

July 2009

# T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



Disabilities Ministries  
Sección Hispánica

# Stories of Faith in the Southern Union

I enjoy traveling through the Southern Union Conference. In every state are churches, schools, homes, hospitals, and yes, even cemeteries where one can hear and tell stories of faith, love, and the power of God.

Today I visited Bowling Green, Florida, where I stopped at Bowling Green City Cemetery to visit the graves of Elder George Ide Butler and his wife, Lenthia. Butler was twice president of the General Conference, president for the Iowa and Florida conferences, and the second president of the Southern Union.

Standing in front of his tombstone, I remembered that three months after Ellen White died, he attended the 1915 Fall Council held at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California. One of the critical discussions on the agenda was whether to spend money to get the school accredited or to invest it in missions. After a lengthy discussion it seemed clear that the school would be closed. Elder A. G. Daniels was prepared to call for the motion when 80-year-old Elder Butler asked to speak.

“You know that at times I have not been on the right side of situations. Although it has taken a while, I have learned not to vote against what God has told us we should do. Sister White has made it clear that we should have this medical school, and now before her body is barely cold in the grave, we are talking about closing it. I want to say that when the chairman calls for the vote, this is one old hand that will not go up in favor of the motion.”

When Elder Daniells called for the vote, the motion to close the school was defeated.” (“Do You Know His Name?” Jim Nix. *Adventist Review*, November 22, 1990, p. 16).

Before I left Elder Butler’s grave, I thanked God for this man’s faith and courage.

Stories of faith can be found throughout our Union. In Carolina there is Valle Crucis. In Yazoo City, Mississippi, there is Lintonia Chapel. At the Rhea County Courthouse in Tennessee, where the Scopes Trial and Sunday Blue Law Trials were held; we are reminded that God is our Creator and Lord of the Sabbath. Collegedale has the Desmond Doss Memorial Park. Lexington is the home of Dr. Mary Britton and Attorney Alexander Chiles, who argued in the Kentucky Legislature and U. S. Supreme Court against the Separate Coach Bill.

There are hundreds of other stories yet to be told. In your spare time, you may want to visit some of these sites. You may also want to collect, preserve, and share stories of faith with the next generation.

Psalms 146:4-7 says:

One generation will commend your works to another;  
they will tell of your mighty acts.

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

They will tell of the power of your awesome works,  
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

They will celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.



**R. Steven Norman III**  
*Guest Editorial*

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

## Staff

**Editor** R. STEVEN NORMAN III  
**Editorial Assistant** IRISENE DOUCE  
**Circulation** BOBBIE MILLBURN  
**Advertising** NATHAN ZINNER  
**Production** COLLEGE PRESS  
**Layout** BRIAN WIEHN

## Contributing Editors

**Adventist Health System** JULIE ZAIBACK  
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## Conference/Institution Directory

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200  
P.O. Box 560339, Charlotte, NC 28256-0339  
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000  
P.O. Box 2626, Winter Park, FL 32790-2626  
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951  
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001  
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493  
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117.  
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P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088  
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P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056  
ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM (407) 975-1400  
111 North Orlando Ave., Winter Park,  
FL 32789-3675  
FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH SCIENCES (800) 500-7747  
671 Winyah Drive., Orlando, FL 32803  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000  
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
(800) SOUTHERN  
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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Cover Caption: Mike Harrell, an elder at Gallatin, Tennessee, Church; Kentucky-Tennessee Conference disabilities ministries leader; and Southern Union disabilities ministries co-director; is led by his seeing-eye dog, Chief.





# Including All, Excluding None

BY JOAN BOVA AND MIKE HARRELL

A young man stands in the church foyer, alone in a 10-foot circle amid a crowd of worshipers chatting as they exit the church on the way home to a delicious Sabbath dinner. Quietly holding his white cane in hand, he waits for his

wife, so they can leave for their own Sabbath dinner.

His name is Mike and he is blind, although only a few short months ago he was not. Now he wonders, "Will I always stand in an empty, lonely circle?"

cent of the people in your community who are in this group?

Beginning in the late 1980's, the North American Division (NAD) began to answer these questions. The Office of Human Relations, under the direction of Rosa Taylor Banks, Ed.D., developed a commission to focus on the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Research found that only 38 percent of Seventh-day Adventist churches could accommodate people with special needs. This appraisal uncovered the truth that people with disabilities were underserved, uninvolved, and overlooked.

## A Matter of Barriers

The reasons for the marginalization of people with disabilities are varied and sometimes complex. Perhaps the most productive way to understand this unintentional exclu-

What answers does the Seventh-day Adventist Church have for Mike, and for the 54 million people in our country who have a disability? How will your church reach out and nurture the 20 per-



*Southern Union disabilities ministries team Rosemary Grabam (back row, left), Mike Harrell, Sharon Harrell, Ron Smith, Terry Robinson, Flore Hamilton, Tammy Vice, Phil Bova (front row, left), Joan Bova, and George Hamilton*

sion is to think in terms of barriers. These barriers fall into two categories: physical and attitudinal.

Architectural design often has kept people who use wheelchairs from fully accessing church buildings. The lack of appropriate Braille signage limits independent access for blind individuals. Sign language interpreters seldom are provided, rendering the spoken words meaningless to deaf individuals. These are just a few examples of ways physical barriers bar meaningful access to the Gospel for people with disabilities.

Attitudinal barriers are less easily defined, but are far more powerful in their effect. The normally kind and considerate church members are not intentionally “snubbing” Mike as he stands alone in the foyer, yet their discomfort and misunderstanding leave him feeling isolated. The lack of a meaningful Sabbath School program for a child with autism is certainly not a purposeful neglect, but it may cause this family to attend a *Sunday* School where the child’s needs can be met. These barriers have a high cost, regardless of the love and good intentions of the church members.

### How Will This Change?

Four goals have been established by the North American Division Commission for People with Disabilities.

### Accessibility

Disabilities ministries assist the Church in learning how to make all structures, buildings, and programs easily available to ALL people. By eliminating existing structural barriers and by learning to design accessible programs, your church will become a place where everyone feels welcome. There should be no barriers to the cross of Christ.

### Accommodation

Disabilities ministries assist the Church in including ALL as members of the family of God. Examples may be providing Braille or recorded information for people who are blind, or creating a meaningful Sabbath School experience for people with various learning challenges. The goal is to help God’s family be truly inclusive.

### Encouragement

Disabilities ministries assist Church members in developing a truly supportive environment that ensures the inclusion of ALL people in every area of Church life. Providing training and education for Church members and leaders is key to reaching the goal of positive and productive relationships for people with disabilities within the Church.

### Employment

Disabilities ministries assist the Church in utilizing and employing the many talents of ALL individuals

within the work of the Church. Persons who are blind can effectively serve as a local church elder. An individual using a wheelchair can be a valuable deacon. A person who is deaf can edit church newsletters. People serving in ministries in our churches should be selected based on God-given talents, and must not be limited by preconceived ideas.

### The Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Team

The Southern Union has been involved from the inception of NAD Disabilities Ministries. Trainer and advocate Joan Bova, Florida Conference disabilities ministries leader and Southern Union disabilities ministries co-director, helped to pioneer the ministry by joining the NAD Commission in 1990. Soon to follow were Mike and Sharon Harrell (also from Florida at the time), George and Flore Hamilton (South Central), and Rosemary Graham (South Atlantic). Under the direction of Ward Sumpter, former Southern Union executive secretary and disabilities ministries director, the ministry grew and flourished in the southern conferences.

Mike Harrell, while part of the Florida Conference disabilities ministries team, made history by becoming the first local church disabilities ministries coordinator. Mike led his church in Port Charlotte, Florida, to become the first “model church.”

Currently, seven of the eight



Joan Bova, Florida Conference disabilities ministries leader and Southern Union co-director, teaches perspective disabilities ministries leaders in Orlando, Florida.



George Hamilton, South Central Conference disabilities ministries leader, trains a group of new disabilities ministries leaders.



Mario Romero is deaf, but he was able to teach disabilities ministries leaders how to relate to deaf people at a special training seminar held at Florida Conference Office in Orlando.





*Tammy Vice with her teenage daughter, Morgan, who has autism spectrum disorder. Morgan plays a dulcimer.*



*Joseph Scott, South Central Conference district disabilities ministries leader*

conferences within the Southern Union have active disabilities ministries programs. Success is due largely to the dedication of lay volunteers, many of whom have a disability and work closely with a conference disabilities ministries leader.

Southern Union Disabilities Ministries currently is under the direction of Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., executive secretary. Smith and the Southern Union Disabilities Ministries team have outlined an aggressive and exciting plan to further advance the four goals of disabilities ministries throughout the Southern Union. Keep your eyes and ears open!

### **What Can You Do Now?**

It is essential to this ministry to have an active disabilities ministries director in every church. This important position, outlined in the Church manual and unanimously voted by the General Conference at Utrecht in 1995, helps to assure that the four goals of the ministry are carried out at the local church level. Here is where disabilities ministries meets real people with

real needs. Though there are many churches without a director for this ministry, there probably is not a church in the Union untouched by the need.

Christ gave us one very clear work — to go and make disciples. Only 47 percent of people with disabilities attend church even once a month. This is compared to 65 percent in the general population. This “religion gap” provides a marvelous opportunity for disciple-making.

Education is key to increasing understanding and removing the barriers to a truly inclusive environment. This not only is important for effective ministry for current Church members, but it is essential in fulfilling the truly inclusive Gospel commission to go and make disciples of ALL people.

Disabilities Awareness Sabbath programs have been an excellent tool to begin this education. These Sabbath programs not only are educational, but those who attend use such words as “truly enlightening,” “a real spiritual high Sabbath,” or “This was just so much fun!”

For more information about

disabilities ministries and how you can get involved, talk with your local conference disabilities ministries leader or contact the executive secretary’s office at the Southern Union Conference. ✍

*Joan Bova is Florida Conference disabilities ministries leader and Southern Union disabilities ministries co-director.*

*Mike Harrell is Kentucky-Tennessee disabilities ministries leader and Southern Union disabilities ministries co-director.*



*Terry Robinson, Carolina Conference disabilities ministries leader, walks with a walker.*

### **Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Leaders**

Terry Robinson, Carolina Conference, [trgoodmind@bellsouth.net](mailto:trgoodmind@bellsouth.net)

Joan Bova, Florida Conference, [stilltrustingpj@yahoo.com](mailto:stilltrustingpj@yahoo.com)


Jerry Fore, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, [jerryfore@gccsda.com](mailto:jerryfore@gccsda.com)

Mike Harrell, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, [mharrell01@comcast.net](mailto:mharrell01@comcast.net)

Rosemary Graham, South Atlantic Conference, [rgraham@southatlantic.org](mailto:rgraham@southatlantic.org)

George Hamilton, South Central Conference, [George.Hamilton@scc-adventist.org](mailto:George.Hamilton@scc-adventist.org)

Janis Irving, Southeastern Conference, [janlair@bellsouth.net](mailto:janlair@bellsouth.net)



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## Two for the Price of One

BY RON QUICK

Why hold just one evangelistic meeting when you can conduct two at the very same time? This is exactly what the folks at the Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Church have done.

When it was learned that two laypersons in the church were going to present ShareHim evangelistic meetings, Jamie Francisco, the church's school teacher, thought it would be good to hold a meeting for the children in the adjoining fellowship room.

"When families bring their children, why just offer babysitting? Why not have a meeting for the children as well?" the teacher reasoned. "This way, on their way home the children and parents could be talking about the same topic."

Jamie figured they would have to rewrite the adult series and design it for the younger children. But, when she called Kathy Russell, Conference children's ministries director, she learned that ShareHim has already designed a series for that very purpose. It's called "Truth for Youth." The Elizabeth City teacher recognized how easy the series is for children to use. Everything is written out for them — even directions on how to be a good presenter. In parentheses it will say "Smile," then "Look around and see all the hands that are raised." It



*Juanita Johnson, a nurse, was one of the adult speakers.*

walks them through everything they need to make the entire presentation.

That's when Jamie realized that she didn't have to present the message, the children could do it. Since she has a classroom of seven students, she decided to put them to work. Jamie selected a third-grader,

a fifth-grader, and a seventh-grader to present the message. The rest of the children were to assist with the meetings as greeters, as well as present a craft program that goes along with the nightly topics.

This past April, the dual series of meetings commenced, with the adults in the sanctuary and children in the fellowship hall.

"This has really been wonderful," Jamie explains. "The children are learning to speak up front. They're learning to sing, and aren't even afraid to put on another evangelistic series again. Matter of fact, they'd welcome it."

"This is not work for them," Jamie continues, "This is fun! They feel like they're preachers and are enjoying every minute of it."

Here's what was happening. Church members were bringing their children, the children then brought their friends, then those children told their parents, and then the

guests were bringing guests.

"The children don't want to miss a meeting," Jamie explains. "So, in most cases the parents don't just drop off the kids, but stay and attend the adult meeting."

Juanita Johnson, a nurse, was one of the adult speakers. "I wanted to learn how to share the Gospel more effectively," she says. "When the pastor asked me if I wanted to speak, I told him I would like to do it. Even though I've never done anything like this before, I've learned so much. God has really blessed us. The material is just awesome."

John Coelho, Elizabeth City pastor, tells us, "The exciting thing about this is, on the second night, one of the parents told me that she wasn't going to go. But the children said, 'No Mom, we have to go. I don't want to miss a meeting!'" Coelho continues, "So, you can see this has been a wonderful thing for Elizabeth City."

"And a little child shall lead them." Yes, it really is wonderful to see our children getting involved in evangelism! ❖



*The children weren't just coming to the meetings; they were bringing friends, and encouraging their parents to come to the main series as well.*



# A Lifetime of Commitment

BY JUDY TRIGG AND MARVIN LOWMAN

Luther and Eunice May have been serving the Lord together for nearly 66 years. Luther is 93 years old, and Eunice is 92. Retirement for them simply means not receiving a paycheck from the Conference office. But, they continue working for the Lord nonetheless. Theirs is a remarkable story of commitment and service that has extended far beyond typical retirement.



*Luther and Eunice on their wedding day, October 5, 1943.*

Luther May was born in Guilford County, North Carolina. He attended Southern Junior College and worked in North Carolina as a literature evangelist. Hoping to avoid the cold of the Carolina winter, Luther went to Florida to canvass. There he met Eunice Magoon, who was working at the Florida Sanitarium. Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, she received her nurses' training at the Florida Sanitarium.

Luther was offered employment at the sanitarium. At first he declined, saying, "I want to be in the Lord's work." Later convinced that working at the "San" was the Lord's work, too, he worked there until he was drafted

into the U.S. Army in 1941. Luther and Eunice were married on October 5, 1943, in Orlando, Florida.

Following his discharge from military service in 1945, Luther finished his formal education at Madison College in Tennessee in 1950. For a period of time, he worked in plant services at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University. He began his pastoral ministry in the Iowa Conference in 1965.

In 1973, the Mays accepted a call to work in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. They pastored first in the Jackson, Tennessee, district. There the Mays became acquainted with Faye Campbell who was known all over North America for her involvement in the Church's disaster response program. Eunice became very active in the work of community services and disaster response, and later served as the president of the Conference's community services federation for many years.

Eventually, Luther was assigned to the Murray, Kentucky, district where he pastored for nearly 18 years. He retired several times but, as he puts it, was *retreaded*. They continue to reside in Murray, Kentucky, where they finally retired from the pastoral ministry in January 2001.



*Luther has welcomed people to camp meeting for 31 years.*



*Luther and Eunice celebrated 65 years together last year.*

Even since retirement the Mays have continued to be active in Church work. Both are active in the Murray Church, where Luther serves as an elder and still preaches occasionally. Eunice is the community services leader, plays the piano and organ, and teaches a Sabbath School class.

The Mays arrive early at camp meeting to help with camp pitch every year. Luther has become a camp meeting icon, greeting people on Sabbath morning, rain or shine, as they arrive by car on the camp grounds. Some have even said, "If Luther wasn't there to greet me on Sabbath morning, I'd think I was in the wrong place." Luther has not missed a Kentucky-Tennessee camp meeting in 31 years.

Luther and Eunice have been blessed by God with longevity and a happy, fulfilled life together. The Mays remain healthy and active, and are a living witness to the Adventist lifestyle and beliefs. They continue to live their lives in total commitment to the honor of their Lord. ☞

## Greensboro Korean Church Members Reach Out



Carolina Breakthrough means evangelism in the Carolinas, but it also honors its mission on a global scale. The diversity within this Conference has truly blossomed during the years to reflect God's beautiful, multi-cultural family.

With enthusiasm and dedication, Greensboro, N.C., Korean Church reached out to the Korean communities of the Tri-city area with a Social Benefit Expo.

What in the world is a Social Benefit Expo?, you might ask. It's really very simple. It's reaching out, touching, helping, caring... It's doing what Seventh-day Adventist Christians should be doing!

In this case, the Korean church family rented space at the G-Mart International Food Market in Greensboro. Here they partnered with the Red Cross and

held a blood drive and health fair.

You'd expect to find large international groceries in New York, Chicago, or Washington, but not in Greensboro. However, according to the 2000 Census data, 10 percent of the population in Guilford County speak a language other than English at home.

This is why the Korean church family chose to set up in the popular International Food Market. Along with the blood drive, they provided vital services to their Korean neighbors and friends.

Think about it — when you're in this country, and you speak little or no English, would you know where to go to find help with your taxes, or get nursing home or Medicare information? These services were provided by the church at no cost to

the community, in addition to seminars about natural healthy lifestyles, medications, and social work.

Korean church members, with the aid of a



*Ken Ford (left), Conference trust services director, was on hand to provide free wills and trusts to the members of the Carolina Conference. He is pictured here with Unjong Yang, Greensboro Korean Church pastor, and Kwang Shin, elder.*

few Breakthrough dollars, advertised their well-thought-out Social Benefit Expo. With direct mail, posters, and flyers sent to High Point, Winston-Salem,

Greensboro, and other surrounding areas, several hundred people came out to the expo.

Special guest Joo Sub Song, a healthcare professional from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland, also attended the event. With more than 20 years of professional and volunteer experience as an army nurse, Song leads the Volunteer Network, Language Interpreters and Emotional Support program. It provides more than 140 interpreters who speak as many as 65 languages. He believes the impact of personal contact goes a long way, especially from someone who can relate to your cultural background and struggle.

The success of this event has spread to

other Korean Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Carolina Conference. Many of our cultural churches are recognizing the potential for growth in their membership, because like the Korean church they are letting their commu-

nities know they care about their mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.

—BY RON QUICK AND JACQUIE PINDER



## New Bern Suspends Church for Healing Ministry

The New Bern, N.C., Church began 2009 by helping their entire community improve its health. Using the traditional worship hours to do something less traditional, on Sabbath, January 31, the church hosted its first annual Fit and Wellness Fair and blood drive.

“It was not designed to be the usual health fair,” said Jason Belyeu, pastor. “We wanted to use our entire building to the glory of God, and offer many options to those interested in improving their health.”

The sanctuary was made available for health

lecturers on topics such as stress management; diabetes care; the benefits of massage; and *The Blue Zones*, a book about the world’s cultures of longevity, which features Seventh-day Adventists living in Loma Linda, Calif.

The fellowship hall held booths devoted to health education. “Only two of them were operated by our church. The rest were manned by community organizations,” said Martin Moore, New Bern community services director.

“This gave us the opportunity to help these organizations serve the community, while giving them an opportunity to learn more about who we are, and what we believe.” Organizations that participated included Craven County Health Department, Carteret Community College, and Craven County

Sherriff’s Department, which used “drunk goggles” to show children the dangers of drinking and driving.

In the classrooms, massage therapists relieved tension, while nursing students from East Carolina University assisted with blood glucose, cholesterol, body mass index, and blood pressure screenings. The American Red Cross blood mobile was in the parking lot, and collected 26 pints of blood.

The Fair was attended by approximately 130 people, most from the community, due to much prayer and public promotion. The church advertised on local radio stations, sent mailings to their interest



lists, and placed attractive promotional banners near the highways.

“We were able to make a positive impression in our community,” said Belyeu. “But more importantly, the event produced evangelistic opportunities. One of our members arranged for Bible studies with a blood mobile technician who wanted to know what our church teaches. God honored this event that was used to honor how Jesus observed the Sabbath — in healing ministry and service.”



## Retirement Community Warms Hearts, Homes

Pisgah Manor and Pisgah Valley Retirement Community have chosen to support programs associated with the Buncombe, N.C., County Council on Aging as their outreach for 2009. Their biggest outreach project so far has been to financially sponsor the weatherization of a home in Buncombe County through the INSULATE! program.

They also sent a crew out in March this year to physically assist in the

weatherization process. This included wrapping a hot water heater, taping and caulking duct work and windows, installing insulation across the entire basement, and assisting in preparing the attic for insulation.

These weatherization programs are a great way to give back to those in need, reduce energy costs for families, and save energy all at the same time. There are more than 44,000 homes

in Buncombe County that need similar assistance. The case load for the local service agencies is more than they can manage with limited resources. Many of these are homes of people below the national poverty level who are spending one-third of their income on utility costs.

See photos, videos, and learn more about the INSULATE! program on the blog, [www.insulatenc.com](http://www.insulatenc.com).

—BY JULIA GIBSON



## Ocean Baptism Witnessed on Easter Morning

It was still dark on Easter morning, April 12, when 150 people gathered at a beach on the Atlantic Ocean to welcome 19 new members of all ages into the Miami Springs, Fla., Church family.

Glenn Aguirre, pastor, baptized 18 individuals in the ocean as the sun rose over the eastern horizon, and then he asked in a final call, "Is there one more who wants to give his or her life to Jesus today through baptism?"

Juan Carlos Gutierrez, who had faithfully attended men's ministries meetings at the church, and whose wife was baptized just a few minutes earlier, accepted the pastor's call. Church members rejoiced



Glenn Aguirre (left), pastor, leads Carlos and Diana Hurtado into the Atlantic Ocean for their April 12 baptism. Villamor Meriales (right), pastor, a volunteer at Miami Springs Church, assists with the baptisms.

as he put on a baptismal robe and walked into the water to join the pastor. "I feel reborn today," said

Gutierrez.

"Miami Springs has not been holding evangelistic series," Aguirre said,

"but instead, the members have been working in the community through small group meetings, and through men's and women's ministries. The Holy Spirit has been working in the lives of those who were baptized," he said. "Their stories are miracles."

Velma McKen was baptized with her young son after the Holy Spirit had worked in her life for more than 10 years. "It's been awe-inspiring, and God has opened my eyes in spite of my reluctance and doubt," she said. "In getting baptized, I feel a new chapter is opening up. For the first time, I want to get involved and do something to further God's kingdom."

—BY NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON

## Fort Myers Members Reenact The Last Supper



Ft. Myers Church members representing the 12 disciples were Brent Petersen (left) as Nathanael; Simon Witter as Simon Peter; Larry Bromme as James the Least; Derrick Thompson as Andrew; Larry Dunford as Judas; Phil Manes as John; Leland Thomas as Thomas; Del Blake as James, the Brother of John; Danny Sanderford as Matthew; Bill West as Philip; Jim Cochran as Thaddaeus; and Charles Haynes as Simon the Zealot. An Agape Feast was served afterward.

Members of the Fort Myers, Fla., Church, invited the community to a live reenactment of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of The Last Supper during Easter weekend. The program began with a homily by George Whitsett, pastor, on the meaning of the cross. Following a foot-washing service, the audience returned to the sanctuary and was met by a live portrayal of The Last Supper painting under the direction of Norma Blake, assisted by Leo Ranzolin, pastor.

Each of the 12 disciples had their moment in the spotlight as they came alive to tell of their experiences

with the Master, climaxing with Peter, portrayed by Simon Witter, head elder, who asked the question, "Lord, you've said that someone is going to betray you. 'Is it I?' Is it, Lord?"

"The question that confronts us today is no longer 'Is it I?,' because we are guilty and unworthy," related the narrator. "The question today is, 'Am I willing to receive the remedy that Jesus offers? Do I want forgiveness and a transformed life?'"

After participating in symbols of the Lord's Supper, everyone remained for an Agape Feast.

—BY LEO RANZOLIN



## Orlando Brazilian Church Assists the Community



ALEXANDRA MADEIRA

Guests at “The End of a Crisis” meetings respond to an appeal by Cezar Camacho (center), at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Orlando.

Every night, the Orlando Brazilian Church held a drawing to award a free tank of gas to one visitor at “The End of a Crisis” evangelistic meetings held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Orlando, Fla. Cezar Camacho, guest speaker

from Brazil, led seven individuals to make a decision for the Lord.

In addition to the free tank of gas, nurses, nutritionists, chiropractors, lawyers, and real estate counselors gave free advice. Guests especially

appreciated these services during the economic crisis.

Blessings of evangelism came even before the event took place when members accepted the challenge to spend 40 days in revitalizing prayer. They prayed for each other, for relatives,

and for friends who are not Adventist. Miracles abounded as one person’s glucose level lowered without medicine, some were spared from serious accidents, and others benefitted from real estate transactions.

—BY DAVID PIRES

### Iva Powery Burger Celebrates 103 Years of Life

Iva Powery was born on April 29, 1906 in Guanaja, Honduras. She married Robert Burger in June 1943, and they were together 65 years. The Burgers were members at the Brandon, Fla., Church for 26 years, and have been Adventists most of their lives.

Iva worked at a cookie company until 1957, when at the age of 51 she and Robert adopted Joanna, a 22-month-old baby girl from Honduras. “She



MIKE ROGERS

was a loving and nurturing mother,” shares Joanna. “I always felt loved and cherished because I was *picked*.”

Iva’s secret for longevity is eating simple foods such as vegetables and beans.

—BY LISA WORTMAN

Iva Burger was honored on her 103rd birthday at Brandon Church by Rex Frost (right), pastor, and daughter and son-in-law Joanna and James Beard.

### North Florida Hispanic Churches Celebrate Camp Meeting

North Florida Hispanic churches celebrated their 10th annual camp meeting, April 10-12, at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Fla., with more than 800 people in attendance. For the past nine years, the group met the same weekend as the English-speaking North Florida Camp Meeting, sponsored by Camp Kulaqua and Florida Conference.

Growing in attendance and activities, the Hispanic group transferred several years ago from Spring Chapel, which seats 200, to King Chapel which accommodates 600 people. This year’s presentations, with emphasis in church growth, small groups, and family matters, attracted an overflow crowd to hear Oscar Tavera, Abel Paulín, Armando Ogando, Ximena

Rivera, and a music program organized by Jorge Monteagudo.

“Extraordinary!” was one participant’s summary of the weekend. “Now, we feel prepared to go and work for our God.”

With no Conference or Camp subsidy for 2009, the 10 Hispanic churches and companies in north Florida accepted the challenge to raise the needed money. Rewarded for their faith, the 10 groups now plan to bring next year’s north Florida convocation into the Camp’s gymnasium with seating for more than 1,000.

Members pray that an ever-growing Spanish Camp Meeting in north Florida will continue spreading the Gospel in the Hispanic community.

—BY BYRON RIVERA

## Heilman Receives Excellent Teacher Award

Science teacher Randy Heilman was recently presented with an Excellence in Teaching Award by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) at Collegedale Academy in Collegedale, Tenn.

Heilman was one of

12 teachers selected by AAF from hundreds of Adventist Christian schools across North America. He received a check for \$1,000 as well as a commemorative pendant.

“Monetary and na-

tional recognition is our way of showing our deep appreciation for exceptional teachers,” says AAF board member Bryon DeFoor, co-owner of DeFoor Development, Inc., and founder of Grace Healthcare LLP, both headquartered in Chattanooga, Tenn. “I’m especially pleased to honor an outstanding teacher from our own community.”

Heilman teaches chemistry and physical science at Collegedale Academy. An educator for more than 31 years, Heilman has also been recognized in *Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers*. “He makes the science department a model of excellence by integrating technology

into his students’ learning experience,” says Verle Thompson, Collegedale Academy principal.

Students say Heilman embraces experiential, hands-on teaching techniques. “I remember the day Mr. Heilman challenged us to bake an apple pie with no apples,” said Ryan Litchfield, a former student of Heilman. “It was refreshing instead of boring. We rediscovered science in a completely new way.”

AAF is a nonprofit organization. Since its establishment in 1995, AAF has awarded grants totaling more than \$1 million, and has recognized 79 exceptional teachers.

—BY MELANIE EDDLEMON



Collegedale Academy teacher Randy Heilman (left) prays with Ed Wright, Conference president, as he receives his Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation.

## Peachtree City Holds 5K “Sprint For Students”

It was warm and sultry April 26 when more than 80 runners lined up for the fourth annual “Sprint For Students” 5K and 100-meter dash hosted by the Peachtree City, Ga., Church. The race helps raise funds for children to attend the Shoal Creek Adventist School.

Everyone enjoyed the events of the day where children could jump in the large blow-ups, and adults could have their blood pressure screened or get a relaxing leg or back massage prior to or after the race. There were funnel cakes, bags of home-made granola, lots of fruit, and other goodies the church members made for

refreshments.

Select Comfort, a mattress company, came and brought an entire bed display along with gift certificates. Other gifts given away were health club memberships for three months. About 50 other great gifts were donated from the community, including dinners for two, oil changes, dry cleaning, haircuts, and more.

The Peachtree City Church members and Shoal Creek Adventist School work together to make this outreach an annual event.

On the day of the race, the president of the Peachtree City Running Club took the microphone

from Dave Ketelsen, Peachtree City Church pastor, to let the church and school know how much the runners enjoy this event each year. Then the next day he sent an email:

“Dave, Please pass on my thanks to your entire crew for another great event yesterday! I love your race and look forward to it every year. It’s a very well organized family event that has something for everyone.



And they are off on the annual Peachtree City Church Sprint for Students.

You guys always do a terrific job. Thanks again and see you on the roads!”

All in all, the Sprint For Students is just a wonderful way to be a witness in the community, and rub shoulders with others that would not normally know who Seventh-day Adventists are.

—BY DAVE KETELSEN



## GCA Students Honored by National Merit Program

More than 1.5 million juniors in more than 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test (PSAT) last fall, which serves as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) in Calhoun, Ga., finds itself in the unprecedented situation of having nine current students to be honored by the National Merit program. Eight current students qualified as National Merit contenders in testing during the fall of 2007 or the fall of 2008, and one student was named as a National Achievement Scholarship winner.

The National Achieve-



NANCY GERARD

*Nine Georgia-Cumberland Academy students have been honored by the National Merit Program: Carissa Lau (front row, left), Catherine Cheek, Andrew Wildman, Jonathan King (back row, left), Guiliano Lombardi, Ashleigh Walton, John Ahn, Joshua McKinney, and Michael Aitken.*

ment Scholarship winner, Ashleigh Walton, was named as one of some 800 outstanding Black American high school seniors, and will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to the college or university of her choice. Depending on the university chosen, there are many

financial benefits to National Merit Scholars, and often the student will receive “full ride” scholarships.

The rest of the National Merit contenders are split into several groups. Two seniors, Carissa Lau and Guiliano Lombardi, have already been named

as achieving the “Commended” status. Two more seniors, Jonathan King and Andrew Wildman, are semifinalists and in the running for full National Merit Scholar status.

The newly named National Merit contenders for the Junior class (graduating 2010) at GCA were announced during the recent National Honor Society induction ceremony. They are John Ahn, Matthew Aitken, Katherine Cheek, and Joshua McKinney.

Greg Gerard, principal, is pleased that GCA has attracted such gifted young people. “It is very unusual for any school to have this many National Merit contenders at one time, let alone a small school like GCA,” he says. “We are proud of these outstanding young people and look forward to watching their future successes.”

—BY NANCY GERARD

## Cook Named Cherokee County Citizen of the Year



*Corky Cook, women's ministries leader for the Murphy, N.C., Church, was named Cherokee County Citizen of the Year.*

Corky Cook, women's ministries leader for the Murphy, N.C., Church, became the toast of the town as she was named Cherokee County's 2008 Citizen of the Year during the Chamber's annual dinner meeting. She was recognized for the tremendous amount of volunteer work that she does in the community.

Under Cook's leadership and inspiration, women in and out of

Murphy Church pull together to help people in need. Food is gathered for the local food bank; “chemo caps” and scarves are knitted for cancer patients; “love boxes” filled with toiletries and personal items are collected for Guardian ad Litem; the homeless shelter receives collected coats, clothes, and food; and Relay for Life finds a dynamite leader in Cook. These are just samples of all she and the women of Murphy Church do for others.

Cook's response to the

applause of the standing crowd was, “I didn't do it all by myself. A lot of people helped me along the way. This is a wonderful community to live in. Thank you very much.

“I would encourage you in your businesses, churches, and clubs to begin a project for your community,” she said. “As we provide blessings to others, we will always receive the greater blessing.”

—BY JOAN BILBO

## Evangelism Highlights of Camp Meeting



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

People crowded to the front of the auditorium as Brian McMahon made an appeal for both those interested in baptism and rededication.

To emphasize the year of pastoral and lay evangelism, and to reach out to the people living in the communities near Bass Memorial Academy, an evangelistic

series was held for the first time as part of the camp meeting program. Brian McMahon, an associate speaker with Amazing Facts, conducted the series.

Throughout the week his presentations were to-the-point, thought-provoking, and heart-touching.

His presentations

brought Bible truths to visitors and reinforced the faith of those who were already believers in the third angel's message.

## Methodist Tows Adventist to Camp Meeting

Except for God's protection and several good Samaritans, LaDon and Dorothy Hilton would not have attended Gulf States Conference camp meeting this year.

On Thursday they packed, hitched their travel trailer to their GMC van, and left their home in Mobile, Ala.

Things were going well until about 50 miles from Bass Memorial Academy (BMA). LaDon looked in his mirror and saw smoke behind the van. Thinking it was coming from their trailer brakes, they pulled over and quickly jumped out, only to discover the smoke was coming from under the hood of their van. When LaDon opened the hood, flames flashed toward him.

Seeing there was nothing he could do about the fire, he raced to the van and began unloading their clothes. By this time, Dorothy was urging her husband to just get out of the way and let everything burn. That's when help arrived.

One of the deacons from the Methodist church, whose parking lot the Hiltons had pulled into, came running. An 18-wheeler stopped and the driver jumped out. Other passersby responded. Soon, in spite of the smoke and fire, these strangers had unloaded the van — even remembered to save the important papers from the van's glove compartment.

One man hooked a chain to his truck and the front of the van, while oth-

ers unhooked the van from the trailer. Then he began pulling the burning vehicle away from the trailer. When the flames became too hot to pull it from the front, this good Samaritan hooked the chain to the van's hitch in the back and finished pulling it out of the way.

The fire department arrived too late to save the van. The only thing they could do was to cool down the gas tank so it wouldn't explode.

The fire was out. Their trailer was saved. Now the Hiltons were stranded. But, God had already worked that out by impressing the Methodist deacon, who was the first to arrive on the scene, to



Dorothy and LaDon Hilton are thankful for God's protection and the help of good Samaritans.

offer to take them and their trailer all the way to BMA.

"Satan didn't want us to attend camp meeting, but God had other plans," says Dorothy with a smile.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



## Huntsville Central Conducts Exciting Health Ministry

The Huntsville Central Church is focusing its Eight Ways to Health ministry in two areas: caring for the health needs of its church community and those of the community of Huntsville, Ala. This ministry is made possible by a grant from Florida Adventist Health System, and is an initiative to promote community health outside the realm of a local Adventist hospital. It is available to conferences that do not have an Adventist health institution within their territory.

To care for the needs of the church community, a parish nurse, who is a registered nurse, was hired on a part-time basis. The nurse, assisted by elected volunteers, works to promote the overall physical and emotional health of the congregation. This is accomplished by the nurse performing in-home visits of the sick and house bound; sometimes accompanying them on doctor's visits as an intermediary; and helping the members to understand

and remember the counsel given to them by the doctor, and ask appropriate questions.

The North American Division Health Ministries Department's InStep Program has been implemented at the church. The program encourages members to walk an average of 10,000 steps per day, which is about five miles at 2,000 steps per mile. Currently, more than 90 church members are participating.

To reach the community, the parish nurse and health ministry team organize health expos and assessments followed-up by seminars.

The health expos include health screening tests such as a glucose check, blood pressure, height and weight, body mass index, percentage of body fat, step test, pulmonary function test, exercise step test, grip test, a computer age analysis, and a free doctor's consultation on site if required.

Eight Hispanic health

expos have been held, with an average of 50 people in attendance. A health expo at the annual Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Conference, which hosts approximately 40,000 Muslims, was held. This provided unique opportunities to share health and spiritual principles with Muslims using the Bible and the Qu'ran.

The health team has participated in two senior expos held at the Von Braun Civic Center, which has an average attendance of 10,000.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville has asked to partner with the team to provide an opportunity for nursing students to do a part of their community health practicum at the health team's expos, and the local Catholic church has invited them to do a



Students volunteered at a recent health expo.

health expo at its church, which has a Spanish-speaking congregation of 600 people.

Christopher Barr, Huntsville Central pastor, concludes, "These beautiful health principles were not just given to us for our benefit, but as a ministry to the community in which we live. These principles are undoubtedly an "entering wedge" and a "right arm," which is symbolic of an extended hand of welcome and friendship which breaks down prejudice, and introduces our acquaintances to the beautiful truths found in the Bible."

—BY CHRISTOPHER BARR AND REBECCA GRICE

## Gulf States Celebrates Harvest Time



Pastors throughout the Gulf States Conference brought candidates to be baptized on the last Sabbath of camp meeting. The Conference's faith goal for baptisms this year is 1,500.

## Emma Wortham Reveals Career of Commitment

This year Emma Wortham has been in the spotlight a bit more than usual since announcing her plans to retire. Many of her colleagues, friends, and former students have come to pay tribute to this inspiring teacher who has touched so many lives.

Emma Wortham has served 43 years for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference — her entire teaching career. Wortham originally planned on a career in nursing, but was persuaded by a college professor at Southern Missionary College to go into teaching. After one year of training, she went to work as a teacher in a one-room church school in Paducah, Ky. She continued her education toward her teaching degree in the summers and graduated in 1969. She also taught at Woodbury and Lawrenceburg, Tenn., before moving to Highland Elementary in Portland, Tenn., where she has



Wortham and taught in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference with her for 21 years. She always admired the time and dedication that Wortham put into her classroom. “Emma has a spotless, beautifully decorated classroom, and her lesson plans are always in order. Emma was always going above the expectations of the school and Conference. She was a perfectionist.” Labrenz said that Wortham would never turn away a student teacher or a new teacher in need of advice or direction.

Rachel Parrish, one of her former students, remembers Wortham going into her closet and coming out wearing a crazy hat to grab the students’ attention on a lesson. “Ms. Wortham



taught for the last 37 years.

A good friend and colleague, Phyllis Labrenz, attended Southern with

was always willing to listen to what you had to say. I always appreciated that. Even though I was

only in the sixth grade, she listened as if what I had to say was of the utmost importance.”

Former students of Wortham are frequently dropping

into her classroom to check in and update her on their progress through life. She has them up front in her class to share with her current students what they are doing with their lives, and where God has taken them. Watching Wortham interact with them, it is easy to see the sincerity she has for their well-being.

Wortham enjoys coming up with themes and projects to involve her students. Many of her students will remember airing their kites out on Kite Day. One of Wortham’s favorite subjects has always been social studies, and she goes all out when it’s time for the Social Studies Fair. Her students work hard memorizing speeches and getting their materials together, but they are full of pride and well prepared when the day comes to display their projects and

deliver their speeches.

As much time and energy as Wortham puts into preparing her lessons and creating memorable learning experiences for her students, her biggest passion is leading her students to Jesus and helping them develop a relationship with Him. She has a burden on her heart for each of her students to follow the Lord, and prays for their relationships to grow in Him. She has the pastor come to do Bible studies each year in hope of her students making a decision to choose to follow Jesus.



Wortham sums up what it is that has driven her passion for so many years, saying, “Jesus is coming again, and one of these days He is going to say, ‘Miss Wortham, where are my lambs?’ I hope I can say about each one that I’ve had, ‘They are right here with me.’”

—BY JANELLE BAUGHMAN



## Madison Academy Students Impact Belize

It may seem like a small project, but it made a huge impact on a church and community. The Hill View Church in the little Central American country of Belize had just one room — the sanctuary. For Sabbath School the adults



met up front, and the children met in the back of the small sanctuary. That naturally led to the two classes competing for space and creating noise problems.

In March, 22 Madison Academy students, staff, and sponsors left the comforts of Madison, Tenn.,

and went to Santa Elena, Belize. The main project — build a Sabbath School room and patio at the Hill View Church.

Kaitlyn Min, senior at Madison Academy, stated, “I was thrilled to know that the children in this church will have their own place to learn and get to know their Savior Jesus Christ, and we had a part to play in that.”

The days were long, starting at 5 a.m. at the construction site, to get going before the sun heated the temperatures to 100 degrees or more. The group would break for breakfast around 8 a.m., and then work until noon.

After lunch the students cleaned up and started preparing for the

nightly Vacation Bible School program with an average of 150 children attending. The first hour of the two-hour program each night was broadcast live on Faith FM, the local Adventist radio station that broadcasts to Belize, Guatemala, and part of Mexico. After dinner each evening, a group of students would go to the radio station to do some radio evangelism until about 9 p.m. The students became pros with their on-air experience.

Caleb Prow, a senior at Madison Academy, said, “Being able to share your beliefs and testimony on the air was a powerful thing. I enjoyed learning how to run a radio program and talking live to the listeners.”



The students worked hard and accomplished everything they had set out to do, and then some. They touched many lives in the community, and because of the love they showed to the children at VBS, some families have shown an interest in the Adventist beliefs. The impact they made went far beyond the walls of the Sabbath School building that they completed.

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON

## Ridgetop School Holds Reunion

Alumni of the Ridgetop, Tenn., Adventist Elementary School enjoyed interacting with former classmates and teachers at a recent school reunion at the Ridgetop Church. Alton Cantarutti, class of '71, presented the worship hour sermon, which was followed by a fellowship meal. The oldest alumni attending was Joyce Schroeder Rhodes from the class of '55.

The school was first

established shortly after the Ridgetop Church was

organized in 1953. It currently has three accredited

teachers for grades K-8.

—BY HELEN KELLY



## Ephesus Inducts Pathfinders, Master Guides

An induction ceremony was held at the Ephesus Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., for Pathfinders and Master Guides.

The Ephesus Eagles Pathfinder inductees were Nekko Banner, Valdis Davis Jr., Jeffrey Evans,

Koby Gallman, Melisha Garrison, William Hawkins Jr., Delando Skinner McCollum, and Nicole Taylor. The Master Guides were Sidney Baker and Ernestine Swift. Inductees were Delores Cochrane, Esther Davis, Charmarya Duncan,

Christine Hairston, Janie Harris, William Hawkins Sr., David Samuels, Horace Wilson, Sharon Wilson, and Denise Wright. The oaths were administered by Sharon Wilson and Ernestine Swift.

For the excursion this

year, the Pathfinders are planning to attend the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc. They are looking forward to this trip as they continue to conduct fundraisers to help defray their expenses.

—BY E.J. PITTS

## Academies Join for Mission Improvement Project



*Staff and students of Spring Valley and Ramah Junior academies join forces.*

Ramah Junior Academy (RJA) in Savannah, Ga., was selected by Spring Valley Academy (SVA), a senior academy near Dayton, Ohio, as its mission project for 2009.

Fifteen students and 10 adults from the Ohio Academy came to Ramah during their spring break,

March 22-27, 2009, to assist in upgrades to the 30-year-old school building in Savannah. Sheridan Albert, principal,

was astonished when she received the request from SVA at no cost to RJA.

The students of RJA joined the team of workers from SVA, which afforded them an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the areas of landscaping, painting, carpentry, and plumbing.

As a result of their mission trip, some of the projects completed were landscaping of the front entrance area to the school; remodeling and carpeting of the offices, replacing water fountains; painting the interior hallways; and upgrading the science lab, including replacing the counter tops and painting interior doors.

Before leaving, SVA project leader Elliott Smith challenged RJA to, "Go thou and do likewise," by helping those in need in the greater Savannah area. RJA accepted the challenge and has developed an outreach project that will take

place before the end of the year. In addition, RJA will partner with SVA during its 2010 mission project.

Bonds and friendships for life were formed among the students and adults. RJA has plans to visit SVA during the 2009-2010 school year when SVA reopens, after completion of renovations as a result of a fire in 2008.

RJA honors, applauds, and appreciates the generous spirit exhibited by SVA. Even in the face of its own difficulties, this school was willing to render a much-needed service.

—BY SHERIDAN ALBERT

## Ephesus Church Leader Honored

During their annual Sabbath School breakfast, Doris H. Lyles was honored for her outstanding and dedicated service from 2005 to 2008 as Sabbath School superintendent of the Ephesus Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was cited for the way she inspired

Sabbath School and council members.

Brenda Braham was elected as the new Sabbath School leader.

Not long after this event, one of the council members passed, Jerry J. Humphrey. He was a dedicated soldier for God, and

a man of rare devotion. People referred to him as a "man with a heart full of gold." With his hands he would share whatever he had.

—BY E.J. PITTS



*Pictured are Sabbath School council members Ernestine Swift (left), Doris H. Lyles, Brenda Braham, and Jerry J. Humphrey.*



## Camp Meeting Witnesses “Orangeburg on Fire”

In accordance with the Year of Evangelism initiative, South Atlantic has planned to give a facelift to its camp meeting program. During the evening services at camp meeting, a major evangelistic thrust took place in the city of Orangeburg, S.C.

Vanard Mendingham, Conference president, wanted camp meeting to be different during the 25th anniversary at the Orangeburg property, incorporating the Conference’s evangelism projects.

The effort was entitled “Orangeburg on Fire.” The morning and evening services were conducted as in years past, but in the evenings, the Orangeburg community joined the constituents to fill the 4,100 seats of the Praise & Worship Center.

Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., was the featured speaker each night. Byrd



KARLA BOSTON

*With flyers in hand, people went out into the streets of Orangeburg, inviting the community to the upcoming meeting.*

serves as senior pastor at Berean Church’s 3,500 members in Atlanta, Ga. In the past five years, God has used him to baptize 400-500 individuals annually in the churches he has pastored. The Conference wanted to implement in Orangeburg the evangelism model Byrd utilizes in his church campaigns.

In an effort to energize its constituents, the Conference held a rally in Orangeburg on May 30, 2009. More than 400 individuals traveled to Orangeburg after their church services concluded to participate in the rally. As they viewed several billboards advertising the meeting during their commute to the rally, excitement began to build.

One of the planned highlights was when

the participants went into the community in what Byrd refers to as “Tract Attack.” Pastors, Bible counselors, and laypersons served as captains of teams that distributed thousands of flyers inviting the community to the meetings. Many returned to the place of meeting with stories of their encounters.

The rally included several prayer sessions and musical selections from Shekinah Glory Church in Florence, S.C.; Shiloh Church in Charleston, S.C.; and Berean Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Harold Thomas, pastor of Christ is the Answer Church in Orangeburg, along with his congregation, was instrumental in preparing the way for the rally and is continuing to make preparations to embrace those baptized as a result of the meeting.

Calvin Watkins Sr., Conference personal ministries director, shared the plan for the entire Conference of “Pentecost 3000.” This plan includes pastors and laypersons conducting evangelistic meetings

throughout the Conference, with the result being 3,000 new baptisms. Watkins is conducting several meetings during the year across the Conference.

The meeting concluded with the congregation singing together, “O Lord, How Excellent is Thy Name.” William L. Winston, Conference executive secretary, gave the closing prayer.

In 1980, due to membership growth and a vast expanse in territory, South Atlantic’s territory was divided, and Southeastern Conference was organized. As a result, South Atlantic



*More than 400 participants came in support of the rally.*

comprised the areas of northern Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; and Southeastern Conference included southern Georgia and Florida. The two conferences shared camp meeting facilities in Hawthorne, Fla., until 1984 when South Atlantic acquired the River Oaks property in Orangeburg.

—BY JAMES K. LAMB



*Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., evangelist for the camp meeting thrust, gave instructions to the groups as they prepared to leave for “Tract Attack.”*

## President's Spring Message Sets Stage for New Musical Composition

The Oakwood University (OU) Church sanctuary was packed to capacity on Sabbath, April 18, when Delbert Baker, Ph.D., Oakwood president, delivered an inspiring spring message entitled, "Simon of Cyrene – Crossing Point." The sermon focused on how life events that seem at the time to be interruptions or disruptions to our daily routines can become the signal incident that saves our very lives. It offered a close-up of the encounter that Simon of Cyrene, a black man from North Africa, had with Jesus when he was called on to assist the Savior with the cross after He had fallen beneath its weight on His way to Calvary — a divine interruption that became the crossing point in Simon's life.

Baker's 20-minute message provided the backdrop for the Passion oratorio that was to follow. It was truly the icing on the cake, performed by the Aeolians, the Oakwood University Wind Ensemble, and the Belmont University Chamber Ensemble (Nashville, Tenn.); and conducted by the Aeolians director, Jason Max Ferdinand. The elaborate musical composition, "Crossing Over," was dramatically narrated by OU alumnus Timothy Allston, and was written by OU music department adjunct professor and piano ac-



*Oakwood University music department adjunct professor and piano accompanist Adriana Perera shares a few words of acknowledgement with the Oakwood University Church congregation at the close of the Sabbath morning divine worship service.*

companionist Adriana Perera as part of her master's thesis on Negro spirituals. It received two standing ovations and called many a handkerchief out of obscurity.

At a private luncheon reception held later that afternoon, Perera shared a few thoughts about what inspired such a soul-stirring composition with family members, friends, and guests who had traveled to OU's campus that Sabbath to hear the first official public performance of the composition. It was inspired, she said, by a private moment spent with family one evening at the foot of

the Monument to Service, a 12-foot bronze statue in the center of Oakwood's Centennial Square that depicts Simon of Cyrene assisting Jesus with the cross. The statue, which was sculpted by Alan Collins and dedicated in the fall of 2006, evoked such deep feelings of appreciation for the biblical account of Simon's personal encounter with Jesus on the way to His crucifixion, that it became the theme of her master's thesis on Negro spirituals.

Perera, who is the daughter of missionary parents, drizzled snippets of Negro spirituals throughout this new composition. Having lived in South America and Spain during her child-



*Jason Max Ferdinand, Aeolians conductor, leads the combined orchestras and choir during the debut performance of the Passion oratorio, "Crossing Over," following President Delbert Baker's spring message at Oakwood University Church.*



hood and adolescence, she was always fascinated by spirituals.

When asked why she chose this musical genre as the subject of her thesis, she responded, "It is a very special music, and has been translated into about 300 different languages. There's something about how each of these spirituals has its

own story. I think God has somehow protected that music. "

However, when she shared the subject of her thesis with her graduate professor at Belmont University, he didn't like the topic. "He felt I didn't have enough of a background," she explained. But the gifted Uruguayan composer persevered and

gained access to many of the original musical manuscripts.

After diligent prayer and study, Perera took on the four-month challenge of writing the musical score that would trace the final steps of Jesus on His way to Calvary. It took another month, Perera said, to write the lyrics for the composition in English,

her second language. With the support of Audley Chambers, Ph.D., Oakwood University music department chair; Justin Max Ferdinand, Aeolians conductor; and John Anderson, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs, what has resulted is a moving contribution to the music arena.

—BY MICHELE SOLOMON

## LEGAL NOTICE FOR FLORIDA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

September 27, 2009

Notice is hereby given that the 69th regular Constituency Meeting of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on September 27, 2009, Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Forest Lake Academy main auditorium, Apopka, Florida. This Constituency Meeting is called for the purpose of electing officers and Executive Committee members for the ensuing term and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting. Each church in the Conference is entitled to one delegate, plus one additional delegate for each 75 members or major fraction thereof.

Delegates chosen to the Organizing Committee shall meet at the Regional Orientation/ Organization meetings listed below. One Organizing Committee delegate from each church, plus one additional delegate shall be chosen for each full 500 members.

All delegates are to attend their Regional meeting as well as the Constituency Meeting. The Regional Orientation/Organization meetings are an official part of the triennial process and will be held as follows:

Regional Orientation/Organization Meetings for  
2009 Triennial Constituency Meeting

REGION	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
EAST CENTRAL	KRESS MEMORIAL CH	THURS. 7/30/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
LOWER GOLD	MIAMI SPRINGS CH	SUN. 8/2/09	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
UPPER GOLD	BOYNTON BEACH CH	SUN. 8/2/09	4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
WEST CENTRAL	FOREST CITY SP CH	TUES. 8/4/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
NORTH	GAINESVILLE CH	SUN. 8/9/09	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON.
GULF REGION	TAMPA FIRST CH	SUN. 8/9/09	4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
RIDGE REGION	PT. CHARLOTTE CH	MON. 8/10/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Michael Cauley, President

Carmen Rodriguez, Secretary

## LEGAL NOTICE FOR ASSOCIATION CONSTITUENCY MEETING

September 27, 2009

The triennial meeting of the members of the Florida Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a Florida corporation, will be held on September 27, 2009, Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Forest Lake Academy main auditorium, Apopka, Florida, for the purpose of electing the Association officers and Board of Trustees for the ensuing triennium and for consideration of such other matters as may properly come before the meeting. The members of this corporation are the members in regular standing of any church of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and all active members of the Florida Conference Board of Trustees and Southern Union Conference Executive Committee. Only those members present who are duly elected and accredited delegates of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shall be entitled to vote at their Regional meeting and at the Constituency Meeting.

All delegates are to attend their Regional meeting as well as the Constituency Meeting. The Regional Orientation/Organization meetings are an official part of the triennial process and will be held as follows

REGION	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
EAST CENTRAL	KRESS MEMORIAL CH	THURS. 7/30/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
LOWER GOLD	MIAMI SPRINGS CH	SUN. 8/2/09	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
UPPER GOLD	BOYNTON BEACH CH	SUN. 8/2/09	4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
WEST CENTRAL	FOREST CITY SP CH	TUES. 8/4/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
NORTH	GAINESVILLE CH	SUN. 8/9/09	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON.
GULF REGION	TAMPA FIRST CH	SUN. 8/9/09	4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
RIDGE REGION	PT. CHARLOTTE CH	MON. 8/10/09	7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Michael Cauley, President

Jose LeGrand, Secretary

## Sixteen Baptized after Revelation Seminar

The Lily of the Valley Church's, 10-member congregation in Opa-Locka, Fla., sponsored a Revelation Seminar at the Logan Executive Center, located in the heart of the city's historic district.

Evangelist Nevilon Meadows, affectionately known as "Meadows," conducted the seminar.

Throughout the five-week series, Meadows appealed to the participants' sense of personal responsibility to effectively learn, apply, and share with others the knowledge being revealed to them by the Holy Spirit, thereby

enabling them to boldly and fearlessly proclaim the Word of the Lord in this last generation.

Inspired by such New Testament doctrines as the Second Coming and the Three Angels' message of Revelation 14, Meadows asserted that participants can and should point others to the numerous signs and warnings in biblical canon as did Elijah, John the Baptist, and others who spoke of the express will of God.

Participants were frequently reminded that "God's presence is God's power." Meadows also urged that "you cannot

be saved unless you seek to save others." He also emphasized, "There will be no crownless saints and no starless crowns in Heaven."

The seminar culminated in a riveting discourse on the Mark of the Beast, and a formal graduation ceremony for the 32 participants who completed their studies.

Prior to the end of the seminar, five youth made a decision for Christ and were baptized at the Mt. Pisgah Church. Meadows also shared a sobering message and appeal at Lily of the Valley Church that led several of the remaining

participants to make a decision for Christ.

Eleven candidates made their calling and election sure on May 30 through the rite of baptism at the Hallandale City Beach.

Olinto Groce, pastor of Tabernacle Church in Miami, Fla., accompanied by Desmond Alexander of Lily of the Valley Church, officiated the vows and prayer of dedication on the shore, while Meadows led the candidates into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean to baptize them.

—BY DAVIONNE DOBSON

## Religious Liberty Reclaimed

The Lighthouse Church, located in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., upheld its tradition of dedicating one Sabbath to the promotion of religious liberty for the edification and education of its members.

Speaking from the sermon title, "Religious Liberty Reclaimed," Everton Scott highlighted several important issues now facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church locally and around the world.

The congregation was urged to study the scriptures because this will be one of its most powerful resources to face these challenging times. He highlighted the fact that the principle of Sabbath-keeping dates back to its origin found in the book of Genesis in

the Bible. This, he said, should be the backbone of the message. Major tenets designated by the Church name are (1) the observance of the biblical, seventh-day creation, and (2) a belief in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

He said that, historically, Seventh-day Adventists have been known for pioneering health reform, championing religious liberty, promoting community services, upholding the principles of Protestantism, serving as non-combatants in the military, and exemplifying the noblest of Christian graces.

Adventists are all part of this great, Protestant movement.

He informed the congregation that Seventh-day

Adventist religious liberty leaders are among those calling on Congress to pass the Workplace Religious Freedom Act (WRFA). The bill would provide legal protection for workers' religious rights. The right to practice one's religious belief is a basic human right that should be

respected by governments and employers.

Referencing a North American Division religious liberty event, he read the following statement, "It's no

surprise that many Seventh-day Adventists seek the freedom to practice their faith. After all, Adventists have often faced serious discrimination around the world. What is truly remarkable about your work is that you seek not just for your faith, but for all religions."

Scott made mention of Christians being murdered and imprisoned in Cuba and other parts of the world.

His final Bible text was Revelation 21:2-5. He admonished the worshippers that the Sabbath is the great memorial of Creation: "Let us be encouraged, let us remain faithful, don't give up hope, and don't throw in the towel."

—BY JULIET DUNKELY



*Everton Scott delivered the Sabbath message about religious liberty during the worship hour.*



## Two New Religion Majors Introduced

For years, Southern students have been returning from mission and evangelistic trips eager to prepare themselves for a full-time career in mission service at home or abroad. Now there are two new majors, missions and biblical studies, that will help them do just that.

The new missions major, coordinated through Southern's Evangelistic Resource Center, has been

created to prepare students to serve as cross-cultural or hometown missionaries. The new biblical studies major will prepare students for positions of lay leadership in the Church and community.

Those who will benefit from these programs include students taking a missions



*The new major in missions will prepare students for mission work overseas.*

or biblical studies major in conjunction with another

service major; students in pre-professional programs, such as pre-med and pre-law; and students interested in going on to graduate school.

"The goal," says Donn Leathermann, Southern religion professor, "is to prepare someone to be an active lay leader."

—BY LORI FUTCHER AND HOLLIE EIRICH

## Outdoor Emergency Services Major Introduced

Southern's outdoor education and nursing programs are working together to create a dual degree for those wanting to serve as nurses, first responders, or outdoor professionals. This outdoor emergency services degree provides outdoor emergency certification, along with an associate degree in nursing, and is designed to prepare students or professionals to work in wilderness emergency settings.

"If I am out in the middle of nowhere, I will



*With the new degree, students will learn skills to help them reach people stranded in hard-to-reach places.*

not have the conveniences of the hospital," says Shama Eller, junior nursing major. "I feel that for me, it is important to learn all I can about wilderness survival and rescue."

Students like Shama will be able to take 34 hours of outdoor leadership classes after finishing an associate degree in nursing in order to earn their bachelor's in outdoor emergency services. "We offer hard skills and certifications that have teeth," says Mike Hills, Southern assistant

professor in outdoor leadership. "These are real-world certifications."

According to Hills, Southern's campus and the greater Chattanooga area is the perfect "classroom" for outdoor learning.

"People know Chattanooga is the hub for places where you can offer exceptional outdoor education," he says. "This degree is an amazing opportunity for someone who wants to lead and serve."

—BY VANESSA PHAM

## Changes Made to Southern's Nonprofit Major

The nonprofit management major that resided in the School of Journalism and Communication for the past 11 years has moved to the School of Business and Management.

"The major now has a different focus," says Carrie Harlin, campus director of

Students in Free Enterprise and business relations. "More business classes are offered that will equip students with the knowledge needed to start a nonprofit."

The new nonprofit management major now offers three different concentrations: nonprofit

leadership, communications, and international and community relations. It will keep a couple of the core classes from the School of Journalism and Communication, and also incorporate business classes, such as accounting, business law, and management.

"This major offers specific training in the kinds of things that can move a nonprofit organization forward," says Robert Montague, professor in the School of Business and Management. "It is for people that have a heart for service."

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

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

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## Florida Hospital DeLand Opens Memory Garden

Florida Hospital DeLand Foundation, DeLand, Fla., has opened a Memory Garden. This tranquil space is a place for reflection and relaxation, designed to provide patients, their families, and staff with a peaceful respite within the hospital environment. Colorful flowering plants, refreshing shade, a water feature,



*The Memory Garden is a tranquil place to reflect, relax, and remember.*

and numerous seating areas complement winding pathways throughout the garden. This is a garden of peace, tranquility, and cherished memories.

The Memory Garden is filled with memories of people who have passed away: family members, mentors that had an impact on coworkers, and friends. It is a space which provides local healthcare professionals the opportunity to honor those they serve through tribute items. Pavers are engraved telling stories, providing smiles to those that knew that special person.

The garden also carries stories: a husband who purchased a paver in honor



*Patients and staff at Florida Hospital DeLand join together at the opening ceremony of the Memory Garden.*

of his wife and their marriage, a daughter for her parents whose love will last forever. Stories of joy are told through the Bricks for Babies, where friends and family can lay tribute to the birth of a baby.

“Compassion takes on

many forms,” said Jennifer Lyons, Florida Hospital DeLand Foundation director. “The Memory Garden extends compassion to those who love, have lost, and want to celebrate their joy.

—BY ERIN HUNTER

## Takoma Regional Hospital Improves Patient Safety



*Daniel Lewis, M.D. (center), enters the first order using CPOE with the help of Philip Smith, M.D. (right), and Tij Saxena, M.D. (left).*

Takoma Regional Hospital, Greenville, Tenn., launched the Computerized Physician Order Entry system (CPOE), becoming the first Adventist Health System hospital to do so. This new medical technology is

designed to improve patient safety and puts Takoma Regional Hospital in the top four percent of the nation’s hospitals for having a fully-integrated electronic medical records system.

“This is a gratifying day for everyone in the Takoma Regional family and Adventist Health System, because it’s another instance where we’re adopting new technology to make our hospital the best it can be,” said Carlyle Walton, president and chief executive officer of Takoma

Regional. “I’m excited for our employees and the medical staff, and proud of their efforts to bring this project to fruition. But, I’m most excited for our patients, because CPOE will help us reduce medical errors and deliver safer, superior care.”

Physicians and providers will now enter their medical orders directly into Takoma Regional’s electronic medical record system to eliminate the trail of paper orders and notes that can delay patient care and contribute to medical errors. Philip Smith, M.D., vice president and chief medical information officer for Adventist Health System,

said estimates show between 100,000 and 250,000 patients die each year nationwide from medical errors. The implementation of a full-scale CPOE system can reduce 75 percent of medication errors.

“Through their commitment to make a fairly radical change in how they deliver patient orders, our physicians and providers have shown their commitment to doing what’s best for patients,” Walton said. “This is the age of healthcare technology, and our hospital is honored to be a leader with new solutions and new paradigms.”

—BY BRAD LIFFORD

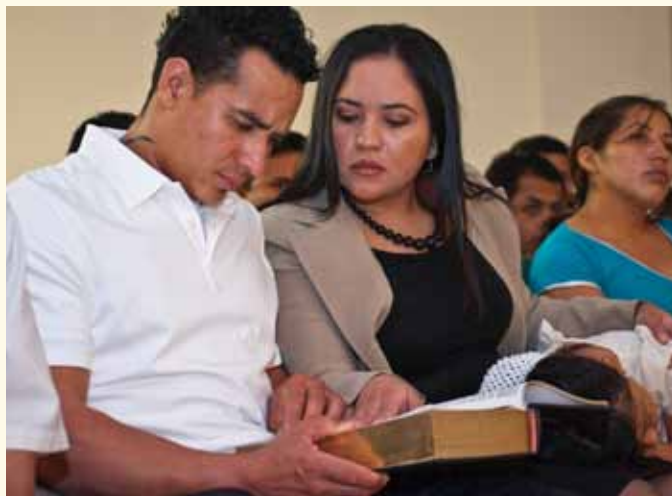
## Caravana de la Esperanza

Mariel Lombardi, editora

Durante el mes de mayo, las asociaciones South Atlantic, Carolina y Georgia Cumberland, participaron de la *Caravana de la Fe* conducida por el pastor Bullón en diferentes localidades del territorio de la unión. Este método descentralizado, ayuda a alcanzar una gama más amplia de público que de lo contrario se hubiese visto limitado a una zona, y es el corolario de un período

previo de siembra, en el que se trabaja arduamente interesando amigos, vecinos y familiares en el mensaje de salvación.

Dios bendijo claramente este evento con una asistencia total de 11,860 personas, y 471 decisiones de unirse a la iglesia. El número de bautismos entre proyectados y realizados en estas asociaciones para los meses de enero hasta junio, es 731.



## Carolina-Noticias



## Trabajando en la Salvación de Otros

Elías Sandoval, pastor del distrito

El domingo 3 de mayo, la iglesia de "Mt. Olive" tuvo el honor de recibir la visita del pastor Alejandro Bullón quien llevó a cabo la *Caravana de la Esperanza*.

Las iglesias del distrito, Mt. Olive, Dudley, Greenville, Wilson y Kinston, NC, alimentan y fortalecen el trabajo de los grupos pequeños. Como primicias de lo que se espera, siete personas entregaron sus vidas al Señor el sábado 2 de mayo.

El 26 de agosto comenzará una campaña en la que participarán las iglesias de Mt. Olive y Dudley. Se planea para este evento llevar a cabo la inauguración del nuevo templo que podrá albergar a 400

personas en la nave central y 300 en el gimnasio. El orador será el pastor Alejandro Bullón.

Es el deseo que este año las iglesias reciban la bendición de ser un distrito centurión por haber llevado 100 almas al bautismo. Se está orando fervientemente para poder alcanzar esta meta, con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo trabajando en los corazones de aquellos a quienes se llegue con el mensaje de salvación.



## Trabajando por el Año de Evangelismo

Elías Sandoval, pastor del distrito

La División Norteamericana señaló este año como el año del evangelismo. Uniéndose a este voto, el distrito organizó campañas en las diferentes iglesias, con resultados que incentivan a continuar.

Las siguientes son las series llevadas a cabo en lo que va del año:

Iglesia de Greenville: *Señor, be aquí mi vida*. 1 - 7 de febrero.

*Al encuentro con Jesús*, 28 de marzo al 4 de abril.

Iglesia Mount Olive: *Señor, toma mi vida*. 5 - 11 de abril. Iglesia Dudley: *Contemplando a Jesús*. 12 - 18 de abril.

Se están organizando otras campañas, que sin duda resultarán en la salvación de muchas almas.





## Campestre Hispano

Byron Rivera, pastor de las iglesias de Gainesville y Marion Oaks

El fin de semana del 10 al 12 de abril, se llevó a cabo por primera vez un campestre organizado por 10 iglesias y compañías del área norte de la Florida, que tuvo lugar en Kulaqua.

Las predicaciones del pastor Oscar Tavera, los seminarios del pastor Abel Paulin,

Armando Ogando y Ximena Rivera, fueron de bendición para la hermandad que regresó motivada para seguir predicando en sus respectivas comunidades.

Debido a la asistencia proyectada para el próximo año, se planea utilizar el gimnasio en lugar de la capilla.



## Cosecha de Primicias en Tampa

Luis Moreno, pastor del distrito de Tampa

En los primeros meses del año, el distrito llevó a cabo bautismos que fueron el resultado del trabajo del año anterior. Se organizaron semanas de decisión con la participación de los pastores Gerson Santos, director del departamento de evangelismo de la asociación, Cecilio Clayton, profesor en Costa Rica, y Luis Moreno, pastor del distrito de Tampa. Estos eventos tuvieron como objetivo atraer a quienes asistieron a las reuniones de grupos pequeños y clases bautismales, y a los oyentes del programa radial "Nuevo Amanecer".

Hasta el mes de abril, treinta y cuatro personas entregaron sus vidas a Dios y fueron bautizadas. En la actualidad se está estudiando la Biblia con 26

visitas.

En Palmetto y el Norte de Tampa, los grupos pequeños estudian el seminario sobre Apocalipsis. Hasta el mes de abril, en preparación para las campañas de junio y julio, se han repartido más de 5,000 revistas, 2,000 libros y 500 CDs. Diariamente los miembros hacen una pausa en sus actividades en horarios específicos, y oran por los planes y la unidad en la iglesia. El tercer miércoles de cada mes se celebra el *Miércoles de Poder*. El programa empieza con una cena seguida de alabanzas, testimonios y oraciones. Durante la semana y el fin de semana se llevan a cabo sesiones de asesoramiento para matrimonios, niños y también para jóvenes. Dios está bendiciendo los esfuerzos.

# Georgia- Cumberland Noticias

## Milagros de Evangelismo en Knoxville

Richard Urdaneta, pastor de distrito

Con el plan *Laicos en Acción*, el distrito de Knoxville capacitó y envió un grupo de 33 miembros a desempeñarse como evangelistas laicos, llevando a cabo sus propias conferencias y formando sus propios equipos misioneros. Veintidos hogares fueron convertidos en auditorios de evangelismo, y cada campaña duró una semana. Para muchos, esta fue la primera experiencia en predicación, y resultó de motivación para sus vidas espirituales.

Seguidamente cada congregación organizó las campañas *Jesús es la Solución*, a las

que asistieron los interesados de los grupos pequeños.

Como resultado de este esfuerzo conjunto, 28 almas fueron añadidas a la iglesia en una emotiva ceremonia bautismal en la que se dio testimonio de los "milagros modernos" que dejan ver la presencia de Dios en las vidas de aquellos que se ponen en sus manos.



## Convención de Ministerio Infantil

Nancy Ortiz, secretaria de la presidencia de la asociación

Con una asistencia de 190 maestros de escuelas sabáticas de niños, se llevó a cabo la convención del ministerio infantil en Atlanta. Una de las invitadas especiales fue Phyllis Washington, directora del departamento afín en la División Norteamericana.



# Georgia-Cumberland Noticias

## Milagro Antes y Después de las Campañas

Daniel Figueroa, tesorero de la iglesia Atlanta Primera

La junta de iglesia Atlanta Primera trataba con preocupación el tema del presupuesto para la *Semana de la Esperanza*. Se necesitaban 2,000 dólares, y se estudiaba cómo conseguir esa suma. Con el propósito de buscar la guía de Dios, se decidió hacer un sábado de ayuno y oración. Cuando todos se retiraron a sus hogares, una familia quedó en el templo para salir desde allí a sus compromisos misioneros. Repentinamente notaron a un joven desconocido, que se hallaba parado en la puerta preguntando por la persona a cargo. Antonio Quiñones se

hizo presente, y este joven le entregó un sobre indicando que recibirían otros más en un futuro, y se retiró sin decir su nombre, ni dar ningún otro dato. El hermano Quiñones abrió el sobre y para su sorpresa, encontró 2,100 dólares: la cantidad necesaria para la campaña.

Pasó más de un mes, y nada se supo de este joven. La situación económica siguió el curso descendente conocido, y por primera vez en su historia, la iglesia se encontraba frente a un déficit de \$ 3,500 para cubrir el permiso de la nueva construcción que se está por

comenzar. Los hermanos se reunieron para orar, como todos los sábados temprano en la mañana, y presentaron este problema al Padre Celestial. Nuevamente, como proviniendo de la nada, este joven se presentó en la puerta de la iglesia. Como la vez anterior se acercó a uno de los hermanos y le entregó un sobre, con la diferencia de que esta vez el sobre contenía 3,500 dólares en efectivo: la cantidad por la que se había estado orando. La iglesia estaba feliz, y pudo ver claramente que cuando el pueblo de Dios ora, suceden cosas maravillosas.



## Campañas en las Iglesias de Conyers y Atlanta Primera

Mariel Lombardi, editora

El distrito compuesto por las iglesias de Conyers y Atlanta Primera, se abocó a la tarea de llevar a cabo dos campañas tituladas *Semana de la Esperanza*, a cargo de los pastores Barrios y Caballero respectivamente. Como resultado, doce personas entregaron sus vidas a Cristo. Las iglesias agradecen a Dios por esta bendición.



## Nuevos Edificios

Nancy Ortiz, secretaria de la presidencia de la asociación

El 2 de mayo la iglesia de Norcross y la compañía de North Gwinnett, GA, realizaron por primera vez sus servicios en sus nuevos lugares de adoración, agradecidos a Dios por el privilegio de contar con un lugar propio para adorar.



North Gwinnett



Norcross

## Gulf-States Noticias

### Bautismo en Montgomery

Jaime Pombo, pastor de la iglesia de Montgomery, AL

El 21 de marzo la iglesia hispana de Montgomery, AL, concluyó la campaña evangélica *Mi Jesús y Yo*, con un resultado de 6 bautismos y 4 profesiones de fe. José Humberto Jiménez

Ocana, una de las personas que se bautizó, representó el bautismo número 10,000 en la asociación.





## Campaña en Carrolton

Pastor Efraín Poloche, coordinador hispano.

Con una concurrencia de 20 visitas aparte de los miembros de iglesia, se llevó a cabo la campaña evangélica titulada *Descubriendo las Señales*, a cargo del pastor Ismael Uribe. Los temas se basaron en el libro de Apocalipsis. Al finalizar el evento, el pastor Quintiana ofició una ceremonia bautismal en la que Guadalupe y Nazario Hernández no sólo entregaron sus vidas a Cristo, sino que previamente tomaron sus votos matrimoniales.

Cuatro personas respondieron al llamado final para entregar sus corazones a Jesús.



## Bautismo y Planes en Thompson

Pastor Efraín Poloche, coordinador hispano.

El 7 de febrero tres personas entregaron sus vidas a Cristo y dieron comienzo al evento que Dios mediante resultará en un bautismo por mes para la joven congregación de Thompson en Georgia.

La iglesia está ansiosa por conseguir un lugar propio donde reunirse. Durante el 2008 Dios los bendijo con 12 bautismos, y esperan duplicar este número en el 2009.



## Testigo en el Lugar de Trabajo

Efraín Poloche, coordinador hispano.

Como lo hacía a diario, Adriana López se dirigió a su trabajo en una tienda. Ese día, Jesús entró al negocio con el objetivo de comprar ropa para oficiar como diácono en la congregación Pentecostal de la que era miembro. Adriana lo ayudó amablemente, y al notar su interés por las cosas espirituales, lo invitó a la iglesia. Jesús aceptó la invitación, y fue recibido por José Luis, anciano de la iglesia de Newbern, quien se ofreció a enseñarle la Biblia.

El 25 de abril, como resultado del trabajo del Espíritu Santo a través de Adriana y José Luis, Jesús dio testimonio de su entrega a Jesús por medio del bautismo. Al finalizar la ceremonia, una pequeña subió a la plataforma manifestando su deseo de bautizarse.

## Decisiones de Salvación en Wallace

Efraín Poloche, coordinador hispano.

La iglesia de Wallace, NC, trabaja incansablemente dando estudios bíblicos con el objetivo de que muchas personas conozcan el mensaje de salvación. El 25 de abril tuvieron la bendición de ver a Yolanda bajar a las aguas bautismales, y presenciar la decisión de bautismo de tres personas.



## Evangelismo Entre Casas Rodantes

Efraín Poloche, coordinador hispano.

Luego de las conferencias presentadas por el pastor Rosales en un parque de casas rodantes, René y Rubisel entregaron sus vidas a Jesús en una ceremonia de bautismo. El grupo mariachi Alfa y Omega puso una cortina musical al evento, y seis personas respondieron al llamado de seguir a Jesús, y se preparan para el próximo bautismo.



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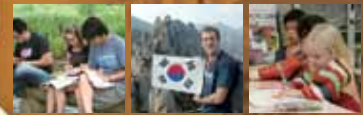
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**HEALTH MINISTRY IN NORTH GA MOUNTAINS** - Looking for dedicated men and women, who are able to invest financially, physically, spiritually and mentally through partnership in setting up a small Lifestyle Retreat. Call David & Mariana Palmer at 706-865-0503. Visit our cabin rental business at [www.bluecreekcabins.com](http://www.bluecreekcabins.com). [7]

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**HOSPITALIST OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA.** Gordon Hospital is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible Internal Medicine physicians. Live within a beautiful southern community which offers a gorgeous Adventist hospital ([www.gordonhospital.com](http://www.gordonhospital.com)), brand new Adventist elementary school ([www.cobleschool.com](http://www.cobleschool.com)), and first class Adventist high school ([www.gcasda.org](http://www.gcasda.org)). Southern Adventist University within a 45 minute drive ([www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu)). Contact [bonnie.shadix@ahss.org](mailto:bonnie.shadix@ahss.org), 800-264-8642. [7-11]

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**ADVENTISTS AND ISLAM:** What message do SDA's have for Muslims? Find out at a special weekend dedicated to teaching what we have to share with Muslims. September 24 - 26, La Sierra University, CA. For more information email [NADAdventistMuslimRelations@gmail.com](mailto:NADAdventistMuslimRelations@gmail.com) or call 423-368-2343. [7]

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**Spartanburg Pathfinder Camp Out** – July 17-19. Nosoca.  
**Master Guide Camp Out** – July 24-26. Nosoca.  
**Share Him Boot Camp** – July 24-26. Nosoca.  
**Sabbath School Workshop** – July 31-Aug. 2. Nosoca.  
**Pathfinder/Adventure Leadership Convention** – Aug. 21-23. Nosoca.  
**MPA First Day of School** – Aug. 17.  
**Carolina LE Retreat** – Aug. 27 - 30. Nosoca.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>  
**North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter** – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumni.org/>, [oakwoodalumniinf@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoodalumniinf@gmail.com), 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.  
**Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups** – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups. Details available under the “Support Groups” link in the “Patients and Visitors” box at <http://www.fhdeland.org/>  
**Teens ‘n Technology Seminar** – July 21. Brandon Church. Details: [ljwtech@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ljwtech@tampabay.rr.com) or 813-643-6510.  
**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule.**  
 July 25. Port Charlotte.  
 July 26. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First  
 Aug. 1. Maranatha in Miami.  
 Aug. 2. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Jupiter.  
**Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars**  
 Aug. 15. Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes.  
 Aug. 22. Kendall.  
 Aug. 29. Brazilian Chapel in Pompano Beach.  
**North Florida Back To School Youth Rally** – Aug. 1. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.  
**Liberación Youth Rally** – Aug.

14-15. Tampa area. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.  
**Go Fish For Kids** – Aug. 22. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: [rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com](mailto:rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com) or 407-644-5000 x136.  
**South Florida Community Plunge Youth Rally** – Aug. 22. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.  
**Family Ministries Marriage Retreats** – Plaza Hotel, Daytona Beach. Details: [rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com](mailto:rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com) or 407-644-5000 x138.  
**Evangelism Series**  
 Sept. 9-12. Forest City Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.  
 Sept. 26-Oct. 3. Miami Springs Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.  
 Sept. 27-Nov. 20. St. Petersburg. Bill and Sunshine Waters.  
**Go Fish Children’s Ministries Convention** – Sept. 11-13. Florida Hospital Orlando Creation Conference Center. Details: [rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com](mailto:rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com) or 407-644-5000 x136.  
**Spanish-language Men’s Ministries Convention** – Sept. 19. West Palm Beach Church. Details: 561-307-2816 or 786-457-3444.  
**Community Plunge Youth Rally** – Sept. 26. New Port Richey Church. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online** – [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)  
**Ministers’ Summer Retreat** – July 26-29. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.  
**The King’s Herald** – Aug. 1. Atlanta Metro Church at 11 a.m./ Atlanta Belvedere at 6:30 p.m. Atlanta, GA.  
**Health Rally** – Aug. 8. Oak Ridge, TN.  
**“Courage to Stand” Pathfinder Camporee** – Aug. 11-16. Oshkosh, WI.  
**Women’s Ministries Leadership Training** – Aug. 14-16. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.  
**Health Workshop with Dane and Vicki Griffin** – Aug. 14-15. Collegedale, TN. (Southern Adventist University - Ackerman Auditorium)  
**Prayer Ministries** – Aug. 15.  
**First Day of School** – Aug. 18.

Conference-wide.  
**Southern Deaf Camp Meeting** – Aug. 27-30. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.  
**Retiro de Caballeros** – Aug. 28.  
**Pathfinder Leadership Convention** – Aug. 28-30.  
**Retired Workers’ Retreat** – Sept. 10-13. Cohutta Springs.  
**Hope for Hurting Hearts** – Sept. 11-13.  
**Elders’ Certification** – Sept. 11-13. Cohutta Springs.  
**Church Planting Training** – Sept. 11-13. Cohutta Springs.

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online** <http://www.gccsda.org>  
**Teen Mission Trip** – July 11-27. Educators’ and Pastors’ Convention – Aug. 2-5. Bass Memorial Academy. Literature Evangelists’ Convention – Aug. 6-9. Camp Alamisco. Conference Schools’ Classes Begin – Aug. 10. Executive Committee – Aug. 18. Conference Office.  
**Prayer Ministries Conference** – Sept. 18-20. Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center. Talladega, AL. Registration deadline: Aug. 16.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board** July 21. Sept. 22. Dec. 1.  
**Conference Executive Committee** July 21. Sept. 22. Dec. 1.  
**Pastors-Teachers Retreat** – Aug. 2-5. Indian Creek Camp/Conference Center.  
**LE Summer Rally** – Aug. 6-9. Indian Creek Camp/Conference Center.

**Hispanic Youth Retreat** – Aug. 21-23. Indian Creek Camp/Conference Center.  
**Women’s Retreat – Indian Creek Camp/Conference Center**  
 Hispanic. Sept. 11-13.  
 Young Women. Sept. 18-20.  
 Retreat I. Sept. 25-27.  
 Retreat II. Oct. 2-4.

## Southern Adventist University

**Recharge Pastor’s Retreat** – July 5-17.  
**JumpStart** – July 20-Aug. 21.  
**SmartStart** – July 26-Aug. 21.  
**We-Haul** – July 26.  
**PreviewSouthern** – Oct. 8-9.

## Announcements

**Louisville Junior Academy 100th Anniversary** – July 24-26. LJA and Louisville First Church. Details: [ljaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:ljaalumni@gmail.com)/ website: [www.ljaalumni.webs.com/](http://www.ljaalumni.webs.com/) or 502-550-6787. Connect with former students on Facebook under Louisville Junior Academy Alumni.

**Wichita Adventist Christian Academy 50th Reunion** – Sept. 18-20. Details: 316-267-9472 or [waca50th@yahoo.com](mailto:waca50th@yahoo.com)

**Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend** – Oct. 1-4. Honor classes: ‘49, ‘54, ‘59, ‘64, ‘69, ‘79, ‘84, ‘89, and ‘99. Details: 573-682-2164, or visit [www.sunnydale.org](http://www.sunnydale.org)

**Oak Park Academy Alumni Homecoming** – Oct. 9, 10. Gates Hall in Nevada, IA. Honor classes: 1934, 39, 44, 49, 54, 59, 64, 69, 74, 79, 81, 82, 83. Details: [www.OPAinIowa.com](http://www.OPAinIowa.com)

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31	Aug. 7
Atlanta, GA	8:52	8:51	8:48	8:44	8:38	8:32
Charleston, SC	8:32	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:19	8:13
Charlotte, NC	8:42	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:27	8:20
Collegedale, TN	8:59	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:45	8:37
Huntsville, AL	8:03	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:49	7:42
Jackson, MS	8:11	8:10	8:08	8:04	7:59	7:53
Louisville, KY	9:10	9:08	9:04	8:59	8:53	8:46
Memphis, TN	8:18	8:16	8:13	8:09	8:03	7:57
Miami, FL	8:16	8:16	8:14	8:11	8:07	8:02
Montgomery, AL	7:56	7:55	7:52	7:48	7:43	7:37
Nashville, TN	8:08	8:06	8:03	7:59	7:53	7:46
Orlando, FL	8:27	8:26	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:11
Wilmington, NC	8:27	8:26	8:23	8:19	8:13	8:07

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**ASI SPANISH SEMINAR SABBATH AFTERNOON:** Hermes Tavera Bueno (Spanish translation available for all meetings)

**MUSICAL GUEST:** Jennifer LaMountain



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