

September 2009

T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



Shaping Tomorrow's
Healthcare Today

Just a Word, Jesus

Every week I talk with my grandchildren who live in Boulder, Colorado; it doesn't surprise me that they respond instantly through the intricacies of telecommunication on my cell phone. We even magically send pictures back and forth, a physical reminder that they know and can hear their Meme. And we love it when we can Skype. Even though I believe that Jesus is just as real as my grandchildren, I've never heard Jesus speak in an audible voice or seen Him physically in a dream or vision. I have seen Him work through Divine intervention and circumstances in my life. I have seen Him in the beauty and splendor of nature. I have felt His Spirit near me. But, oh, how I would love to see His face; to see the love, power, and compassion in those all-knowing eyes; to hear His melodious voice and feel His healing touch!

Matthew 8 tells the story about a centurion who lived in Capernaum. Jesus had been teaching his followers, and as He made His way into the city, a centurion approached Him and requested that He heal his palsied servant who was in pain. Jesus answered immediately that He would go and heal him. But, the centurion said a curious thing. I mean, who wouldn't want to have Jesus in their home performing a miracle, selfishly getting as much time with the popular healer/teacher as possible? He replied, ". . . Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed" Matthew 8:8 (NIV). Incredible! A non-follower with this kind of faith! Jesus was impressed and said, "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" Matthew 8:10 (NIV). Jesus healed his servant immediately, in absentia, with only a word, a thought.

The truth of what happened that day in Capernaum has dramatically spoken to my heart. This story is for me, for my generation who are not physically living in the presence of Jesus. God's physical presence is not necessary for the most miraculous interventions to occur. His thoughts and words are powerful enough to create worlds and the beings that live there, change sinful minds and hearts, heal and restore bodies, give comfort and peace to the hurting, raise the dead, provide for our needs, and save us.

Like the centurion, I do not deserve His physical presence "under my roof." All He has to do is say the word and I will be healed, changed, made whole, or whatever is needed in God's plan for my life. I believe Lord; help my unbelief. I want to be one of the "many [whom] will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven" Matthew 8:11 (NIV).



Cheryl Retzer
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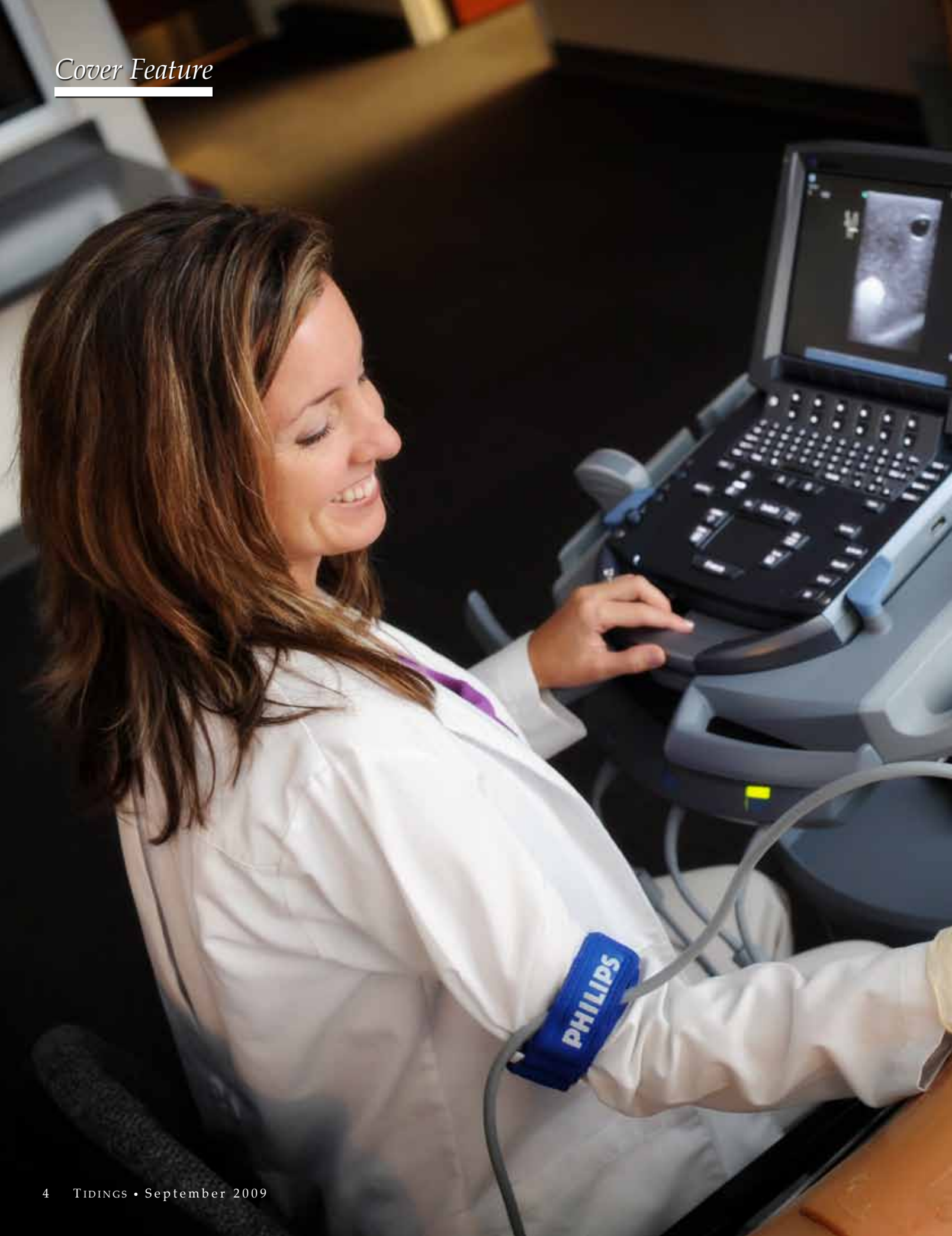
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Cover Caption: Florida Hospital College seeks to touch hearts, shape characters, and change lives.





Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences:

Shaping Tomorrow's Healthcare Today

BY DAWN MCLENDON

For many students considering a career in the healthcare industry, it only makes sense to be educated at a college that is affiliated with the nation's largest inpatient hospital system, caring for more patients than any other hospital in the country. Florida Hospital treats more than 1,000,000 patients a year.

But there's something deeper that brings students to Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS). In harmony with the mission of the Hospital, which is to "extend the healing ministry of Christ," the College creates an environment where students develop intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually while pursuing professional expertise integrated with Christian values.

Learning labs offer practical experience for tomorrow's healthcare leaders.

SPENCER FREEMAN



Dedicated faculty provide a nurturing environment for student success.

This educational approach values the whole person, because nothing is more important than one's spiritual and emotional well-being. In preparing students to become healthcare leaders, the College seeks to touch hearts, shape characters, and change lives.

"The inspiration for the College came from Tom Werner, the president of Florida Hospital in the late 1980's," states David Greenlaw, D.Min., FHCHS founding president. "He recognized that not only was there going to be a shortage of healthcare workers in the future, but a shortage of mission-driven healthcare workers — people who understood the larger picture of healing."

The College opened its doors in 1992 with 242 students. Today, nearly 2,400 attend the fully-ac-

credited institution. Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences is mission-driven by design and emphasizes its vision through four key words: nurture, excellence, spirituality, and stewardship. This context for learning makes a difference, according to Jason Busch: "I took a course in public speaking last year that basically changed my career decision. The professor has probably been the single most important influence in my life. You wouldn't get that kind of one-on-one relationship in a larger school. The Christian ethic comes across in everything they do."

One of the things students consider when deciding where to attend college is how much it will cost. Part of the FHCHS mission is to provide affordable Christian education that allows students to

graduate with minimal, if any, debt. Tuition at the College is about one-third of the cost at comparable, private faith-based institutions around the country.

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences combines value and personal touch with cutting-edge technology and hands-on learning. Nursing students learn in true-to-life clinical settings that utilize human patient simulators (HPS) that mimic a variety of medical conditions. For instance, Standard Man, or STAN, is an HPS with a pulse, realistic breathing patterns, and blinking eyes, that reacts in real time to medications and changing "life" conditions. This computer technology allows students to practice various medical situations without patient risk.

Diagnostic medical sonography

students learn in a high-tech setting that utilizes both fully-functioning ultrasound machines, such as the new *SonoSite Turbo* and *GE Logic E*, and sonography simulators such as the ULTRASIM (Ultrasound Training Simulator). Scanning phantoms are also utilized. Students use realistic looking thighs to identify anomalies in the leg such as deep vein thrombosis (DVT). They also scan with special GYN phantoms that show conditions like ectopic pregnancies and pelvic pathologies.

These experiences help graduates feel prepared and confident when they enter the workforce. A recent nursing graduate stated, "When I started working and met nurses who had graduated from other programs, I realized how well FHCHS had prepared me to enter the field of nursing."

The key element, though, that ties learning together is mission. Graduates leave the College with a high value placed on Christian service. In fact, students planning to graduate from the College with a bachelor's degree complete a minimum of 60 hours of service learning. These thoughtfully-organized experiences extend learning beyond the classroom and into the community.

A total of 31,991 hours of community service were donated to the central Florida community during the 2008-2009 school year, which, according to Campus Impact, had a monetary value of \$575,838. Boy Scouts of America, Florida Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Make a Wish Foundation, and Seniors First are some of more than 80 organizations that have benefited from FHCHS students, whose loving influence extends beyond central Florida. Florida Hospital College Health Science chaplains, Reynold Acosta and Stan Dobias, coordinate opportunities for spiritual outreach. The College has sponsored annual mission trips to Russia and Central America.

Students also have the opportunity to become student missionaries. Eric Edgerton is the latest student to serve. He is teaching

sixth grade on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. Eric cited Psalms 37:4, 5 as his inspiration for going as a student missionary. The text talks about trusting God so that He can give you the desires of your heart. "By trusting in God, He will work in us and give us our thoughts and desires according to His will and purpose," commented Edgerton.

"Adventist Health System considers us their West Point," states Greenlaw. "We produce the kind of healthcare professionals that are in demand...our close affiliation with one of the nation's premier healthcare systems is a huge advantage for our students."

As scientific evidence continues affirming the relationship between belief systems and healing, the importance of faith-based healing will only grow. The unique perspective with which FHCHS students graduate places them in high demand, as they are assuming various leadership positions all across North America and the world — some of which bring them back home to

their College, like it did for Leanna Neubrandner. She chose FHCHS to pursue her dream of becoming an imaging professional, and graduated in 2003. In 2006, the College contacted her with the opportunity to become a clinical instructor. "I had mixed feelings," she said. "On the one hand, I was flattered that the College thought me worthy of teaching. On the other hand, I wasn't sure I

would be good at it. I prayed about it and felt God was leading me. With confidence, I accepted the teaching position. From day one, I have felt a sense of family and belonging at the College. This has enabled me to provide students with the high-quality education and the guidance that I received as a student. I am proud to be part of such a respected institution."

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences is delighted to be the educational choice of students from across the United States. The College is a part of the legacy that began in 1908 when Florida Hospital opened its doors. But, it's also part of the legacy of *eternal life* that Jesus Christ made available on the cross 2,000 years ago. The Hospital that treats the mind, body, and spirit is a partner with the College that is shaping tomorrow's healthcare by graduating professionals who are dedicated to a life of Christian service, so that people everywhere might experience trust, hope, and belonging through the everlasting grace of Jesus Christ. ✨



Clinical instructor Leanna Neubrandner enjoys the sense of family and belonging she feels at FHCHS.

From Prison to the Pulpit

BY BECKY CARPENTER

Ever heard of “rock bottom?” Well by the age of 22, Bobby Carpenter had definitely hit it. He found himself on a hard bunk in the Broward County jail in Florida, awaiting trial for second-degree murder. And as he describes it, “The only thing in that room that wasn’t bolted down was a Bible.” So Bobby picked it up and began to read. That’s when God reached down and rescued him.

He wasn’t a bad kid. His father had died of alcoholism when Bobby was 14. His mother did the best she could to raise Bobby and his older brother and sister. The family went to church on the occasional holiday, but for the most part he grew up believing there was nothing more to life than the “here and now.” And if that was true, why not live it to the fullest?

This philosophy took him on a wild ride through his teen years and into his 20’s. A full-blown alcoholic by that time, a series of run-ins with the law sent Bobby looking for new surroundings. He hopped a motorcycle in October of 1992, and traveled from his boyhood home in New Jersey all the way to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Soon Bobby found a construc-

tion job and an apartment with a roommate named John*. His life took on a routine of work, going to bars, and generally wasting time — until one day that changed his life forever.

Bobby woke up that night to screams and the sound of fighting. Knowing the fight was life or death, he grabbed a borrowed gun and stumbled outside. John was fighting desperately with a man who had

repeatedly threatened to kill both of them. Earlier that day, even, the man had said to Bobby at the local bar, “I’m getting a gun, and I’m coming to your house tonight.”

Bobby pulled the trigger, and the man died. His friends tried to get him to run, but Bobby refused. “I know what I did and why I did it, and I will face whatever happens,” he said.

Because Bobby had filed several police reports about the death threats, the jury knew it was self-defense, and lowered the charges. Bobby was convicted of manslaughter (due to the fact that the assailant turned out to be unarmed), and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Looking for comfort in the Bible, Bobby began with reading The Book of Psalms. He soon made his way to the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation. Fascinated, he asked everyone around him if they knew their meaning. No one did. Then one day a fellow inmate came by Bobby’s bunk and said, “Heard you wanted some information about this,” and tossed him an Amazing Facts book on prophecy. The inmate was a Seventh-day Adventist. By the



Jim Davidson (left), Conference president, interviewed Bobby at the recent elders’ retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty, South Carolina.



Bobby and Becky Carpenter: Becky is Carolina Conference associate communication director.

drinking in everything he could get his hands on about Seventh-day Adventists, and sharing what he had learned. By the time he left prison in 2000 after serving six years, Bobby had helped numerous inmates, guards, and officials learn about the Adventist faith, with several baptisms resulting. He now knew what life was really about, and was truly living it to the fullest.

He moved to North Carolina to live and work with his brother. I met Bobby a few months later at my church in Monroe, North Carolina. I was praying to the Lord for His guidance in my future, including finding me a good husband. I finished my prayer, looked up and saw Bobby for the

first time. Wow! God really does know what we need before we even ask. We started dating in 2001, got married in 2002, and gave birth to our first child last month.

I am forever grateful to the Lord for rescuing Bobby from the path he was traveling. And thanks to Carolina Breakthrough evangelism funding, Bobby preached his first evangelism series in March through ShareHim. What a journey! From prison to the pulpit!

Do you have a friend or loved one who seems to be on self-destruct mode? Just keep praying. God sees their trials, knows their potential, and, like Bobby, is ready to rescue them from the terrifying bonds of this world. And what a life is ahead! ✨
*Name changed

next morning, so was Bobby.

Excited about this new truth, he spent the next five and a half years

Southern Union News

Smiths Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Bennie and Laura Smith of Montgomery, Ala., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by reaffirming their wedding vows at a dinner reception on Sunday, June 28, 2009, at the Alabama Activity Center in

Montgomery. The anniversary celebration was hosted by their daughter, granddaughter, and other family members.

Bennie Smith is a retired educator who served in the Montgomery Public School System as a classroom teacher, assistant principal at the junior high school level, and as principal at the elementary school level. Bennie served as pastor of the First Troy Church in Troy, Ala., for 27 years.

Laura Zell Johnson Smith is a retired educator who served the Montgomery Public School System as a classroom teacher, Title 1 resource teacher, and as supervisor in the Department of

Curriculum and Instruction. She currently serves as the Southern Union Conference director of women's ministries, which comprises eight southeastern states.

Bennie and Laura are graduates of Alabama State University, where they met in the one science class that they had together in 1956. Bennie was a secondary education major, and Laura was an elementary education major. A friendship and study-buddy relationship developed, which led to them spending time together, and resulting in a courtship.

They are the proud parents of one daughter, Laretta Smith Roe, and one granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Roe, of Columbus, Ohio.

The reaffirmation of the marriage vows was officiated by their pastor, Sylister Jackson, D.D., and Murray Joiner, pastor.

Soloists for the occasion were Dorothy Webb, Dorothy Riggins Allen, and Doris DeHaney. The musician and consultant for the celebration was Lewis Webb Jr.

The Smiths are active members of Bethany Church in Montgomery, Ala. They attribute their marital longevity and bliss to their abiding love relationship with Jesus Christ; their faith, commitment, and devotion first to Him; as well as their love, commitment, and dedication to each other. Their desire and prayer is that couples can remain in love after the courtship and wedding day.



God + Us = Synergy

BY DEBBIE G. BROCK

“Ten thousand dollars! Lord, have you forgotten that we are a very small school of merely seven students, located in the poorest county in Kentucky, and the 18th poorest county in the nation? Okay, You are

in charge here; I have no idea where You will take this.”

Late last fall, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference education department sent our school, Appalachian Christian Academy, a small mission school serving mostly non-Adventist students, a packet of information regarding a mission fundraising project called “Mission Maluti.” This worthy project involved the construction of a new school for students in Lesotho, South Africa, some who are meeting for classes in a steel shipping container.

I showed the students the DVD, and we discussed what we could do. We talked briefly about the \$5 per student goal, which the North American Division education department had set, but they thought that amount was way too low, as that would amount to only \$35 dollars.

Finally settling on an ambitious goal of \$1,500, we listed fundraising possibilities on the board and went on with the business of school.

In November and December 2008, the DVD was shown in area churches and donations began to trickle in. One second grader took the



Students and teacher Debbie Brock (back row, far right), at Appalachian Christian Academy in Manchester, Kentucky

DVD to his church and came back with a considerable amount. A fourth-grade student brought in his own money for the cause. During the month of Febru-

ary 2009, we had our read-a-thon, raising an additional \$400. In March, we began practicing with our puppets, creating backdrops for the talent program.

Another \$500 was raised from this event. Then, we started collecting donations for the flea market yard sale. Truckloads of items began to accumulate at the school and at a donated vacant store location. One student even donated her laptop computer. Many church members donated time on Saturday nights to sort, organize, and price the donated items. The local flea market donated a space for our sale, and we collected nearly \$1,000 from this event.

By this time, we had raised \$3,000, including the donations given by church members. School ended on May 21, and the total had increased to \$4,500. But there were a few more individuals to contact, even after we had done all that *we* could do.

That evening, I called four individuals, some who had pledged to help us. The total went up to \$7,000. I was ec-

static with this number, and set about to finish the tri-fold poster with multicultural children, each representing \$200. Larry Boughman, Ph.D., Conference educational superintendent, asked me to take part in the Sabbath morning mission emphasis for Kentucky-Tennessee camp meeting.

On Friday a church member and his wife came to my house, and I showed them the poster that I had just completed. They became thoughtful and stated bluntly, “Sorry, but you’ll have to revise it!” They then handed me an envelope containing \$4,500, bringing the total up to \$11,500! I was speechless as I realized that God’s goal of \$10,000, plus our goal of \$1,500, had been perfectly met!

This mission was God’s all along. We were merely the human agents — the hands, feet, minds, and check-books that allowed His project, His goal, to be realized. ✨

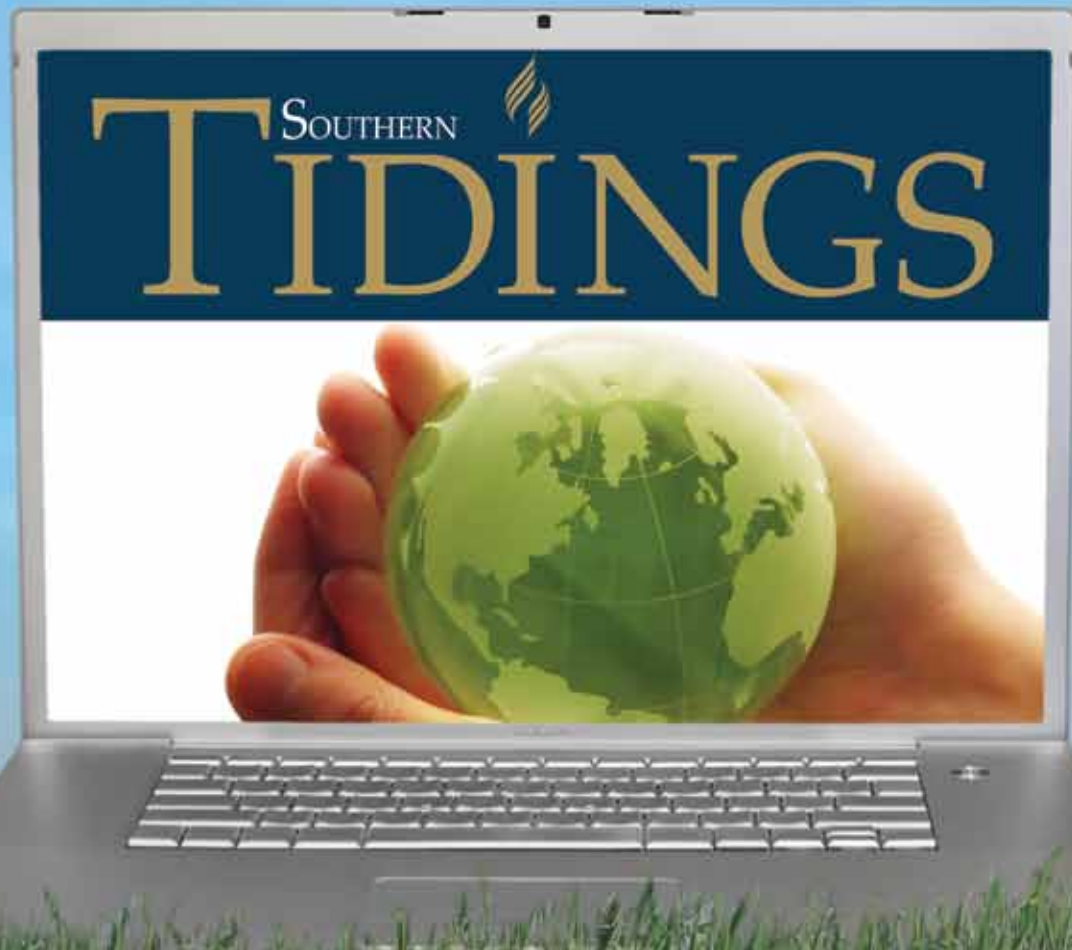
Debbie G. Brock teaches multiple grades at Manchester SDA Elementary School in Kentucky.



Debbie Brock makes a presentation at Kentucky-Tennessee camp meeting, while Larry Boughman, Ph.D., Conference educational superintendent, looks on.

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The Summer That Chan

As I reflect on summers past, I realize that some stand out more than others. However, none of them even compare to the one I experienced this summer as a student colporteur.

When I first heard about canvassing, I decided it was something I would never do. However, as the school year was drawing to a close, my parents and I began to panic as we realized the difficulty of finding a summer job. All our efforts were turning up empty, and summer was quickly approaching.

A couple weeks and a few vital phone calls later, my mother told me that I would be a part of the Jacksonville, Florida, Youth Summit program. I had a less-than-thrilled reaction when I was told that I would work as a colporteur for the summer. To be honest, I thought to myself, "Canvassing? That's for people who don't know how to enjoy their summer! Why would I want to spend every day dragging myself through the heat, tripping on floor-length skirts, dealing with angry dogs, and facing frustrated people slamming their doors while yelling 'No Soliciting!' and threatening to call the police? I'll stick to flipping burgers, thank you!"

In spite of my negative feelings, I decided to pray and give God a chance. I promised Him that I would work as hard as I could, no matter what happened, and He would have to make up all the rest. I had no idea how He would answer my prayer.

The first couple weeks of canvassing brought mixed emotions. Some days were successful; others not at all. I would pray to leave 20 books for donations, but only end up with three.* The people who initially seemed the nicest would turn



Students from the 2009 Florida Conference Summer MagaBook program relax during a Sabbath outing at Wekiwa State Park in Apopka: Filip Harasim (left); Gabriella Pasos; Heidi Ordaz, junior leader; and Maciej Matter.

RONALD PASOS



PHOTO: JOE HOLLOWAY

Gabriella Pasos (far left, kneeling) had mixed emotions when she first gathered with the two groups of student colporteurs who would be based in Jacksonville and Miami. Canvassing during the summer of 2009 “shaped me to become the person I am today.”

ged My Life

BY GABRIELLA PASOS

into raging fanatics ready to call the police. It was difficult getting accustomed to the ups and downs of a canvasser’s life. However, in spite of the tough times, God was opening my eyes, and I was starting to clearly see Him work in even the smallest details of my life.

I began to heed prompts from the Holy Spirit, and I know now that He was the reason for my success. I clearly remember the time I spoke with one gentleman. Even though he admired my efforts, he decided he only wanted to donate three dollars. I sincerely thanked him and, before leaving, I was impressed to pray with him. After I asked, he responded with an enthusiastic “Yes, please do!” As I turned to leave after the prayer, he reached into his wallet and pulled out a twenty-dollar bill. He looked at me and said, “You could have left after I gave you three dollars, thinking, ‘What a selfish person,’ yet you still asked to pray for me, which showed me your character and true motive.” He received copies of *The Great Controversy* and *Peace Above The Storm*, otherwise known as *Steps to Christ*.

Hearing other students’ testimonies was also important and uplift-

ing to me. Maciej Matter, one of two young men from Poland, would often come back bursting with excitement. Even through his strong accent and broken English, his gratitude for getting even a couple of book requests a day made me admire his amazing faith and trust in God.

Wes Tuyra, another example, would always end the day with a big smile on his face no matter how difficult things were. He once told us, “I didn’t get any books out, but I got eight Bible studies!”

Although I began with negative feelings, God answered my prayers in ways I never could have imagined. He worked in my life, and I felt His presence more than any other time. Canvassing strengthened my faith, helped me build strong friendships with amazing young people who love the Lord, and shaped me to become the person I am today. I encourage all youth to give God a chance and try literature evangelism. It changed my life, and it can change yours. ✨

** MagaBook student workers earn money for school through donations they receive in exchange for the books they carry.*

A Note from the MagaBook Director

The Florida Conference student literature evangelism program just ended as 50 students celebrated together at their retreat at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida. After canvassing together for nine weeks, it was difficult to say goodbye.

Pounding the pavement in north and south Florida, these students canvassed at thousands of businesses and homes. They made contact with more than 200,000 people, and distributed 20,000 books.

I was always touched when I witnessed a student offer a prayer in a home or a business, and how moved people were by these students’ witness for Christ. The students also started many Bible studies.

We can be very proud of our young people as they helped fulfill a prophetic vision of Ellen White by carrying the Gospel to thousands right before the Lord’s return.

—BY LES MCCOY
FLORIDA CONFERENCE
YOUTH PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Schutte Receives Award for Child Abuse Prevention

Harold Schutte, M.D., administrative elder of Asheville North Church, Asheville, N.C., was honored recently with the Blue Ribbon Award for extraordinary contribution to Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS). The Blue Ribbon has become the symbol of child abuse prevention and a commitment to protect children.

Schutte is the founder of the Asheville Children's Medical Center, co-founder of Mission Hospital's Pediatric Acute Care and Neonatal Intensive Care, and Carolina Health Care. He is passionate about child abuse prevention and the safety of children, and is a great example of someone who can and does make a difference in children's lives.

Bill Maguire, director

of child abuse prevention services, said, "Harold Schutte, with his enthusiasm and can-do spirit, has been a leader and catalyst for many good things in the lives of children and families." Schutte was the driving force for Carolina Health Care in bringing Marilyn Van Derbur, former Miss America, motivational speaker and child abuse survivor, to Asheville for a speaking engagement in the spring of 2009.

Van Derbur's inspiring presentation addressed her years of childhood sexual abuse by her prominent father, her healing process beginning at age 45, hope for survivors, and prevention resources and tips. She is the author of a powerful book, *Miss America by Day: Lessons Learned from Ultimate Betrayal and*



Bill Maguire (left); Harold Schutte, M.D.; and Lynn Kieffer

Unconditional Love, and has been named "Outstanding Woman Speaker in America." Van Derbur has received numerous awards and acknowledgments for her work.

Lynn Kieffer, vice president of CAPS, shared their

goal that, "One day all children, our most precious yet most vulnerable asset, can have safe, healthy childhoods, and the opportunity to reach their potential. That would be the best of all possible worlds."

—BY FLORIE ROGERS

Rockingham Holds Faith-Building VBS Program

The children at Rockingham Church began their summer with a lesson in faith. During June 3 to 6, their Vacation Bible School (VBS) program packed each evening with music,

gifts, a mini drama, special talent, and sermons presented by Andres Sequera, pastor.

After the program Friday night, the young people gathered for an

agape feast. They were told to bring something soft to sit on, but they plopped themselves on the floor, excited to participate in such an event.

On Saturday morning, the fun continued. After the singing, drama presentation, and Sabbath School put on by the children, Sequera delivered the last VBS sermon. The enthusiasm and dedication behind this VBS program encouraged nine

young individuals to be baptized!

The experience was one of faith-building for members of Rockingham. The turnout was greater than expected, with about 50 children every night, and for Sabbath service more than 150 attending. They were not prepared to feed this many people, but it turned out to be another opportunity to see the hand of God working in this endeavor. He multiplied the food, and there were even leftovers.

—BY SUSANA FRANCO



Marion Church Receives Helping Hand

While passing through Marion, N.C., on a business trip to Winston Salem, N.C., Larry Hamm, a friend of Ron and Linda Davis, Marion Church pastor and his wife, stopped by to visit. Their conversation ventured to the church's audio/video equipment. Just the day before, Marion Church board had voted to replace the old, inadequate sound system. The only problem was that no one at Marion knew what equipment to buy or how to install any of it.

Hamm was pretty sure that this visit with Ron Davis was no coincidence. As one of the audio visual team leaders at White House, Tenn., Church, he

knew that his co-leader, Jeremy Leggett, would be more than willing to plan a system for Marion. Leggett was not only willing to generate an equipment list, but volunteered to travel the 350 miles to Marion and help install it. They also recruited some of their fellow team members from White House.

On Thursday morning, June 18, Tim Esquilla and his son, Samuel; Scott Boyte; Jeremy Leggett; and Sharon and Larry Hamm loaded the new equipment and headed to Marion. Just as the sun was beginning to set on Friday evening, the work was complete. Leggett and the Hamms stayed so

they could work with the excited church members on Sabbath, and teach them how to operate their new equipment.

Not only was there new sound equipment, but a video projector was mounted and ready to use at a moment's notice. They also have a video camera, DVD recorder, and CD/DVD duplicator so they can record their services for home-bound members.



Jeremy Leggett (left) instructs Chris Austin on the operation of Marion Church's new sound and video equipment.

God has truly blessed White House with individuals who are willing to go out of their way to use and share their talents with others.

—BY LARRY HAMM

Not One Child Left Behind in Lincolnton

Each Sabbath morning, Lincolnton, N.C., Church member Phil Houser cranks up the "children's bus" and begins his route to bring between 35 and 40 community children to Sabbath School. Some of the children come from pretty

rough homes, but now have the opportunity to learn about the love of Jesus in a safe environment. They also develop friendships with other children at Lincolnton — something that would not have been possible just a few months ago.



It all started with Vacation Bible School (VBS) last summer. Because of the community involvement in VBS, there were almost 100 children attending. Many of these children had never been in a church environment before. Excited and encouraged by this high attendance, members realized the need to continue this ministry in some way.

Their enthusiasm sparked a vision in the Lincolnton members. Not only would they invite the community children to Sabbath School, but also bring them there.

"Each Sabbath little helpers at the Lincolnton Church collected the

children's offering, and within one year accumulated \$12,000 toward the purchase of their new bus," said Houser. "Six months later they reached their goal."

"With the help of others who'd set aside some stock," he continues, "we were able to purchase our bus." God is always working things out for the good of them who love Him.

"From Our House to God's House" is colorfully painted on the side of the new bus, along with a picture of the community children who come to Sabbath School. What an outreach for this one church!

—BY RON QUICK

Victory Church Holds Community Health Fair



THEO ROBERTS

Volunteers helped conduct the numerous screenings available during Victory Church's fourth annual health fair.

Victory Church Health Department in Port St. Lucie, Fla., celebrated its fourth year of serving the community with an annual health fair. Lorna

Scharschmidt, department director, organized the event at Port Lucie Community Center.

People from Port St. Lucie/Fort Pierce area

streamed in and visited booths located throughout the room: primary stroke, blood pressure, diabetes prevention, foods for growing kids, orthodontics, and healthful herbs. Visitors also were offered a glass of freshly juiced vegetables and a massage. A video from Loma Linda University School of Public Health, in partnership with Oakwood University, "The Secret of Living Longer," was shown.

Two doctors volunteered their time to the fair. Anthony Lewis, M.D., spoke about heart attacks, and reminded the audience that even though this is the number one killer in America, lives can be

saved if everyone is aware of the symptoms. Dwight Dawkins, M.D., spoke on diabetes prevention, and how it can be controlled by eating proper whole-grain foods, drinking adequate fluids, and exercise.

The health fair was the last part of a health seminar weekend that began on Thursday evening with Dawkins emphasizing that God is God, and whether people believe it or not, He is in control of the entire Universe. On Sabbath, he stressed that God promised, "I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you" Exodus 15:26 (NKJV).

—BY THEO ROBERTS

Grace Beane Celebrates 100th Birthday

Verna "Grace" Mann Beane was born April 10, 1909, in Creswell, Pa., where she lived on a farm in Amish country with her three siblings, Gilbert, Loretta, and Horace.

Through a mutual friend, she met David Beane, and they married January 11, 1936. Soon after, they attended evangelistic meetings at the Lancaster, Pa., Church and were baptized.

Moving to the Orlando area in 1956, Grace's life centered around home and activities at the Forest Lake Church. She joined the church's Dor-

cas Society, and used her talents to create hundreds of booties and lap blankets for those in need.

For 35 years, Grace volunteered on Wednesdays at Florida Living Nursing Center where she brought the hospitality cart to residents so they could purchase goodies and personal items. Today at 100, she faithfully attends Sabbath School and church, helps at the Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry every week, and participates in monthly Young at Heart dinners.

Along with her husband, who died in 2002



at age 98, Grace belonged to Maranatha International Missions. Together, they helped build schools and churches in South America and England, in addition to visiting mission stations around the world.

Until her mid-90's, Grace enjoyed maintaining a vegetable garden, and continues caring for her small orange grove. She believes that drinking home-squeezed orange juice every day has helped her live to 100 years in very good health.

Her family includes two children, Kenneth and Eileen (Krause), three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They are all members of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, Fla., which was built by Grace's husband who was a general contractor.

—BY DORIS BEANE

Rusty Litten Receives National Teaching Award

Rusty Litten, a fifth-grade teacher at Orlando, Fla., Junior Academy (OJA), who retired last May, is the recipient of a 2009 Excellence In Teaching Award. He received the award and a \$1,000 cash gift from the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) on May 21 at OJA eighth-grade graduation.

Litten served as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher for 26 years, and always enjoyed teaching on this grade level. "I never taught the same course the same way twice," he says. "I looked forward to each day with eager anticipation."

A list of reasons Litten was chosen to receive this award include the following:

- Veteran educator for 42 years.
- Provided a highly interactive, tactile learning environment for biology.
- Promoted the use of technology within research, such as requiring students to use a ProScope Digital USB Microscope in their research projects.

- Incorporated iPod/ Garage Band in music productions that featured students.
- Utilized the SMART board in math, Bible, and science classes.

Litten was recommended for the award by his local school through a letter from the principal, one of his peers, the Florida Conference Office of Education, and the Southern Union Conference Office of Education. The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented to 12 individuals in the North American Division each year who:

1. Demonstrate the high quality spiritual and academic standards of an exemplary Adventist teacher.
2. Are recognized as role models who stimulate students to consider teaching careers in Adventist schools.
3. Constantly demonstrates their love for Jesus Christ, their love for students, and their passion for excellence.



Rusty Litten (left) received the 2009 Excellence In Teaching Award at Orlando Junior Academy eighth-grade graduation. Arne Nielsen, Conference education superintendent, presented the award.

"Visiting Litten's classroom is like a day in a museum," says Sandra Doran, Florida Conference associate superintendent. "In one corner of the room are shelves with bottles of sand from all over the world. In another are fossils, animal skulls, bones, and shells. On the back wall, electronic boards made by students provide matching games of the heart, eye, ear, muscles, and bones. In the center of the room, wildlife found by students wiggle and squirm in glass aquariums."

AAF is a nonprofit organization that develops and funds programs to stimulate excellence in Adventist schools across the country. Their major objective is to strengthen and reward quality education.

"Great teachers are the heartbeat of great Adventist schools," says Melanie Eddlemon, associate director of the AAF. "We look for teachers who are leaders at their schools, teachers who inspire both their peers and their students."

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Orlando University Church Honors First Responders

Police, firefighters, and EMT's were showered with awards, gifts, and testimonies by the members of University Church in Orlando, Fla., at a Spring First Responders Appreciation Sabbath program.

More than one dozen first responders and four chaplains heard the sermon by Stephen Hall, retired

Adventist chaplain of Orange County Sheriff's Department, and a testimony of God's leading in his life by Malone Stewart, former Orange County under-sheriff. "I look forward to this event every year," said Orlando police officer Harold Olena, "and I make sure my schedule is free to come."

Following the service, members participated in Operation Deliverance, a program of the Orange County Sheriff's Office through the Chaplaincy Department, where church members in the community pray for high crime areas of the county during 40 days of prayer.

—BY DAN FORBES

Principal Experiences Miracle on the Mountain

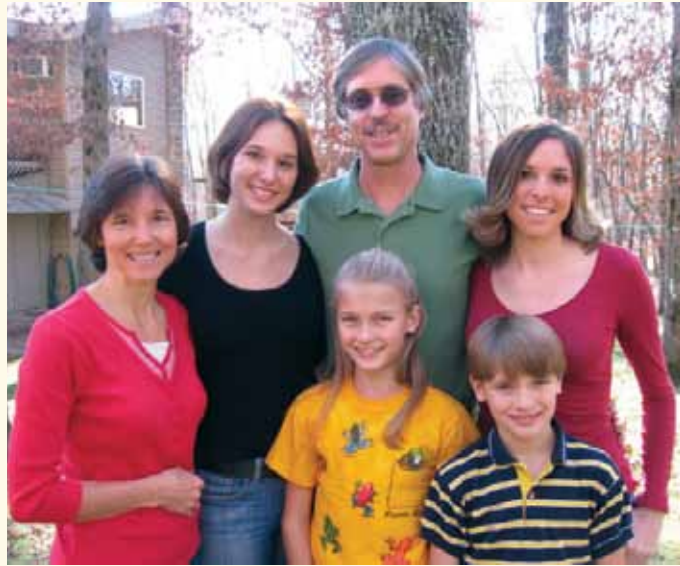
Holly Abrams, principal and teacher at Jasper, Tenn., Adventist School, and her children, Nickolas and Ryissa, were in a terrible car accident, May 11, 2009. In the following interview, Abrams shares how her faith in God helped her.

How did the accident happen?

I was headed home from school at 4:45 p.m. on May 11. As 10-year-old Nickolas, 12-year-old Ryissa, and I rounded a corner going up Jasper Mountain, there was a big semi-truck coming at us in our lane. I had two seconds to hit the brakes and head for the ditch before we were hit head on. We were spun around 180 degrees and thrown into a deep ditch. The truck had lost its brakes and had been heading for a driveway to use as an escape route. We happened to be in the way. After hitting us, the truck trailer flipped over and burst into flames. My fellow teacher, Linda Dickinson, was in her car right ahead of us and saw the whole accident. She was first on the scene. She thought we were all dead. An ambulance took us to the top of the mountain where life force helicopters flew us to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

How badly were you and the children injured?

I had a skull fracture



The Abrams family took this photo the day before the accident.

and a lot of bleeding on the brain, a broken neck, two broken ribs, a collapsed lung, a crushed femur, and a crushed ankle and foot. I was in the emergency room about 10 hours as they tried to stabilize me. My leg was bleeding profusely, but they couldn't do surgery because of the head trauma. The next morning the bleeding on my brain wasn't any worse, so they took me in for five and a half hours of surgery on my leg. The bone was crushed above the knee, and they had to put a one-foot-long plate in my thigh to hold it all together with three-inch-long screws anchoring it to my knee. I was given five units of blood to replace all I had lost. A week later when I was again able to undergo surgery, they operated on my crushed ankle. A six-inch

plate was put in my ankle and another at the top of my foot.

Ryissa had a badly broken arm and seatbelt abrasions. Nickolas also had a badly broken arm, a fractured skull, and bleeding on his brain. They were released from the hospital after three days.

Do you think it was a miracle that you survived, or feel that God protected you?

The accident is being called "Miracle on the Mountain" by the local people. No one

questions that there were angels in the car with us protecting us. You know that no one could have come out alive when you see the van and its condition, unless God was there.

What were your thoughts when you realized what had happened?

Once I could comprehend everything, I was totally amazed that we were still alive. All the police and rescue workers who worked the site said we shouldn't have lived.

How do you feel looking back at it now?

I know God must have a very special work for me and my children. He was not finished with us yet. I want to be totally open to His leading and



Holly Abrams is on the path to recovery.

to what He has for me to do.

How have you made it through this rough time?

God has been with me all the way. I was expected to be in the intensive care unit for at least three weeks, and I was out in five days. The doctors said I would be in the regular ward for three weeks, and I was out of there in another five days. I was at Siskin in rehab for a week and was home after two and a half weeks total. God was really healing my body, and the doctors were amazed.

I have never questioned, "Why?" I only have said, "Why not me?" The hardest part was being totally helpless to do things on my own. I am a very independent and active person, and God has had to teach me patience and dependence. My husband Ron has been there for me 500 percent. He had



COURTESY OF HOLLY ABRAMS

Ryissa, age 12, and Nickolas, age 10, show their injuries.

to take off work a couple weeks, has cared for me, done all the household and outdoor jobs, and stayed positive. My two daughters in college have also been there.

God has been our strength and gave us courage in the tough times. Everyone has rallied and

done whatever we have needed and, most of all, prayed for us. This experience has showed me how good people are and how caring they can be.

How is the recovery process going?

I have gone from a wheel chair, to a walker,

to crutches, and I am now learning to use a cane. My leg and ankle are still far from healed, but the orthopedist is letting me put full weight on my leg. The last time I was there, he told me I was "way ahead of schedule" in my healing and movement. I praise God for His power and healing touch. I am in therapy three times a week, and began driving this week.

I am back in the classroom. I am using crutches, but my spirits are high, and I anticipate a wonderful new school year. I continue to praise God for His goodness to me and to our family.

—BY HOLLY ABRAMS AND REBECCA BROOKS



COURTESY OF HOLLY ABRAMS

The Abrams' van is shown at the scene of the accident.

The following Georgia-Cumberland Conference schools were inadvertently left out of the School Directory in the May 2009 TIDINGS:

GEORGIA LaGrange, GA LaGrange SDA School 706-884-8572	Ringgold, GA Misty Meadows SDA School 706-937-9923
Jasper, GA Jasper Christian School 706-253-5113	TENNESSEE Chattanooga, TN Standifer Gap SDA School 423-892-6013

Macon Members Begin Market Ministry

Macon Church member Nancy Witt and her daughter, Alexa Hernandez, recently visited a booth for Market Evangelism Promotion, run by David Graham from Dayton, Tenn. This ministry sets up booths at flea markets to give away free books about the Gospel.

Witt was convicted that she should duplicate

this method of giving away free books in her own town of Macon, Ga.

David Graham mentored Witt as she began building the ministry in Macon. The name "Spotlight on the Bible Ministries" was chosen for the market ministry in Macon, to emphasize the Bible-based books they give away.



AUBREY DUNCAN

Members of Macon, Ga., Church offer free books to people as they pass by the "Spotlight on the Bible Ministries" booth at a flea market south of Macon.

The ministry developed as Macon Church members Al and Glenda Seagraves made a lattice backdrop, a podium for the Bible, a prayer box, and other items.

Church members committed to pray for the ministry and donated money and plastic bags for books. The ministry also received \$500 worth of books to give away, which were donated from The Better Living Center in Athens, Tenn.; Athens Adventist Church; and Sweetwater, Tenn., Market evangelists.

Church member Sharon Taylor located a flea market south of Macon, and a booth was rented.

With hearts bursting to share, Al and Glenda Seagraves, Sharon Taylor, and Nancy Witt arrived early on July 13, 2009, with faith that God would lead sincere people to the booth. Church members Joey and Robin Grimsley and Maurice Witt joined them in the afternoon.

More than 240 Gospel books were given away,

prayer requests were received, and testimonies were shared during the day. Even a prayer circle was formed at the booth for a family whose daughter would be leaving for military service the next day.

One young gentleman stopped and said, "I know these books!" He had been raised with them in his home. He took several books to help with his youth group on Sundays. He also asked if he could take three copies of *The Great Controversy* to share with friends.

God is moving on the hearts of people who are seeking to know Him. "Spotlight on the Bible Ministries" wants to find them and share God's wonderful Gospel of love.

—BY AUBREY DUNCAN

Whites Bridge Company Organizes in Colquitt

Located in Colquitt in the southwest corner of Georgia, the Whites Bridge Company opened its door Saturday, July 25, 2009. The congregation enjoyed the long awaited answer to many prayers as Steve Haley, Conference vice president for administration/secretariat, and Steve Rose, Conference ministerial director for the southern region, officially organized the group as a Seventh-day Adventist company with the signing of the charter by the members and prospective members.

About seven years ago, Sam and Traci Ball, Karen and Greg Toole, John Spivey, and Trep Trepanier started evangelistic meetings at the library in Bainbridge, Ga. Out of these meetings the nucleus of the present group was formed. From there, the group met at the Episcopal Church in Bainbridge for a number of years.

When Sam Ball was called to a new church, the group struggled for several years, fluctuating in attendance until the Lord sent a new pastor, Mike Adams. In

the past two years, the group has found a new spirit and a renewed willingness to serve. Members are excited about where the Lord has led them, and the many doors He has opened. The group is looking forward to reaching out to the three surrounding pioneer outreach counties, and is eager to present the message that the Lord has given them. With God's help and



KAREN TOOLE

Members of the new Whites Bridge Company in Colquitt, Ga., gather for a group picture.

guidance they are looking forward to sharing His love through the doors of their church.

—BY KAREN TOOLE

Atlanta Belvedere Holds Community Health Fair

During three months of planning, Atlanta Belvedere Church's health and temperance, social, community services, children's ministries, and Adventurers strategically organized its first community health fair with the theme, "Celebrate Health & Wellness in Our Community."

Under the leadership of Loretta Scarlett, health and temperance director, the event was publicized by distributing 1,000 flyers, word of mouth, and with a back-to-school health fair banner posted on the church's front lawn for weeks. The team was determined to be a part of educating and empowering the community, and mostly to introduce Christ to those who did not know Him. In addition, they fasted and prayed for the community to attend the event. Scarlett was concerned that after all the preparations, the community would not attend, so she never stopped praying.

It was a sunny, calm, clear day on July 19, 2009, with a light breeze and no humidity, when the team came together dressed in bright yellow tee shirts designed with the words, "Health Fair Staff." All were excited and ready to execute the plans. The fair was scheduled to start at noon; however, at 11:30 a.m., the registration tables, managed by Joy Chikwekwe, Nicole



Loretta Scarlett (right), Atlanta Belvedere's health and temperance director, stands with other health professionals, Adventurers' director, and volunteers.

Scarlett, Jessica Stewart, and Christina Scarlett were buzzing with individuals from the community. Scarlett thanked God and smiled in her heart when she saw the community had responded in a positive way.

There were 21 vendors with medical doctors, pediatricians, psychiatrist, a chiropractor, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, dieticians, a nutritionist, registered respiratory therapists, massage therapists, and personal trainers — as well as health insurance representatives, dental screening for the children, and information regarding the free health clinic in the community. There were also presentations on fibroid tumors, breast cancer, and prostate cancer.

Screenings for blood pressure levels, diabetes, and BMI (body mass index)

were performed by Andrea Brown and Brenda Thompson; this booth had an influx of visitors. Many curiously moved through the booths, and listened to informative presentations by professionals.

The fellowship hall was nicely decorated, and a mouth-watering meal

prepared by the community services team — Joy Hoilett, Carmen Harrison, and Joyce Haynes — was waiting to be served.

Back-to-school supplies were purchased and distributed to the community children. This booth was led by the social committee coordinators: Jemma Lewis, Hyacinth Wizzard, and Sharon Tracy.

A moon-bounce was provided for the children to enjoy, and sno-cones were given as an added treat.

After tallying health fair attendees, 100 individuals were registered from the community. The workers were exhausted, but the fair was successful. Not only was health awareness presented, but Christ as well. The health fair concluded with gift giveaways and prayer.

—BY LORETTA SCARLETT



Atlanta Belvedere youth are happy to hold signs used to invite the community to the health fair.

Faye Carmichael Remembered

When Faye Carmichael, a member of the Troy, Ala., Church, passed away March 8, 2009, her family, church, friends, and community felt the void she left behind. Volunteers at Troy Regional Medical Center (TRMC) gathered at the hospital on July 16, 2009, to remember Carmichael, who had more than 30 years of service there as a volunteer. Because of Carmichael's dedication to helping others, her family

requested that donations be sent to the Medical Center.

The volunteers used the monetary donations to purchase a table and lamps for the hospital lobby in memory of Carmichael. The items were presented to the hospital along with a plaque of recognition for her long and dedicated volunteer service. Faye Lunsford, TRMC chief support officer, described Carmichael as totally dedicated to the hospital's

volunteer program. Others described her as a friend to every patient, and the most caring person they had ever seen.

On July 17, the local newspaper, *The Troy Messenger*, published an article about Carmichael's volunteer service, and the memorial placed in



the hospital to honor her. The paper also told of her active involvement in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Carmichael always avoided the limelight, but she would have loved the fact that her church was mentioned.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Rileys Receive John Hancock Award

This year the John Hancock Award of Excellence was presented to the Huntsville Central Pathfinder leaders, Rick and Kelly Riley. The Rileys spend a large portion of their time and talents working with the young people in their local club, the Huntsville Spacewalkers, and on the Conference level. They have worked with their lo-

cal Pathfinder club for the past nine years — seven of those as club directors. On the Conference level, they have served on the Pathfinder Council for five years. They are currently serving as area coordinators, which they have held for the past two years.

Each summer for the last four years they have spent their vacation time

as Teen Mission staff, ministering to the teens who go on the trips.

For a number of years Kelly has been the mission trip Vacation Bible School director, and Rick has served as the trip director.



Bob Kimbro (right) surprised Rick and Kelly Riley when he presented them with the John Hancock Award.

Stateline Church Becomes Part of Gulf States



Leslie Louis (right), Conference executive secretary, accompanied by his wife, Carole, held Sabbath services and officially welcomed the Stateline Church members to the Conference.

The Stateline Church in Ardmore, Ala., is the newest congregation to become a part of the Gulf States Conference. The church of 35-plus members was started several years ago as a part of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference by Johnny Mosquera, who is now serving as a Gulf States Conference evangelist. Mel Eisele, Conference president, met with the members after receiving a request from them requesting to transfer to the Gulf States Conference. Todd Lawson, a lay pastor from the Athens, Ala., Church has accepted the invitation to serve as the pastor.

Student Workers Spread the Word in Mississippi



The students and their leader worked in Greenwood, Miss.: Max Kornilenko (front), Chris Nethery, Ron Parks, Carolyn Lass, Doris Vinales, Trey Vu, and Hannah Hooker.

mer last year as a student literature evangelist, Ron Parks was asked to be one of the leaders for the summer canvassing program in Mississippi. "I said 'yes' because I wanted to share the blessings I had received the previous summer with my students, and help them to have the same awesome experiences," explains Parks. But at first things were difficult for Parks and his work-

made top grades, he liked meeting people, and he'd asked the Lord for wisdom. "My first house to canvass was white with pillars on the front, and fancy cars in the driveway. On the front door, there was a quote: 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord' Joshua 24:15. I rejoiced.

she didn't have time to attend church. She didn't read her Bible regularly. You name it. She was everything that the dictionary would define as an 'ungodly' person." But Naomi sensed her need. Vu prayed with her and left literature. He continued working in this neighbor-

This summer student literature evangelists worked in a number of cities in central and northern Mississippi. These young people sold \$70,000 worth of MagaBooks under the direction of their leaders, George Morumbwa and Ron Sung Sup Parks, both students at Andrews University.

The MagaBook workers also signed up more than 120 individuals for Bible studies, visited, left literature, and prayed with hundreds more. In addition to earning money for scholarships, their faith strengthened as they witnessed God's Spirit working in their lives, and in the lives of those they visited.

After a successful sum-

ers as he realized they were just teenagers, not the mature soldiers for the Lord he had expected. Parks' prayer for his young workers was, "Please let them see how You bless Your people when they completely surrender everything to You." It wasn't until he took a satellite team of seven workers to Greenwood, Miss., that he really began to see God working. He could see the workers become more focused on their mission and, as this happened, their sales increased tremendously. One of these workers was Trey Vu. When his friends suggested he canvass for the summer, Vu had no doubt that he would be successful. He



These student workers sold \$70,000 worth of MagaBooks and signed up more than 120 individuals for Bible studies.

Good, rich Christians!"

But the man who came to the door wasn't interested. When Vu asked if he could pray with him the man's answer was, "No, thank you. I attend church every weekend."

For the next three weeks, Vu had the same type of experiences. He prayed for more wisdom and for patience. Then his group was assigned to a rather bad neighborhood. "At this point, I was so down that I didn't care," he says. That's when he met Naomi. He explains, "She said she worked so hard

hood and had many similar experiences. "Now that I look back, I had a successful summer," says Vu. God developed his patience, and gave him the wisdom to look past the run down homes and broken lives of his prospective customers to find hearts of gold.

Ron Parks' team of seven workers averaged selling more than \$1,600 every day.

He sums up the experience by explaining, "It was an awesome summer."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Madison Academy Graduate Receives Scholarship

Madison Academy graduate Kaitlyn Min has been named one of Pacific Union College's (PUC) 2009 Maxwell Scholars. The prestigious award, named in honor of long-serving PUC president D. Malcolm Maxwell, gives \$10,000 in scholarships to five incoming freshmen who have demonstrated high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership skills. The scholarships are renewable each year the student attends PUC.

Receiving the scholarship was part of a test Min

used to decide where to attend college. "I came to the conclusion with God that if He let me get this scholarship, that it was my sign to go to PUC," she says. "It was actually a big part of the decision."

Min, who graduated from Madison Academy as valedictorian this year, was at the top of her class during all four years of high school, and she is a member of the National Honor Society. Her academic



achievements merited an invitation to participate in the Governor's School, a prestigious Tennessee state summer program, in 2007. She served as class president her freshman, sophomore, and junior years, and as student association president her senior year.

In addition to her scholastic achievements, Min has been active in outreach and community service. She has been on a number of international

mission trips to Mexico, Peru, Argentina, and Belize. Closer to home, she has volunteered with homeless shelters, nursing home visits, and elementary school tutoring.

This is the first year of the Maxwell Scholar Program. Min was one of five selected among nearly 50 outstanding applicants from all over the world. The Maxwell Scholar Program honors Malcolm Maxwell, D.Min., and his wife, Eileen, for their commitment to Adventist education.

—BY HILARIO PENA

Messiah's Mansion Comes to Greenbrier

A grassy ball field was transformed into a sanctuary setting when Messiah's Mansion came to Greenbrier, Tenn., in June. People traveling on U.S. Highway 41, just north of Nashville, Tenn., could see

ton Leinneweber, to bring the exhibit to this small town.

God's blessing on this outreach was evident from the beginning. Much prayer, planning, preparation, and participation helped to make the endeavor a success.

More than \$30,000 was raised to cover the expenses of this major undertaking, and for follow-up projects. Two church families housed the young people — most of them current or former students

the impressive replica of the Mosaic sanctuary and curtained courtyard as they drove by. All this came about because the Ridgetop Church invited the team from Oklahoma Academy, with their instructor, Clay-

of Oklahoma Academy. A volunteer, the daughter of a Ridgetop couple, came from Virginia to supervise the meal preparation for both the Messiah's Mansion team and many of the volunteers.

More than 3,400 people took the 75-minute tour in spite of scorching heat and humid weather. Borrowed golf carts taxied them from the parking area to the ball

field nearly a block away. Ice water was available at all the stations on the tour, and large fans provided some relief. Besides the more than 40 volunteers from Ridgetop Church, a few were from area churches. Some who assisted were not Adventists, but were active helpers.



Comments on the survey sheets revealed how impressed the visitors were with the knowledge and dedication of the young people, and the lessons drawn from the sanctuary.

An important element of this outreach was the plans for subsequent programs. Attendees completed survey sheets, indicating their interest in such areas as Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, Christian

education, and mental and physical fitness seminars. They also received a hand-out listing an upcoming scheduled seminar on the sanctuary and VBS, as well as fall events. Follow-up on the Bible study interests is ongoing, with the church elders' oversight.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Camden Church Organized



MARVIN LOWMAN



DONETTE LOWMAN

A new church was officially organized on June 6, 2009, in Camden, Tenn. Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, officiated at the organizational service.

In October 2002, a small group of Adventist believers

from the Lobelville, Tenn., Church, notified Conference officials of their intent to begin meeting as a branch Sabbath School in Camden. The first services were held the following week.

From this small begin-

ning, meeting in a rented store front, the group grew and was organized as a mission group in September 2004. Two years later, the group was organized as a company.

A church building was

Peter Lewis, head elder of Camden Church, is the first to sign as a charter member.

purchased in June 2007, and now serves as the congregation's church home.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Summer Ministry Team Impacts Conference

Teaching students the joy of service is an important goal at Highland Academy (HA). For six weeks during the summer, six students and two staff members traveled the Conference working on local church projects. The only condition was that the team be able to meet or work with their young people. The team, called IMPACT because of their hope to truly impact individual lives, churches, and communities, had a full schedule.

Packing tools, clothes, food, and sleeping bags into a large motor home, the group set off on their journey. The IMPACT team spent the first few weeks in eastern Kentucky districts. Team members removed

the old drywall from Morehead Church sanctuary for renovation, installed new insulation, and tore down



Members of the team put the roof on a pole barn to cover a member's trailer home in Monticello, Ky.

an old barn. In Manchester, the team handed out tracts for an upcoming evangelistic meeting, painted the school shed, and sanded a roof for painting.

In Monticello, with the financial help from generous alumni, the team constructed a pole barn over a trailer home to replace a roof that was weak and

leaked when it rained.

"God works in mysterious ways. For so long we thought the project in Monticello wasn't going to work out, but God opened so many doors," said Shana Michalek, a senior at HA.

"I learned so many new skills, and I also learned that when we work as a team with Christ, all things are really possible," explained Robert

Leslie, a junior. "I grew spiritually in Christ on the trip, and He helped me to learn to impact lives."

As the IMPACT team continued their trek around the Conference, they held socials for the youth in Paducah, Murray, and Clarksville, so they could get acquainted. They assisted

in the earliteen and youth departments at camp meeting, helped with Messiah's Mansion in Ridgetop, and presented complete worship services and Vespers for many churches.

"...nothing was constructed with more strength and durability than our relationship with God and with each other," describes Carlo Pean, senior at HA.

"Besides the blessing of working with six incredible teenagers this summer," explains Karen Schimp, one of the sponsors, "the highlight of the summer was making new friends in all of the churches we visited. I am happy that so many folks received an opportunity to see firsthand the quality and spirituality of our Highland Academy students."

—BY KAREN SCHIMP

“Orangeburg on Fire” Reaps 120-plus Baptisms



JAMES K LAMB

Many responded to the appeal as Carlton Byrd, D.Min., evangelist for the “Orangeburg on Fire” Crusade made the call.

The South Atlantic Conference purchased 103 acres in Orangeburg, S.C., in 1984, to serve as the new campground. Until this year, camp meeting at this location had taken on the traditional format of morning devotion entitled “Morning Manna,” a noon service known as “Power Hour,” and an evening preaching service. The encampment would begin on a Thursday evening, spanning 10 days, and culminate with a Sabbath celebration. Weekly attendance varied during this period, with the majority

of attendees being present on the weekends, notwithstanding that annually, constituents would come and go primarily interacting with the Orangeburg community as consumers.

However, this year would be different. In harmony with 2009 being declared as the “Year of Evangelism,” the South Atlantic Conference administration wanted camp meeting to mirror this denominational theme. Camp meeting 2009 would break from tradition, be scheduled for seven days, and take on the form of an

intentional evangelistic campaign bearing the name “Orangeburg on Fire.” The camp meeting format would consist of local Confer-



SHAWN WRAY

Carl Nesmith (right), pastor of the Greenville/Travelers Rest, S.C., district, coordinated the food bank with the help of many volunteers, and distributed hundreds of bags of food.

ence pastors delivering stirring messages during the morning and afternoon services for Conference constituents, while Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of the 3,500-member Atlanta, Ga., Berean Church, was selected to serve as the “Orangeburg on Fire” evangelist, and preached nightly for the evening services and for divine worship on Sabbath.

In preparation for this evangelistic series, six Bible instructors made their way to the city of Orangeburg six weeks prior to the scheduled camp

the city with evangelistic flyers in an initiative Byrd calls, “Tract Attack.”

Prior to opening night, June 14, for “Orangeburg on Fire,” Vanard J. Mendinghall, Conference president; William L. Winston, Conference executive secretary; and Larry E. Johnson, Conference treasurer spent many hours in planning sessions with Byrd. Additionally, thousands of flyers were distributed, and billboards were displayed throughout the city advertising “Orangeburg on Fire”; Bible workers spent countless hours making personal



JAMES K LAMB



SHAWN WRAY

Gospel recording artists CeCe Winans (left) and Tramaine Hawkins were featured during the week to attract the community to the revival.

meeting dates. These individuals distributed flyers daily throughout the city, invited residents to attend the upcoming evangelistic series, and engaged the community in Bible studies. On Sabbath afternoon, May 30, several Conference administrators, departmental directors, pastors, and hundreds of local church members from across the Conference territory came to Orangeburg for an evangelism rally and blanketed

contacts in the community; Karen Thrower, a layperson from Shiloh Church in Charleston, S.C., secured radio advertisement throughout the area; John Boston, pastor of the Bucksport/Georgetown, S.C., district, developed a website and secured several 15-passenger vans to transport individuals in need of transportation to the meetings; and many seasons of prayer occurred throughout the Conference territory in preparation for



SHAWN WRAY

The Orangeburg Fire Department assisted in preparing two additional pools to provide space for multiple baptisms simultaneously.

this evangelistic initiative.

The Christ Is the Answer Church (formerly named Pecan Grove Church) members in Orangeburg, under the leadership of its pastor, Harold Thomas, were also very instrumental in preparation for the meetings as they too shared in marketing and physical plant responsibilities.

In a grand effort to motivate the

community to attend opening night, gospel recording artist CeCe Winans was invited to sing. Understandably, many asked, “There are some popular Adventist singers available who are just as good. Why not use some of them?” Byrd’s reply to



SHAWN WRAY

A children’s program was planned each evening which coincided with the messages that were preached to the adults.

this inquiry was, “There are Adventist singers who are just as good, and would do a wonderful job in attracting other Adventists. The goal of evangelism is to attract ‘other sheep... which are not of this fold.’ It has been my experience as an evangelist that the more you can do to connect with the community on their level, the greater the response. A flyer advertising a Bible Conference (evangelistic series) would receive little response, but the community knows CeCe Winans and will come out to hear her sing.”

And come out they did. On opening night there were almost 3,000 in attendance! Each evening, more than



JAMES K. LAMB

Vanard Mendingball, Conference president, presented a plaque to Stephen Brooks for his service as Conference youth director since 2006. Brooks accepted a call to pastor in the Allegheny West Conference.

three-fourths of those attending were from the Orangeburg community, and they listened to Byrd preach with the power of the Holy Spirit. Sermons during the week included the “Second Coming,” “Millennium,” “State of the Dead,” “Sabbath,” “Body Temple,” and “Baptism.” In addition to the spoken Word, accompanying ministries were provided for children, led by Yvonne Footman, a layperson from the Beaufort, S.C., Church, who tailored a program to compliment the nightly subjects; free health screening was offered by David Moore, M.D., Conference health ministries director, and the health ministries team; and a food bank was spearheaded by Carl Nesmith, pastor of the Greenville/Travelers Rest, S.C., district, who assembled a team of workers to provide more than 100 food packs nightly to visitors who submitted



DRAKE BARBER

The congregation stood and applauded as 112 baptismal candidates entered the main pavilion during the beginning of the Sabbath service.



JAMES K LAMB

Ralph B. Hairston (left), former Conference president, with his wife, Katherine, was presented a plaque by Vanard Mendingball, Conference president. Hairston was honored for his leadership in acquiring the River Oaks property. The dining hall was named in his honor.

food request cards.

Friday evening's service featured the music ministry of gospel recording artist Tramaine Hawkins, and after the message was presented by Byrd, approximately 150 individuals responded to the appeal.

There was great anticipation as the Sabbath

ion ready for baptism.

Included among those to be baptized were two ministers from first-day churches in the Orangeburg community! Three additional individuals were baptized Sabbath evening after the Vesper service, and eight more were baptized on the following Sabbath, June 27.

Other highlights during camp meeting included the ordination of John Boston II and Calvin Watkins II to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, June 20; T. Marshall Kelly served as the ordination speaker. Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumber-

land Conference president, was also in attendance to give support to the evangelistic and ordination programs. There was also an opportunity to



SHAWN WRAY

The Breath of Life Quartet was featured during the Sabbath service.

celebration began on June 20. As divine worship began, more than 4,000 in attendance stood and applauded as 112 baptismal candidates in white robes filed into the main pavil-



DRAKE BARBER

Pastors, local elders, and deacons participated in the joyous task of baptizing new converts.

recognize Stephen Brooks who served as Conference youth ministries director since 2006. Brooks recently accepted an invitation to serve as a pastor in the Allegheny West Conference. Also honored during camp meeting was former Conference president Ralph B. Hairston. Hairston was president of the Conference when the Orangeburg property was purchased in 1984.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the property, the cafeteria was renamed the "Ralph B. Hairston Dining Hall."

Orangeburg will never be the same, and it's truly on fire!

—BY JAMES K.LAMB



SHAWN WRAY

Two pastors were ordained into the gospel ministry. Pictured are Vanard Mendingball (left), Conference president; Karla Boston; ordainees John T. Boston II and Calvin L. Watkins II; Nevine Watkins; Larry Johnson, Conference treasurer; and Laurence Hamilton, Conference ministerial secretary.

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

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Benjamin P. Browne Retires

Benjamin P. Browne, president of the South Central Conference, announced his retirement at the June Conference executive committee. Browne assumed the presidency on February 20, 2005, and will retire effective September 1, 2009.

His presidency has been based on the servant model. At the 2006 session, he said: “. . . my constant prayer is that the Lord will be the President, and that I will be His servant.” He has echoed this sentiment during the past four-and-a-half years.

In a letter to the South Central constituents, Gordon L. Retzer, Southern Union Conference president, stated, “Elder Browne has been God’s leader in the South Central Conference. We all respect and love this man of God, and I praise the Lord that the Conference is in a position of strength and unity. Elder and Mrs. Browne have been used by the Lord to advance His work, and we are all better for having the privilege of enjoying their spiritual leadership.”

In many areas, Browne’s leadership reflects the blessings of the Lord, and the sacrifice, commitment, faithfulness, and efforts of the members and pastors of South Central.

Membership and Church Growth

From 2005 through June 30, 2009, 3,819 individuals were baptized. There have been several new churches, companies, and missions voted or established.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Benjamin and Janice Browne

New Churches Voted in Sisterhood – Six churches have been voted into the sisterhood of churches: Mount Pisgah in Gurley, Ala.; New Hope in New Hope, Ala.; South Jackson in Jackson, Miss.; First in Shelbyville, Tenn.; Smyrna in Huntsville, Ala.; and New Life in Fultondale, Ala.

Three New Companies Established – New Life in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Memorial Temple in Demopolis, Ala.; and Your Bible Speaks in Evergreen, Ala.

Other Groups Opened – The church in Kingsport, Tenn., closed some years ago, but a group is reopening the work there; Riverside Chapel has a mission in Pleasant View, Tenn.; a new company was organized in Prentiss, Miss.; and a new work has started in Alexander City, Ala.

Latino Ministries Expanded – The Latino ministries focus has ex-

ploded in South Central. In 2006 there were nine Latino congregations. Twelve more have been added for a total of 21. They are Alfa Spanish in Decatur, Ala.; Emanuel in Leeds, Ala.; Mt. Zion in Jasper, Ala.; Filadelfia in Red Bay, Ala.; Jerusalem in Florence, Ala.; Ágape in Crossville, Ala.; Esperanza in Somerset, Ky.; and Mt. Olivos in Mt. Olive, Ky. There are small groups such as Luz and Esperanza in Boaz, Ala.; as well as North Port, Ala.; Richmond, Ky.; and Georgetown, Ky.

Browne organized an advisory committee to discern the Latino ministries needs. During the economic crisis when many factories where Latinos worked were closed, South Central assisted

1,200 families with food.

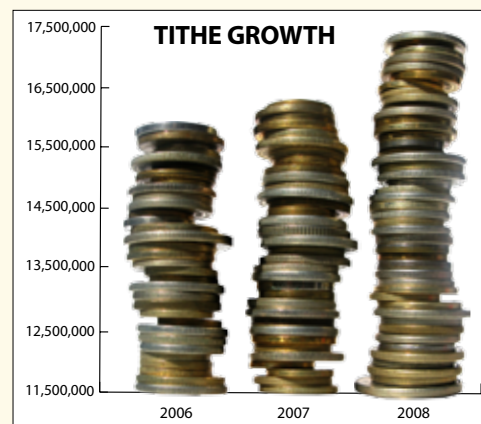
When Browne began his presidency, the Latino departmental director, Edgardo Herrera, was the only full-time worker assigned for that ministry. Because of growth, there are now two full-time Latino workers and four part-time. In the interest of educational growth for Latino ministries, one pastor has been sent for doctoral studies.

Church Rolls Cleaned

– In an effort to make church membership rolls more accurate, Browne approved a Conference-wide campaign to clean up church membership rosters. This effort has reduced South Central’s membership by 3,586 as of June 30, 2009 — the current membership is 28,312.

Tithe Growth

The tithe has continued to increase in spite of the global economic crisis. During this period it increased from \$15.7 million in 2006, to \$16.3 million in 2007, and \$17.4 million in 2008! Glory is given to God for the faithfulness of His people.



Historic Marker Placed in Vicksburg, MS

Vicksburg, Miss., is the location of one of the important historical sites for Seventh-day Adventists in the south. The Conference executive committee voted on September 18, 2005, to purchase and renovate the site where James Edson White and others pioneered the work for black people in the south. The site has been renovated, and a historical marker was placed on the site on January 19, 2007, to remind visitors of the importance of the site to the Advent Movement.

A Praying Conference

The prayer ministries initiative has swept South Central by a storm. Eleven prayer federations have been organized, an annual prayer summit established, and the "1,000 Praying Men" and "1,000 Praying Women" initiatives have been launched. Because of South Central's focus on prayer, the Conference was nicknamed "The Prayer Conference."

During the 2009 Indian Creek experience, the Spirit of God took control of the meeting and the workers. This has been Browne's prayer and desire that God's

Spirit through prayer, would fall on the members. "Keep the Fire Burning," was the next prayer conference, figuratively fanning the flames to men, women, youth, young adults, and children around the Conference, so that everyone would experience the blessings.

The format of the annual church officers' training meetings has changed to two-day Church Officers' Conferences held in Montgomery, Ala.; Jackson, Miss.; and Nashville, Tenn. This format provides worship, seven hours of intense training, and an evening of fellowship for church officers and the Conference office staff.

Conference officers and directors have participated in another initiative by Browne — reaffirming smaller churches of their significance and importance to the Conference. Directors and officers traveled to several smaller churches once in the spring and once in the fall to preach, share afternoon workshops, conduct Vesper service, and listen to concerns. This has



South Central Latino ministries continue to explode in growth. Pictured is one of the newer churches located in Somerset, Ky.

been proven to be a blessing for many.

Camp Meeting Attendance Growth

South Central has two camp meetings. The attendance at the English camp meeting has grown to more than 7,000, not including the thousands who watch on satellite downlink sites. The Latino camp meeting is usually held in May on the campus of Oakwood University. It started with 200 gathering in Carter Hall dormitory, and now meets in the skating rink with about 1,000 in attendance.

Shepherdess Ministries Serves Pastors' Wives

Janice Johnson Browne, Ph.D., South Central's first lady and Shepherdess coordinator, served faithfully

as an integral part of her husband's ministry. She is dedicated to both the women's and Shepherdess ministries.

As Shepherdess leader, Dr. Browne has sponsored spiritual and personal development, as well as leadership training at camp meetings and officers' meetings for pastors' wives. Mission awareness to other countries

was created by adopting the village of one of the South Central shepherdesses.

Team-building was developed with the creation of a Shepherdess chorale, a volleyball team, and a Legends Luncheon to include current and retired shepherdesses.

The mental, emotional, physical, and dietary components involved OB/GYN physicians, psychiatrists, exercise specialists, cooking demonstrations, and information on healthy foods by dietary consultants. Spiritual components involved the wives in developing devotionals, preaching, a prayer line, and a mirrored box of prayers written by each Conference shepherdess to give to those whose husbands were ordained at



Benjamin Browne (far left), Conference president, pictured with the candidates who are ready for baptism in Tuscaloosa, Ala.



Benjamin Browne (far left), Conference president, stands with the candidates who anticipate the joy of baptism in Demopolis, Ala.

camp meeting.

Elder Browne has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in ministry for 41 years — 1968-2009. He started his ministry in Bessemer and Sylacauga, Ala., and celebrated his 40th year by preaching at those churches. He served South Central as a pastor, executive secretary, and president.

He expresses his appreciation to the South Central constituents for their commitment to the Lord, sacrifice to support God's work on Earth, and the opportu-

nity to serve. He also challenges us with these words: "One day the question will be asked, 'What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And where did they come from?' Revelation 7:13-14. It is my prayer that we will allow the Lord to develop us to the point that He will be able to point to you and me and say, 'These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'"

—BY MICHAEL HARPE



Church and local officials stand behind a marker at the former site of Morning Star Church: R. Steven Norman III (left), Southern Union communication director and Southern TIDINGS editor; Dana Edmond, Conference secretary; Benjamin Browne, Conference president; James Harris, pastor of Morning Star Church; and Laurence Leyens, Vicksburg mayor, shared congratulations and reflections of the event.

Camp Meeting 2009 Highlights

Camp Meeting 2009 started on a spiritual high and kept climbing. President Benjamin Browne announced the 2009 theme, "The Temple of God." The sanctuary themes were the daily topics, morning, noon, and evening. To help accentuate this point was Messiah's Mansion, a full scale model of the Mosaic sanctuary. It was set up on Oakwood University's campus at the entrance for all to see, and was available for free daily tours. More than 7,600 individuals of all ages toured the Mansion, and more than 300 who were not Adventist signed up for further Bible studies.

- For the young adults, "Daily Steps to Sanctification" was the title of Patrick Graham's workshop. Graham is the pastor of Sharon Church in Baltimore, Md. He spoke on the subject of cleansing. He stated, "We deny the sacrifice of Christ

when we get to the place where we don't do cleansing." Graham reached out to the young adults on their level and then turned the attention to God and the sanctification process. —Deborah Truitt, camp meeting reporter

- Camp meeting was the highlight for many teens this year. The one thing that kept the teens actively engaged is the big activity known as The Apostles II. It is a combination of The Amazing Race and The Apprentice. With spiritual insight and adventurous activities, many find this to be the driving force of fun. The Apostles II is a six-day



STEPHANIE THOMPSON

The Apostles II is a six-day challenge where teens are divided into teams and given specific tasks. The best teams are awarded prizes.

challenge where teens are divided into [teams], and given specific tasks. —Vianca Williams, youth camp meeting reporter

- This is what teens had to say about The Apostles II. Nia Moore, age 12: "I like the Apostles II; it is tiring, but I like it." Destiny Brand, age 14: "It is a way to meet new friends." Mesha Bryant, age 15, was part of an Apostles team, Exodus, which did a skit about the woman with the issue of blood at the Boys and Girls

Club in the community. Mesha invited her friend who wasn't Adventist, Lashandra Carson, to camp meeting. At first her friend's mom didn't want her to attend, so Mesha and Lashandra prayed. Lashandra's mother changed her mind, and allowed her to go to camp meeting. Lashandra, age 15, stated about her first camp meeting experience, "I like it. It's fun. We've been to everything. The worship services are good. Pastor Rolle is good. This is something I

would like to do again. I feel I have grown closer to the Lord.” —Deborah Truitt, camp meeting reporter

- Community service: Lillie Buckingham, Barbara Barnes, and Sharon Applewhite presented an informative and practical seminar on disaster preparedness. “Your community needs you!” This was the recurring theme of the Adventist Disaster Response (ADR) workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to help God’s people spring into action when there’s an emergency. The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Community Services

Manual was shared with the participants. The successful completion of this two-day course gave attendees a general knowledge of ACS disaster response. The sessions were started with Matthew 24:6-8. The presenters stated that since we are living in the last days, we will have earthquakes, famines, and wars.

One of the objectives of this class was to train people to not only help themselves when disaster strikes, but to help others as well. They explained that a



MICHAEL HARPE

A couple of weeks before the English camp meeting, the Latino camp meeting was held on Oakwood University’s campus. Hundreds were in attendance.

family plan should include escape routes, communication, and safety skills. This was useful information to help God’s people survive disasters, and share God’s

love while helping others. —Deborah Truitt, camp meeting reporter

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Blessed Hope Gospel Explosion Crusade Baptizes 21

Progress Village Church in Tampa, Fla., recently culminated its Blessed Hope Gospel Explosion Evangelistic Crusade with 21 baptisms.

The members and visitors were blessed and revived as Jeffery Harriott, of Portland, Jamaica, an international evangelist, preached the Word of God with power and conviction. Each night was

filled with inspirational gospel singing, health clinics, lectures, and the Spirit-filled messages.

It was the consensus of Dolphy Cross, pastor of Progress Village Church, and the members, that this was a very good and spiritual meeting.

—BY MARY ALICE BATTLE



Dolphy Cross (far right), pastor, stands with the newly baptized members of Progress Village Church.

Nineteen-Year-Old Evangelist Conducts Revival

The Southernmost Church of Key West, Fla., recently held a three-week evangelistic crusade.

Christopher Whitaker, 19-year-old senior from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., was the

guest speaker.

Whitaker's theme was "Extreme Makeover — Life Changing Edition." Some of the topics were "God's Bailout Plan," "The Stimulus Package," "The Fool-Proof Bailout Plan,"

and "Hope in the 21st Century."

Many in attendance were amazed at the biblical information presented.

Joseph Footman, also a senior from Oakwood University, served as the

Bible worker. The duo found individuals who once belonged to the Adventist Church and started Bible studies, that are being continued, with others who made decisions.

—BY RUTH GUNN

Raymond Saunders Retires After 35 Years of Service

"A car was rolling down a hill. Its doors were locked and no one knew how to stop it from its ghastly descent. It was heading straight for a group of children at the bottom, but even with the doors locked (and its increasing speed), someone got into the car and stopped it right before it hit its mark.

"Many of us Christians are the same as the car. The doors to our hearts are locked, but Christ is still trying to get in." This was the appeal that got Ray-

mond Saunders to his feet and down the aisle to be baptized in 1957.

Saunders only had dreams of getting married and starting a family, but God had much more planned for his life.

Saunders was born February 9, 1934, in South Hampton, N.Y. While living in New York, he met and married Ruth Martin at the age of 21. Saunders did many different jobs until finally attending Oakwood University (formerly Oakwood College) as a young adult.

After completing his education, Saunders returned to New York and began his ministry. He pastored in New York and Connecticut. From 1980 to 2001, he served as the evangelist for the Northeastern Conference and Atlantic Union Conference.

Saunders moved to Southeastern in 2001, and pastored the Progress Village and Westside district in Tampa, Fla. In 2004, he was assigned to the Ewing Memorial and Emmanuel district in Plant City, Fla., until his retirement this

year. "I had a wonderful and beautiful experience in the Southeastern Conference," states Saunders.

He and his wife plan to travel to new and old places as they enjoy their retirement years. His advice to young ministers who are just starting their ministry: "Always discuss going into the ministry with God first, and moving from place to place with your wives. Make sure that preaching is something you love, and winning souls for Christ is your goal."

—BY JAZMINE SKINNER

Park Ridge Hospital Employee Donates Beard to Save Lives

Dave Fuller, director of respiratory care for Park Ridge Hospital, Fletcher, N.C., offered his beard and mustache to raise money for the Park Ridge Hospital Relay for Life team and the American Cancer Society. With clippers and razors in hand, volunteers shaved off the beard that Fuller has sported for the past 12 years, and the mustache he has not shaved for the past 25 years, as Park Ridge Hospital employees offered donations for each section shaved.

When all donations were collected and tallied, \$800 was raised for the Park Ridge Hospital Relay for Life team's donation to the American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life

cause, now totaling more than \$7,000 after months of fundraising.

"It's a fantastic cause,



A before and after of Dave Fuller, director of respiratory therapy for Park Ridge Hospital, who donated his beard to raise money for Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society

and I am more than happy to donate my beard and mustache to helping raise money and awareness for Relay for Life," said Fuller. "Besides, my wife says it makes me look younger."

Started in 1986, Relay for Life is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society. Each year, communities all across the nation come together to celebrate, remember, and support those fighting cancer. Community members and organizations form teams to raise money for the fight against cancer, with their efforts culminating at the Relay for Life event where team members take turns walking or running around a track or path for 24 hours. Luminar-



Kim Kite, nurse manager for the medical/surgical unit at Park Ridge Hospital, begins shaving Dave Fuller's beard after the first donation is made to Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

ies are lit around the path to commemorate loved ones affected by cancer.

—BY JENNIFER PEREZ

Emory-Adventist Hospital First in Southeast to Perform Unique Transplant Surgery

Emory-Adventist Hospital, Smyrna, Ga., is the first hospital in the southeast to perform the DeNovo natural tissue graft cartilage transplant, under the direction of Jon Hyman, M.D.

DeNovo NT (natural tissue) is a living cartilage implant designed to repair the knee. The process uses donated pediatric tissue. The juvenile cartilage is shown to have greater rejuvenation ability than that of adult cartilage.

The unique surgical technique simplifies the implantation of cartilage tissue as compared to other established surgical protocols that typically involve plastic or metal implants. The natural tissue graft has been in use for humans for two years, with more than 250 cases performed nationwide.

Hyman states, "The DeNovo carti-



Jon Hyman, M.D., performs a unique surgical technique, making an impact in the lives of patients.

lage transplantation procedure may be a real breakthrough for patients with cartilage problems. Using donated pediatric cartilage to repair defects in adults is a novel idea, and the early results show promise in relieving pain and improving function."

—BY BEV OWEN

Student Broadcasts With Vision to Serve

Jecsy Villamizar, senior broadcast journalism major, first discovered she loved being behind a microphone at the age of 13, after her teacher invited her to work with his local radio program. Villamizar knew she found her calling.

While attending Southern Adventist University as a full-time student, Villamizar became involved in “Sevenday Radio,” PCJovenes (an online devotional), and an Adventist newscast. Her love for media witnessing also expanded into

television.

During the academic year, she would drive down to Atlanta twice a month to produce and host a Spanish talk show called Pinto de Encuentro (Encounter Point).

Her knowledge and practical experience in the media field continued to expand. After going on the annual trip to CNN in Atlanta, hosted by the School of Journalism and Communication, Villamizar



Jecsy Villamizar knows God was leading as she applied and was accepted to intern at CNN.

the competitive CNN internship during the summer. Villamizar did and became one of the 30 out of 2,000 applicants accepted for the internship.

“If it wasn’t for the School of Journalism and Communication’s sponsored trip to CNN, all of this would not have happened,” says Villamizar.

“Southern’s classes add to my knowledge, and my advisor, Mr. Ruf, is always supportive.”

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

met one of the hosts of CNN En Español Radio. He encouraged Villamizar to look into applying for

Southern Shares in Formation of Role Model

Jamal Hopson, ’09, was deeply disturbed when a youth from his neighborhood asked Hopson to buy him a cigar to use to smoke marijuana in.

“It was a big eye-opener to what was going on in the community that I grew up in,” says Hopson. “Seeing that in my own neighborhood triggered something inside of me.”



Jamal Hopson decided to take action and help improve the lives of children living in his neighborhood by pursuing a degree in counseling at Southern.

Witnessing the need youth have for guidance, Hopson decided to leave his mechanical engineering

career behind and obtain a master’s degree in counseling with emphases in mental health and school counseling from Southern Adventist University.

During classes he found that some of the professors did a great job of combining the spiritual aspects of the profession with the practical aspects of therapy.

“Counseling for me is a ministry,” says Hopson. “I wanted to learn psychology from a school that valued

Christian principles and from professors who also viewed counseling as a ministry.”

As a result of his experience at Southern, Hopson now feels adequately prepared to counsel and guide whatever hurting person might cross his path.

“Looking back on my full experience at Southern, I can say that I have grown professionally, matured emotionally, and expanded culturally,” says Hopson.

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

Research Journal Highlights Exceptional Student Papers

The School of Education and Psychology published the first *Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research* at Southern Adventist University.

After careful review of the dozens of submissions

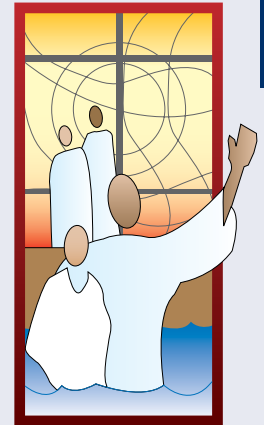
for volume one, the editorial board selected four undergraduate research projects to feature. These were research projects completed by psychology major Matthew Marlin, social work major Michael

Hermann, psychobiology major Kahlilia Morris, and psychology major Salenna Russello.

“I think this journal is a very significant milestone in our academic community here at Southern,” says John

Taylor, dean of the School of Education and Psychology. “Research is an opportunity to not just receive knowledge, but to make a contribution to knowledge.”

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI



Rain Held Back to Allow for the Outpouring of God's Spirit

Rain was predicted in El Salvador, one of the four international countries where students, faculty, and alumni from Southern Adventist University were conducting evangelistic campaigns this summer.

"The first night it poured a hurricane on us," says junior nursing major Alanna Zackrison.

Concerned that the rain would keep people away from the meetings, the evangelists started a prayer chain. From 5 a.m. to 12 a.m., someone from the group was praying about the things that could hinder the work, particularly the rain.

"Every day we would faithfully pray for our one-hour slot," says junior liberal arts education major Daphne Martin. "Soon we found that days would go by when there was no rain or when it would rain at any given time *except* the time period where people would be deciding if they would attend the meetings."

For the entire time that the students were preaching in El Salvador, rain did not interrupt the meetings, a weather phenomena so unusual that



Alanna Zackrison enjoys a sunny day during El Salvador's rainy season, a weather phenomena that was a direct answer to prayer.

it caught the attention of the local media.

This and other miracles, along with the students' dedication to prayer and service, led to 208 baptisms in El Salvador alone. In all, 852 people were baptized this summer as a result of Southern's international evangelism efforts.

—BY LORI FUTCHER

TIP FROM THE EVANGELIST

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



**SOUTHERN BUILDS ON A
TRADITION OF SERVICE**

BY CRISTINA HERNANDEZ-PERSIA

Southern Adventist University has always made service an intricate part of students' educational experience. Whether using their voices for evangelism in song in the 1920's, going on Nicaragua mission trips since 1970, or going to New York to feed the homeless on Thanksgiving since 1977, students have always been involved in reaching out to others.

Today, Southern continues this tradition. There are clubs, classes, and departments all across campus that involve service in their programs and activities. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) recently went to Lesotho, Africa, to build greenhouses for orphans so they could sell produce for profit. Members of the Black Christian Union (BCU) volunteer as tutors for high school students at



Melissa Tortal first became involved with service at Southern by doing a gardening project on Community Service Day. Now she hopes to use the skills she developed during her years at the University to grow Southern's service efforts even more.

Tyner Academy. The I Cantori Chamber choir, who had a summer tour in Brazil, will be sponsoring a child per year from the South American country. Door 2 Door, a program through the School of Nursing, provides students and professors with the opportunity to conduct health events, and give health care to community members. The Technology Department works with the non-profit Samaritan Center during National Car

Care month in April to give free car inspections. And that's just a few of the organizations and individual students who give of their time.

The biggest service effort on campus is Community Service Day, a yearly event on Martin Luther King Day, which involves hundreds of students.

New Position to Bring Service Efforts Together

Despite all the service initiatives on campus, until recently there was no central office monitoring the service opportunities available to students. To change that, the University has developed a new task force position that will be coordinating the service efforts for the University.

Melissa Tortal, '09, will be a liaison between the University and organizations in the community where students serve. She will make an inventory of places where Southern's students are serving, and will also learn how much of the student body is involved in service. Through Tortal's work, Southern administrators will get a better idea of how effective the campus' service efforts are.

Robert Young, Southern senior vice president for academic administration, has brought Tortal on board to be part of this project.

"We want to see if we have met our goal of enabling all students to participate in service," says Young.

A Life of Service

Having served as community service director when she was a student, Tortal has experience working with other organizations. Service is part of her being and is her main focus for her new position.

"I volunteer on a weekly basis with nonprofit organizations,



Southern's SIFE team joined two African SIFE teams in Lesotho, Africa, to build greenhouses for the benefit of orphan children.

schools, and churches," says Tortal. "I want to help assess the needs of the community, and develop an easy way for Southern students to fill those needs."

Administrators are excited about the work that has started to take place. "Service is not only practical and beneficial for agencies, but students as well," says Ben Wygal, Southern assistant to the president. "We want students to develop compassion for others and express it through action. In the end, we as an institution just want to encourage a life of service."

Young believes that Tortal's involvement will enable even more students to develop that life of service.

"Scripture says that we need to meet the needs of the people," says Young. "I'd like to know that is the mark that we are heading toward." ❖

Cristina Hernandez-Persia is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University.



More than 800 students volunteer at 70 worksites during Community Service Day. These students are sweeping the play area on the roof of the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga.



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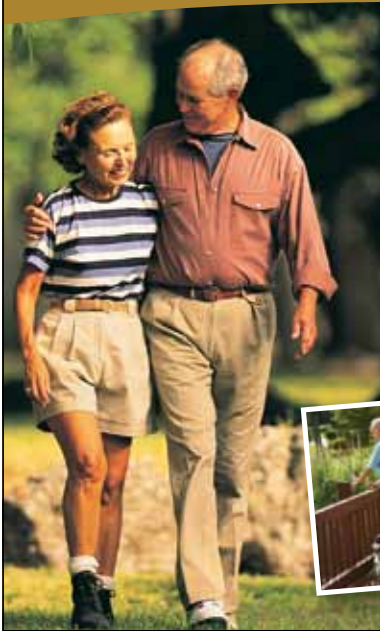


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Instructors: Jillian Willis/ MSN, RN, Associate Professor, Cindy Johnson/ MSN, RN, Assistant Professor, Desi Batson/ APRN, BC, PhD, Professor Michael Liedke/ MSN, ACNP-BC, Assistant Professor, Christy Showalter/ MSN, RN, Assistant Professor, Holly Gadd/ PhD, FNP-BC, Graduate Program Coordinator, Professor Sylvia Mayer/ MS, RN, Consortium Coordinator, Associate Professor

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Instructors:

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Richard A Hicks/ BS, RRT, Director, Osceola Division, Department of Respiratory Care
Susan K. Warren/ BS, RRT, Staff Development Coordinator, Department of Respiratory Care

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"Diabetes: Stepping Into Health!"

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Instructors: Don Morgan, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

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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 or call 423-368-2343. Register at www.plusline.org/events.php. [9]

MANAGE YOUR YOUTH GROUPS: Do you have an Adventurer, Pathfinder, Master Guide, or VBS club? Learn how to manage them online for free. 888-493-9538 or www.eclubtracker.com. [9]

BLUE CREEK CABINS EVENT HALL IN NORTH GA – the perfect gathering place for all types of occasions: weddings, receptions, reunions, church retreats, family gatherings or other events. It features a large presentation screen and a PA system. For more information, visit www.bluecreekcabins.com or call 706-865-0503. [9]

SEE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK in winter with skilled SDA snowmobile guides! Experience pristine beauty and amazing animals! Enjoy good fellowship, inspiring devotions, deluxe accommodations, and fine cuisine. Don't miss this unique experience – the only snowmobile tours traveling throughout Yellowstone Park. Limited openings for January 2010. Call John at 509-235-8531 (pacific time). [9, 10]




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Here's the steeple
Open the doors
And see all the people*




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A One-Day Conversation
About the Adventist Church **NOW**
October 10, 2009
Collegedale Seventh-day
Adentist Church



John Nixon
The Ultimate Sacrifice
9:00 a.m.



Monte Sahlin
The Advent Hope & the Future
10:15 a.m.
The Future of the Adventist Movement: Demographic & Social Trends in the Adventist Church
3:00 p.m.



Fredrick Russell
And They Knew the Times
11:45 a.m.

PLUS: A Sabbath afternoon panel discussion
www.collegedalechurch.com

Events Calendar

Florida

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

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

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

North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumniinf.org/>, 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/>.

Evangelism Series

Sept. 26-Oct. 3. Miami Springs Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Sept. 27-Nov. 20. St. Petersburg. Bill and Sunshine Waters.

Oct. 3-10. North Miami Beach Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Oct. 17-24. Vero Beach Spanish/Melbourne Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Oct. 17-Nov. 21. Sarasota. Lester and Zula Pratt.

Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars

Sept. 26. Palm Coast Portuguese in Bunnell.

Nov. 14-15. Daytona Beach.

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: new national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Oct. 3. Tallahassee.

Oct. 4. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

Oct. 10. Sunrise.

Oct. 11. Plantation, Lauderhill, Deerfield Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

Oct. 17. Naples.

Oct. 18. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Winter Haven.

Oct. 24. Jacksonville Southpoint.

Oct. 25. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Oct. 31. West Palm Beach.

Community Plunge Youth Rally – Sept. 26. New Port Richey Church. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

High School Bible Conference – Oct. 8-11. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Young-At-Heart Retreat – Oct. 18-22. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Applications online: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>. Details: sdaretreats@campkulaqua.com, or 386-454-1351.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com

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.

Pathfinder Drill Instructor Boot Camp – Sept. 11-13. Cohutta Springs.

GCC/SAC Lay Evangelism Rally – Sept. 12. Atlanta Metro Hispanic Church.

K.I.D. University Training – Sept. 13-16. Collegedale, TN.

K.I.D. Retreat – Sept. 18-20. Collegedale, TN, area.

Health Rally – Sept. 19. Johnson City, TN.

Northeast TN Camp Meeting – Sept. 25, 26. The Oaks Retreat Center, Greeneville, TN.

Adventurer Ministries Convention – Oct. 2-4. Cohutta Springs

Youth/Young Adult Ministries Convention – Oct. 2-4. Cohutta Springs.

Northeast Tennessee Women's Conference – Oct. 10.

Men's Congress – Oct. 16-17. Cohutta Springs.

Pathfinder Fellowship Events – Oct. 16-18.

Un Nuevo Dia – Reunion

de Demas – Oct. 17. Sur de Georgia.

South Georgia Women's Conference – Oct. 17.

Fall Break (No School) – Oct. 23.

Jovenes Makeover 2009 – Oct. 23-25. Cohutta Springs.

Pathfinder Fellowship Events – Oct. 23-25.

Creation Sabbath – Oct. 24.

Young in Ministry – Oct. 26-28. Cohutta Springs.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gccsda.org>

Hispanic Youth Federation – Sept. 4-6. Camp Alamisco.

Week of Fasting and Prayer – Sept. 6-12.

Fall Evangelistic Meetings – Sept. 13-30.

Prayer Ministries Conference – Sept. 18-20. Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center. Talladega, AL.

Pathfinder Camporee – Oct. 15-18. Camp Alamisco.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend – Oct. 23-25. Embassy Suites. Montgomery, AL.

Motivational speaker Joel Kibble of Take 6 will address marriage and family issues. Registration open through Oct. 9. Details: 850-774-8644.

Executive Committee – Oct. 20. Montgomery.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board Sept. 22. Dec. 1.

Conference Executive Committee

Sept. 22. Dec. 1.

Women's Retreat – Indian Creek Camp/Conference Center Hispanic. Sept. 11-13.

Young Women. Sept. 18-20.

Retreat I. Sept. 25-27.

Retreat II. O

Southern Adventist University

Dave Cress Memorial Golf Tournament – Sept. 11.

ViewSouthern – Sept. 21-23.

PreviewSouthern – Oct. 8, 9.

Announcements

Invitation to Teach in Thailand:

Missionary teachers needed to serve God in the wonderful country of Thailand. Please answer God's call! Matthew 9: 37-38. Details: kpergerson@yahoo.com

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

Enjoy Another Michigan Sunset at Andrews University's Homecoming – Sept. 24-27. This year's honor classes are: 1929, '39, '49, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. Details: www.andrews.edu/go/homecoming, email alumni@andrews.edu, or call 269-471-3591.

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

Madison Academy Alumni Homecoming Weekend – Oct. 9, 10. Honor classes: 1934, 1939, 1944, and every 5th consecutive year through 2004. Details: www.madisonacademyalumni.com

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

Sunset						
	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
Atlanta, GA	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:30	7:20	7:11
Charleston, SC	7:40	7:31	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:54
Charlotte, NC	7:45	7:36	7:25	7:15	7:05	6:56
Collegedale, TN	8:02	7:52	7:42	7:32	7:22	7:13
Huntsville, AL	7:08	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:19
Jackson, MS	7:21	7:12	7:02	6:53	6:44	6:35
Louisville, KY	8:08	7:57	7:46	7:35	7:24	7:13
Memphis, TN	7:22	7:12	7:02	6:52	6:42	6:32
Miami, FL	7:37	7:29	7:21	7:14	7:06	6:59
Montgomery, AL	7:05	6:56	6:47	6:37	6:28	6:19
Nashville, TN	7:10	7:00	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:19
Orlando, FL	7:43	7:35	7:26	7:18	7:10	7:02
Wilmington, NC	7:33	7:23	7:14	7:04	6:54	6:45

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