris, Chapel recording artist

Sunday: Pathfinder Fair and Parade/ ABC's biggest sale of the year

Sunday-Sabbath: Brian McMahon, Amazing Facts associate speaker, will conduct an evangelistic series. A baptism is planned for 2nd Sabbath.

Musical Concert 2nd Sabbath: Mercy Sent

Speaker 2nd Sabbath: Brian McMahon

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

English

May 22-30 Theme: "The Harvest is Ready" Highland Academy, Portland, TN

Speakers: Mark Finley, John Bradshaw, Derek Morris, Debbonnaire Kovacs, Dane Griffin, David Ripley, and Steve Leddy

Seminar Presenters: Vicki Griffin, Stewart Crook, Tim & Andrea Madding, Ginger Voignier, Bryan Gallant, and Debbonnaire Kovacs

Hispanic

June 5, 6 Highland Academy, Portland, TN

Speaker: Atilio Dupertuis

SOUTH ATLANTIC

June 14-20 Theme: TBA River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

Speaker 1st Sabbath:

Speaker 2nd Sabbath:

Youth Spkr 1st Sabbath:

Youth Spkr 2nd Sabbath:

Youth Ministries Presenters:

SOUTH CENTRAL

Hispanic Camp Meeting

TBA Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL

Pathfinder Camporee

TBA Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL

June 5-13 Theme: TBA Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL

Speaker 1st Sabbath:

Speaker 2nd Sabbath:

Youth Speakers: TBA

Women's Ministries Speaker: TBA

Ordination Service 2nd Weekend

SOUTHEASTERN

All services will be streamed via Southeastern Conference's Website: www.secsda.org

Adult Pavilion

June 18-27 Theme: "It's Harvest Time" Hawthorne, FL

Speaker 1st Sabbath: Glenn Samuels

Speaker 2nd Sabbath: Emil Peeler

Workshops: Women Ministries, Religious Liberty, Church Clerks, Technology Ministries, Stewardship & Trust, Helath Ministries, and Communication Ministries

Youth Pavilion

Speaker 1st Sabbath: Antwoyne Mells

Speaker 2nd Sabbath: Rupert Bushner

Youth Activities: Science Camp, Sports Activities, Youth Speakers, and Workshops

Youth Ministries Presenters: "Lyrics & Melodies"

Haitian Camp Meeting

July 1-4 Hawthorne, FL

Summer Camp 2009 Schedule

CAROLINA

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC

[Register online at www.nosoca.org]

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC

[Register online at www.nosoca.org]

S.I.T. (ages 16-17) May 31-June 14

Adventure (ages 7-11) June 7-14

Horsemanship I (ages 12-16) June 7-14

Basketball (ages 11-16) June 7-14

Wheels (ages 13-16) June 14-21

Water Sports (ages 13-16) June 7-14

Junior I (ages 10-12) June 14-21

Horsemanship II (ages 13-16) June 14-21

Sports (ages 13-16) June 14-21

Tween (ages 12-14) June 21-28

Teen Extreme Adventurer Horse Camping Trip (ages 14-17) June 21-28

Horsemanship III (ages 11-13) June 28-July 5

Teen (ages 13-16) June 28-July 5

Family Camp (all ages) July 8-12

GULF STATES

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL

[Details: www.Alamisco.org]

Adventure Camp (ages 7-9) June 7-13

Junior Camp (ages 10-12) June 14-20

Teen Camp (ages 13-16) June 21-27

Family Camp (all ages) June 28-July 4

SOUTH ATLANTIC

River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

Junior Bible/Summer Camp (ages 8-17) June 28-July 5

Basketball Camp (ages 8-17) TBA

FLORIDA

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL

[Details: <http://summercamp.campkulaqua.com/>]

Equus Week (ages 11-16) May 31-June 7

Lifeguard Camp (ages 15-17) May 31-June 7

Soccer Camp (ages 11-15) May 31-June 7

Teen Camp (ages 13-16) May 31-June 7

Wheels Camp (ages 13-16) May 31-June 7

Teen Mountain Adventure (ages 13-16) June 21-28

Basketball Camp Track 1 (ages 9-12) June 7-14

Basketball Camp Track 2 (ages 13-16) June 7-14

Cowpoke Week (ages 11-16) June 7-14

Cub Camp (ages 7-9) June 7-14

Extreme Cowboy Adventure (ages 13-16) June 21-28

Extreme Teen Adventure (ages 13-16) June 28-July 5

FL Frontier Week (ages 11-16) June 14-21

Junior Camp (ages 10-12) June 14-21

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN

Blind Camp (mixed ages) June 7-14

Specialty Camp (ages 13-17) June 7-14

Cub Camp (ages 7-9) June 14-21

C.I.T. (ages 16, 17) June 14-21

Junior Camp (ages 10-12) June 21-28

Family Camp I (all ages) July 30-Aug. 5

Tween Camp (ages 12-14) July 5-12

Teen Camp (ages 14-17) July 12-19

Family Camp II (all ages) July 19-26

SOUTH CENTRAL

Camp Lee, Anniston, AL

Friendship Camp (ages 7-16) TBA

Super Sports Camp (ages 7-17) TBA

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center, Crandall, GA

[Details: www.cs-yc.com]

Junior Camp I (ages 10-12) June 7-14

Golf Camp I (ages 13-17) June 7-14

Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17) June 7-14

Rock Climbing Camp (ages 13-17) June 7-14

Fit for Life I (ages 10-13) June 7-28

Junior Camp II (ages 10-12) June 14-21

Mountain Bike Trip (ages 13-17) June 14-21

Paintball Camp II (ages 13-17) June 14-21

Skateboard Camp (ages 13-17) June 14-21

S.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) June 14-21

Adventure Camp (ages 7-9) June 21-26

Horse Pack Trip (ages 13-17) June 21-28

Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17) June 21-28

Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17) June 21-28

C.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) June 21-28

Tween/Pathfinder Honors Camp (ages 12-13) June 28-July 5

Gym-Masters Camp (ages 13-17) June 28-July 5

Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17) June 28-July 5

Fit for Life I (ages 13-17) June 28-July 19

Teen Camp I (ages 13-17) July 5-12

Basketball Camp (ages 13-17) July 5-12

Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17) July 5-12

Teen Camp II (ages 13-17) July 12-19

Golf Camp II (ages 13-17) July 12-19

Wakeboard Camp III (ages 13-17) July 12-19

Surf Camp (ages 13-17) July 19-26

Family Camp (all ages) July 21-26

Ultimate RAD Camp West (ages 13-17) July 26-Aug. 4

W.I.T. Camp (ages 15 and up) Every week (June 7-July 19)

SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL

Pee Wee Camp (ages 5-8) July 5-8

Summer Camp (ages 9-16) July 5-25

I AM A **FRONTAL CORTEX**

I love brainstorming sessions! Like student senate, which gives me the opportunity to strategize and debate project proposals. Or through serving on the committee that plans student worship services designed to draw others closer to Christ. I find my greatest joy in using creative ideas to help shape Southern's campus. —Alexis Boddy

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Frontal Cortex:
Section of the brain associated with reasoning.



be a part

1 Corinthians 12:12: The body is a unit, and though all its parts are many, they form one body.

