

September 2011

TSOUTHERN   
TIDINGS



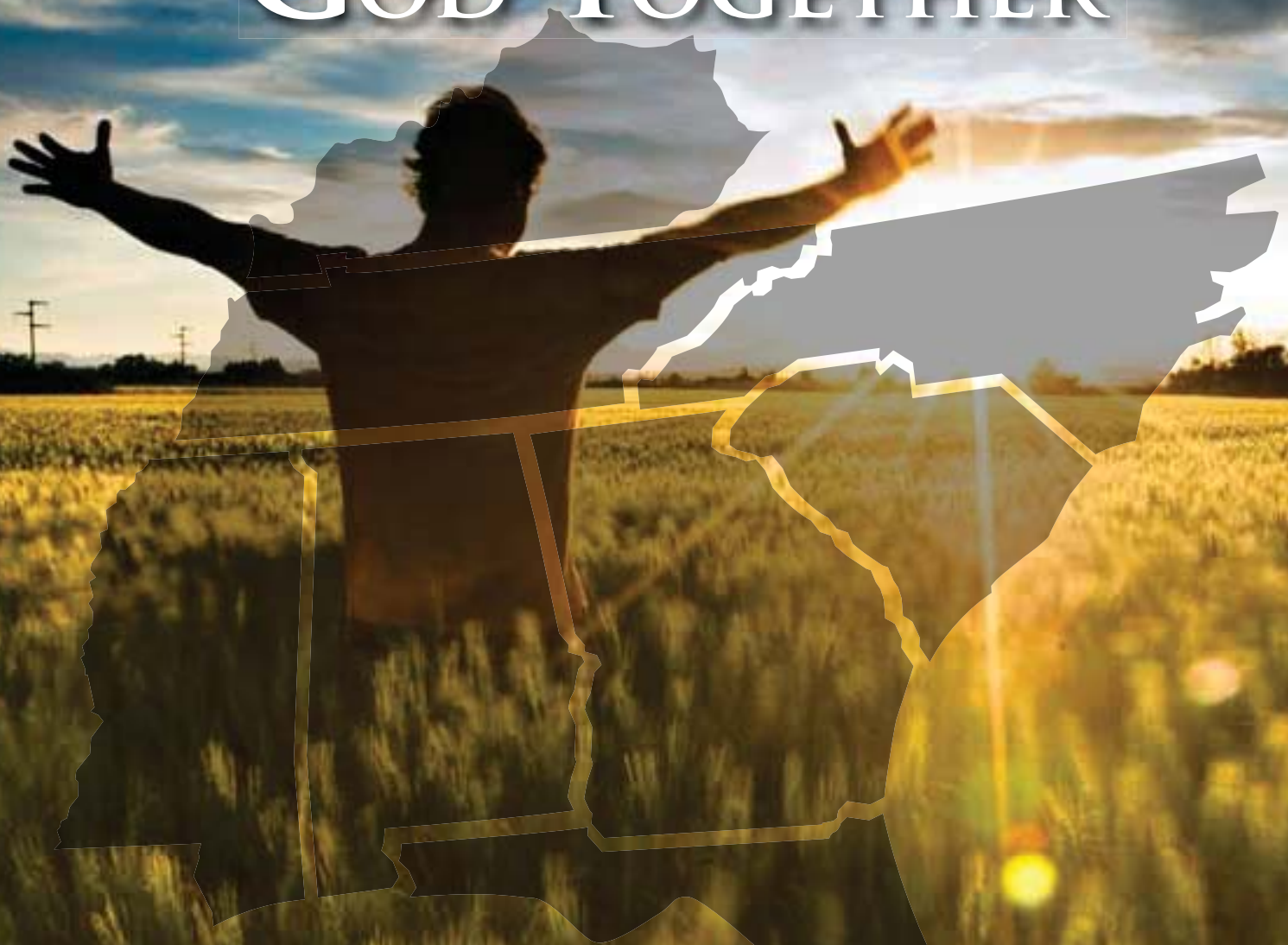
GROWING & PRAISING  
GOD TOGETHER  
QUINQUENNIAL REPORT

Organized April 1901, the Southern Union is one of nine unions (including Canada) which comprise the North American Division of the World Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Housed in the eight southern states which make up this great Union, are more than 250,000 church members, and a wide multi-disciplinary network of ministries and institutions. The Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventists continues to celebrate the blessings of God through each venue of the vast ministry He has summoned us to.

### **The Southern Union currently serves through:**

- 8 Conferences
- 1,077 Churches
- Approximately 100 Early Childhood Programs
- 152 Elementary Schools
- 16 Academies (including 4 self-supporting)
- 2 Universities/ 1 College
  - Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences
  - Oakwood University
  - Southern Adventist University
- 29 Hospital Campuses
- 11 Skilled Nursing Facilities
- 7 Summer Camp Programs
- 8 Radio Stations

# GROWING & PRAISING GOD TOGETHER



<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>CHURCHES</b>	<b>COMPANIES</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP CLOSE OF SECOND QUARTER 2011</b>
CAROLINA	120	21	20,577
FLORIDA	194	50	60,751
GA-CUMBERLAND	160	33	36,207
GULF STATES	78	13	10,864
KY-TENNESSEE	96	8	13,760
SOUTH ATLANTIC	156	7	42,906
SOUTH CENTRAL	137	10	28,809
SOUTHEASTERN	136	16	42,079
<b>UNION TOTALS</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>255,953</b>



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# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



*Cheryl Retzer, shepherdess director and women's ministries advisor, and Gordon Retzer, president*

In the first two sentences of Ellen White's book, *Acts of the Apostles*, the prophet given to the remnant Church declares clearly that, "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men [and women]. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world." The mission is clear, and as we review how God has led His church in the Southern Union, we focus on the ultimate purpose for the Church's existence.

Precious new members have been added to the Church, numbering in the thousands.

Praise God! In fact, during the last quinquennium, Southern Union membership passed 250,000.

This is your report and represents the combined efforts of conference and church leaders and dedicated lay members working together. We thank the Lord and give glory to God.

**Since 2006 we have focused on three priorities:**

**1. Reach Greater Atlanta Through "Good News Atlanta"**

Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conference leaders and members came together to impact greater Atlanta, in anticipation of the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. Departments and churches coordinated plans and strategies together. Churches were planted; new work was begun targeting various ethnic groups. Pastors and churches came together from both conferences to pray, worship, and witness. It was historic, and I commend the



*Lessie Scurry, executive administrative assistant*

leadership of conference presidents Vanard Mendinghall (South Atlantic) and Ed Wright (Georgia-Cumberland).

In May and June 2010, evangelistic events were held all over the city, culminating in a grand reaping weekend prior to the General Conference Session, at the Georgia World Congress Center, with 1,026 people baptized.

## 2. Train and Empower Lay Evangelists

It was our goal to invite lay persons who had never preached an evangelistic meeting to see what the Holy Spirit would do if they were open to try evangelism. As a part of this initiative, the Southern Union

Executive Committee members were asked to volunteer to preach an evangelistic meeting in San Salvador. What a tremendous response! Many preached, and then came back to the Southern Union and preached again. All over the Southern Union lay men and women, young and seniors, are joining the ranks of evangelists. Even my wife, Cheryl, who has never, ever thought of preaching an evangelistic meeting, was used by God to preach a full series of meetings in Rwanda. I commend Elder Bob Folkenberg for his vision and leadership in empowering lay members through Share-Him, which is an initiative of the Carolina Conference.



*Vanard J. Mendinghall, South Atlantic Conference president (left), and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, joined efforts in the 2008 Habitat for Humanity project in Atlanta, Georgia.*

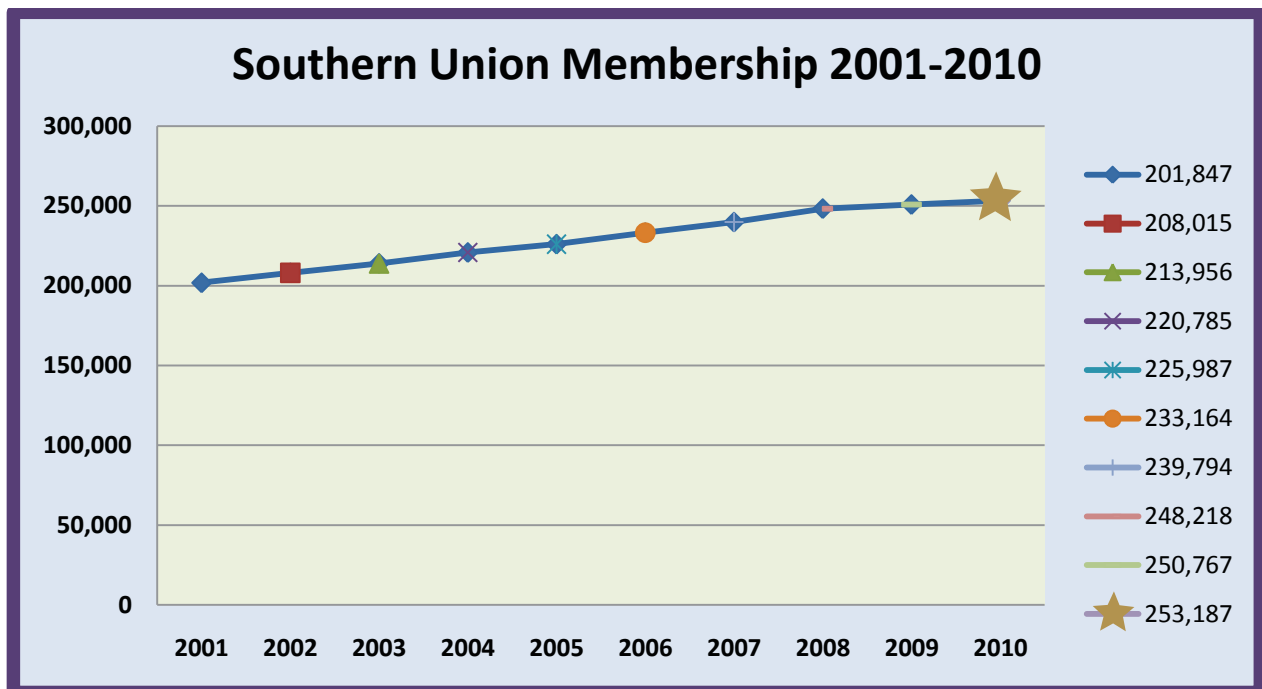
I am convinced that one of the reasons the Southern Union is growing is the evangelistic enthusiasm of hundreds of lay persons who have become lay evangelists. We praise God for you!



*Attendees of the March 2010 Prayer Countdown Rally pray together.*



*In 2008, Southern Union committee members and their spouses, along with six Southern Union staff, five ASI members, and students from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, took the time to pose for a photo during their time together in San Salvador.*





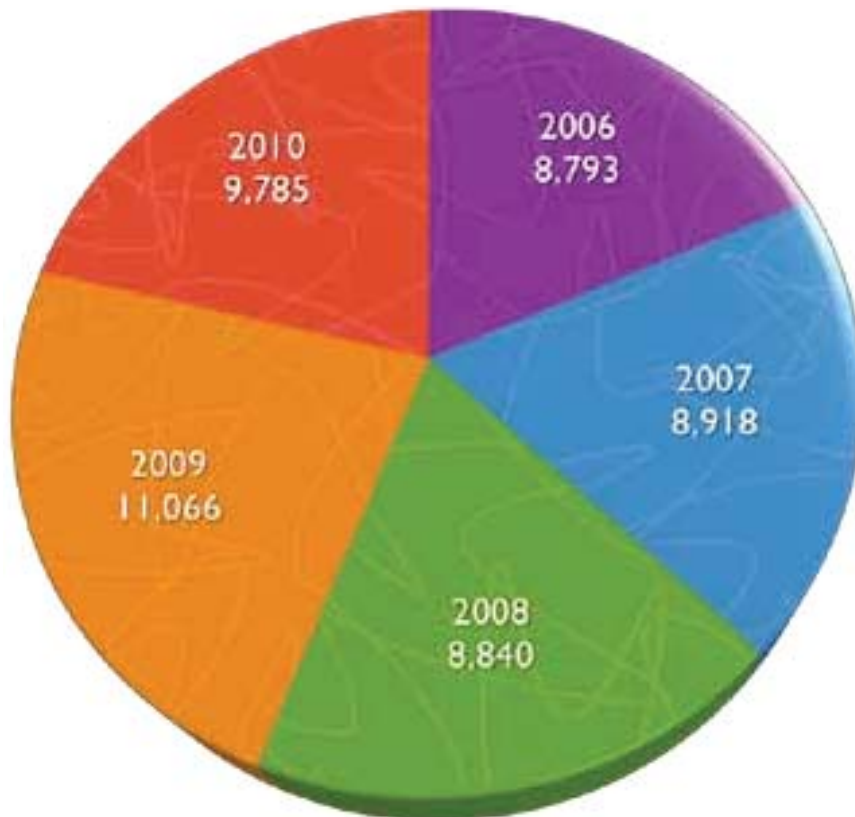
### 3. Increase K-12 enrollment by 30 percent through Adventist EDGE

We did not reach our goal. The graph shows that while the Southern Union membership is growing, elementary and academy enrollment has been declining. This is a serious challenge. Adventist EDGE is a Southern Union Department of Education macro initiative which is trying to address this issue. The total enrollment continued to decline in the last five years. However, there are, to date, 13 Adventist EDGE “Schools of Excellence” in the Southern Union, and those schools, carefully implementing the Adventist EDGE vision, experienced a total increase of



*Dennis Millburn (left), Southern Union undertreasurer, is in the baptismal pool after an evangelistic meeting he conducted in June 2009 at the Hendersonville, Tennessee, Church. Jerry Rimer, pastor, prepares to baptize Christine Burbank.*

## Five-Year Baptisms/ Professions of Faith



enrollment from 1,904 students in 2005 to 2,053 students in 2010! This is an eight percent increase, and is a dramatic turn-around showing the impact of change. I commend education leadership in the Southern Union and conferences, as well as dedicated teachers who are leading children and youth to the Lord.

**INSTITUTIONS**

Southern Adventist University continues to experience growth in enrollment every year, and continues to provide quality and trustworthy Adventist education for our young men and women. And, what a blessing to also have Oakwood University and Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences in our territory. We are proud of our colleges and universities.

Every year thousands of

people are touched for Jesus Christ through the ministry of the hospitals which are a part of Adventist Health System. I believe the growth of the Southern Union membership is also a result of our educational and health care institutions. I affirm committed and incredibly talented leaders and employees who expand Christ's kingdom every day.

What about the future?

We continue on the mission — the Gospel message to our world and the whole world. How do we articulate the vision for the next five years?

**REACH UP**

*“An Invitation to Intimacy”*

- Revival and transformation through a growing relationship with Jesus
- Invite members to partici-

pate in a quarterly day of fasting and prayer on the first Friday of each quarter

**REACH OUT**

*“An Invitation to Discipling”*

- Conferences collaborating in joint efforts for evangelism and discipling in major metropolitan areas
- Union-wide target on greater Memphis, Tennessee, with Tampa Bay, Florida, as a secondary focus
- Bridge childcare centers with evangelistic events
- Disciple lay members for evangelism
- Disciple all members through the various ministries of the Church

**REACH ACROSS**

*“An Invitation to Caring”*

# Ten-Year K-12 Enrollment





*In 2008, Southern Union committee members leave the hotel in San Salvador with their computers and projector cases to go preach.*

- Inspire cross-cultural and cross-generational friendships
  - Involve all genders, ethnic groups, and generations in church programming
  - Affirm, empower, and involve in ministry the Adventist college and university students

- Inspire Adventist academy and college/university churches to be a training ground to involve youth in the mission and leadership of the Church
  - Promote dialogue and understanding through cross-cultural interaction

- Continue to support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Now, I conclude my last *Southern Tidings* Vantage Point on a personal note. Cheryl and I are deeply grateful for the wonderful privilege we have had since 2003 to serve the members of the Southern Union. We have felt your love, and have admired your commitment to the

Lord Jesus and the mission that motivates all of us. After 43 years of ministry, we have decided to transition from the leadership of the great Southern Union, which means that at this Southern Union session, a new president will be elected. We have been blessed to work with a terrific group of colleagues in the Southern Union office, and in our conferences and institutions. We praise God for this privilege. Thank you for your trust and for your encouragement. We thank the Lord for the growth of the Church, and look forward to seeing continued success throughout the territory of this Union. We long for and pray for the soon coming of Jesus.



# OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT



*Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., executive secretary, and his wife, Yolanda*

## **Responsible Ministry**

And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it," Colossians 4:17, KJV.

And Tell Archippus, "Be sure to finish the task you were given in the Lord's service," Colossians 4:17, GNT.

And oh, yes, tell Archippus, "Do your best in the job you received from the Master. Do your very best," Colossians 4:17, MSG.

Each institution, division, union, and conference is accountable to almighty God for their part in executing the charge couched in the

Gospel Commission extended by Jesus. Faithfulness to the responsibility of teaching, preaching, baptizing, and the making disciples of men, women, and children is being celebrated in the Southern Union (SU). We, the Secretariat of this great Union, seize this opportunity to acknowledge the faithfulness of laity and church employees in the quest to fulfill the ministries we've been given in the Lord.

We live in a celebrity-crazed society. Time film critic Richard Schickel says, "Celebrities have become the chief agents of moral change in America." Why? Because they're so moral? No. Simply because they're celebrities, and we listen to celebrities.

Scripture tells us that God has chosen to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, the weak to shame the strong, yet we fall into the celebrity trap, too.

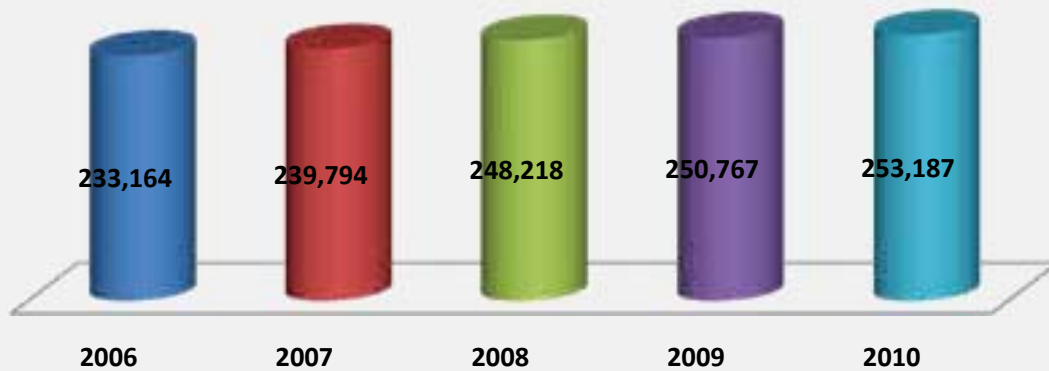
Our world may be obsessed with celebrities, but God most often builds His kingdom through



*Lessie Scurry, executive administrative assistant*

## Southern Union Five-Year Membership Totals 2006-2010

■ 7,177 increase   
 ■ 6,630 increase   
 ■ 8,424 increase   
 ■ 2,549 increase   
 ■ 2,420 increase



the faithful obedience of ordinary people. We thank God for the faithful obedience of the members of the Southern Union.

During this past quinquennium, God honored our faithfulness to the Gospel Commission. At the last Union constituency session, we reported that the membership of the Southern Union Conference in 2006 was 233,164 individuals. This Union session, reflecting this past quinquennial period, our membership at the end of the second quarter of 2011 stood at 255,953 individuals, an increase of 22,789 members.

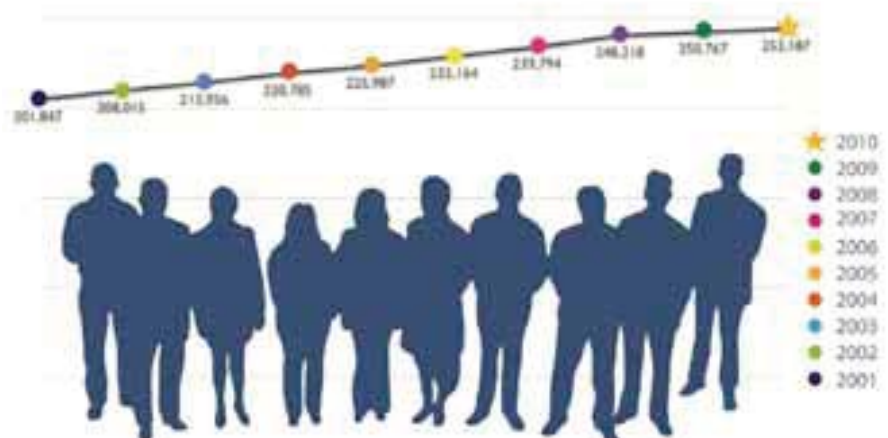
At this session we are proud to announce that there were 1,074 churches and 158 companies at the end of the first quarter of 2011. The Lord has continued to bless

the operations and explosive enrollment growth of Southern Adventist University, Oakwood University, and Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, and the inspiring initiatives of 12 academies and 158 elementary schools in the Southern Union.

There are also hundreds of people who donate their time and resources for building the kingdom of God through the varied ministries of the Southern Union.

There are nine unions in the North American Division (NAD). The Southern Union is the largest

Southern Union Membership 2001-2010



est with respect to membership. We thank the Lord for blessing this area of North America with explosive growth and with an emphasis on diversity. In every category of operational ministry in the Southern Union, there is an emphasis placed on inclusion. Intentional representation which is reflective of denominational employees, lay members, gender, ethnicity, and nationalistic orientation are factored into the execution of responsible ministry.

The role and function of the Office of the Secretariat is multifaceted. Among the many critically needed responsibilities are maintaining service records; processing *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* information; processing retirement applications; processing ministerial scholarship and internship applications; processing requests for conference ordinands; processing service requests; preparing NAD Quarterly Reports; preparing SU Quarterly Baptismal Reports; supporting local conferences for constituency sessions, annual reviews and Executive Committee meetings; planning and organizing Union-wide events such as Administrative and Departmental Council; hosting and coordinating pre-retirement seminars; issuing credentials and licenses; preparing NAD Denominationally Employed Workers' Reports; preparing NAD Language Reports; preparing minutes for Executive Committee, Administration Committee, Association and Revolving Fund boards

and quinquennium constituency sessions; managing Union calendars and schedules; serving as advisor to all conference Constitution and Bylaws committees; vice chair of Southern Adventist University Board, secretary of the Southern Union Association, trustee member of numerous executive boards of Southern Union conferences and institutions, and NAD Secretaries Council member; and addressing concerns of the constituents regarding policy, procedures, and other topics.

During the past five years, 27,200 members were added to the churches in the Southern Union territory through baptism and profession of faith; 33,088 transferred into the Southern Union, while 28,102 transferred out; 8,038 individuals were reported missing; and 3,703 were lost to apostasy.

It is most comforting to embrace the blessed truth that Jesus is indeed the resurrection and the life. The assurance that

those who have fallen asleep in the Lord are blessed, gives us a stabilizing perspective in the journey of church life. We mourn the passing of loved ones as we remember them, and we look forward to the day when we will be reunited again as family. Our statistical records show that 6,094 fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. They rest until resurrection day when Jesus will call all of the sleeping saints back into existence for eternity. We look forward to hearing the trumpet sound.

The leadership of the Southern Union, laity, and clergy remain intentional in our quest to identify and recover men, women, and children who once walked with us as members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through the Office of the Secretariat, it is our desire to reclaim them.

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES

The coordination of South-



*Roy Patterson, South Central Conference prison ministries director*

ern Union Prison Ministries and Disabilities Ministries operates through the Office of the Secretariat.

### Prison Ministries

Florida Prison Ministries was formed in 1989 by Frank and Maxine Barton of the Florida Conference. They were successful, and continue to be, in setting up an advisory committee of numerous individuals representative of ministers and lay members that could help plan and implement the vision that they had to reach God's children behind prison walls and their families/friends with a Bible-based prison ministry program containing only Bible truth. The Lord has given them an effective training program for volunteers to receive orientation. Scores of correctional institutions are beneficiaries of this well-organized and -executed ministry today. Sets of well-prepared, multi-colored Bible lessons, which have been authored by the Bartons, help foster this dynamic prison ministry.

Also, during this quinquennial period, Roy Patterson, South Central Conference (SCC) prison ministries director, has been vigilant in his planning and coordination of the annual SCC Prison Ministries Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. These conventions have featured Tyrone Boyd, the former chief of chaplains for the state of Florida, and Tony Hall, CEO of the Xoffender Network. Ex-convicts are given the wherewithal to study, worship, and contribute to the

Adventist Church when they are released.

### Disabilities Ministries

Twenty years ago, the ministry for people with disabilities began in the Southern Union Conference with Joan Bova conducting a program on disability at Florida Hospital. Several months later, Michael and Sharon Harrell made history by conducting the first disability awareness program at the Port Charlotte Church in Florida.



Maxine and Frank Barton

The Commission for People with Disabilities Ministries began in 1989 with Rosa T. Banks, Ed.D., former NAD associate secretary, now General Conference associate secretary and liaison for the East/West Central African Division. At the 1995 General Conference Session in Utrecht (the Netherlands), the ministry was voted and approved for all facets of church life — offices, administrations, and the local church.

Under the leadership of the current director, Charlotte L. V. Thoms, Ph.D., the ministry has expanded with an updated edition of the Disabilities Ministries Handbook, a disabilities ministries booth at the 2010 General Conference Ses-

sion in Atlanta, and workshops on disabilities at the 2009 NAD Adventist Ministries Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The ministry has also promoted the Year of Autism, and Reversing Diabetes, and this year was voted and approved to become an NAD Advisory Committee.

Bova and Harrell have expanded disabilities ministries throughout Southern Union via the following:

- Sponsoring Union-wide disabilities programs in churches, colleges, and Camp Meetings that included directors from conferences within Southern Union
- Advising and recommending structure modifications for accessibility and accommodation to several churches in the Southern Union
- Promoting the Pathfinder Disability Awareness Honor (developed by Bova and approved by the Florida Conference)
- Writing articles for the *Southern Tidings*

In December 2010, Michael Harrell and Joan Bova completed their ministry as directors of the Southern Union Conference Disabilities Ministries.



Rosemary Graham

In January 2011, Rosemary Graham was selected and accepted the responsibilities of leading the Union in disabilities ministries. Graham brings a wealth of experience to the Disabilities

Ministries Department. She was diagnosed with lupus in 1984, and since November 1997 has ministered as the South Atlantic Conference disabilities ministries director. She has been a member of the NAD Disabilities Ministries Advisory Committee since 1995, and has represented the NAD on the National Council of Churches Disability Committee since 1999.

Formerly, Graham was an active volunteer with the Lupus

Foundation of America, Georgia Chapter, as a board director and minority outreach director. She also served as board director of the National Black Women's Health Imperative, and former Advisory Committee member of the National Black Women's Health Study (Boston and Harvard Universities School of Medicine).

Five of the eight conferences within the Southern Union

remain active:

- South Atlantic (Rosemary Graham)
- South Central (George Hamilton)
- Carolina (Debbie Rapp)
- Florida (Carmen Rodriguez)
- Georgia-Cumberland (Jerry Fore)

• South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences provided sign interpreters for the deaf at the Good News Atlanta meeting featuring Mark Finley prior to the General Conference session in Atlanta.

• Volunteers from the NAD Disabilities Ministries team and South Atlantic Conference worked the Disabilities Ministries booth at the 59th General Conference Session vendor hall in Atlanta.

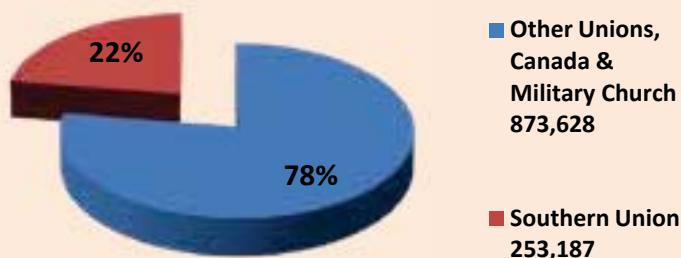
• Southern Deaf Fellowship (Georgia-Cumberland) has baptized six individuals at their annual Camp Meetings in Cohutta Springs, Georgia.

Graham states her goals and visions for disabilities ministries include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Expanding information about disabilities ministries available on the Southern Union website (click Services, Community, and Disability)
- Increasing the number of disabilities ministries directors in conferences and churches within the Southern Union
- Promoting the Accessible Congregations Initiative developed and piloted in the South Atlantic Conference
- Developing training videos for the local church coordinators
- Continuing disability awareness programs in churches and universities throughout the Union

## Southern Union Portion of NAD Membership in 2010

**Total NAD Membership:**  
**1,126,815**



### OTHER MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

Pacific Union	20%	222,708
Columbia Union	12%	136,193
Atlantic Union	9%	104,520
Southwestern Union	9%	102,669
North Pacific Union	9%	97,133
Lake Union	7%	83,248
Mid-America Union	6%	64,573
SDA Church in Canada	6%	62,559
NAD -- Military Church	0%	25

SOURCE: NAD Secretary's Statistical Report 4th Quarter 2010



- Collaborating with other departments relative to disabilities ministries
- Encouraging inclusion of people with disabilities in church leadership
- Increasing support by the local church for awareness of the needs of individuals and families with disabilities
- Encouraging Bible studies and baptisms for and by people with disabilities

Currently, 650 million men, women, and children throughout the world have some form of disability, of which more than 54 million are Americans. As we move forward with disabilities ministries within the Southern Union, I compare our mission to the story of the master in Luke 14 who held a feast and sent his servant to gather the invitees. When excuses were given, instead of invitees attending, the master charged his servant:

“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame...Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.”

Let's fill God's house and hasten His soon return.

#### Scholarship Initiatives

Through the Office of the Secretariat, emphasizing university Christian

education has opened doors for many young people in this great Union. Scores of worthy student scholarships have been awarded annually. This continues to be an effective incentive for young adults living in the Southern Union territory to pursue a quality Christian education.

#### Evangelism

Finally, through the Office of the Secretariat, I've been inspired by Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president, to conduct several evangelistic meetings in different parts of the Southern Union territory. Also, two have been conducted outside of this Union. My wife, Yolanda, and I have preached three- or four-week meetings in Georgia-Cumberland, Florida, Southeastern, and South Atlantic conferences; Columbia Union; and Bermuda. More than 400 individuals have

been baptized through these public evangelistic meetings during this quinquennium period.

As we prepare for another quinquennium, we cannot rest on our past successes in evangelism, disabilities ministries, prison ministries, church growth, and general Secretariat functions. We must be poised on the tiptoes of deep-seated commitment to sustaining the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages to this contemporary society in crisis. A special thank you is in order to my loving wife, Yolanda, for our 32-year partnership in ministry. Also, thank you to Lessie Scurry, the most efficient executive assistant on the top-side of the planet. My sincere and heart-felt prayer request is that God will empower us to enjoy a responsible ministry on behalf of Him to the Southern Union.



*Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., evangelizes at West End Church in Atlanta, Georgia.*

# OFFICE OF TREASURY



*Randy Robinson (center, sitting), treasurer; Dennis Millburn, undertreasurer; Cindy Bray, accountant; Merkita Mosely, associate treasurer; and Diana Gunter, executive assistant and human resources director*

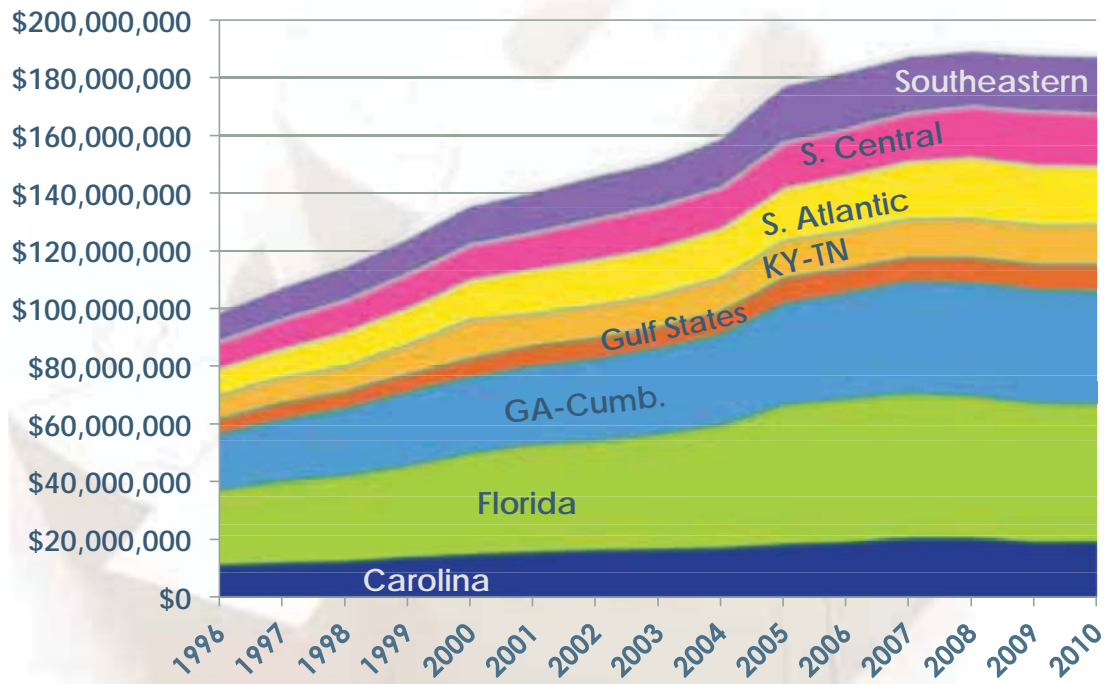


*Darleen Herbert, receptionist*



*Eric Witter, maintenance*

## Tithe Totals by Conference



### The Southern Union Ministry of Treasury

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a rich culture of focus on the second coming of Jesus. And we do so with no apology! In the Southern Union, as well as other unions around the world, we strive to do whatever we can to hasten that day. That includes the management of the resources our members give through their local churches and conferences. It is with great care that we take on this responsibility.

During the last five years, the membership of the Southern Union gave a total of \$933,724,874 in tithe. That is \$160,000,231, nearly 21 percent, more than the previous quinquennium. And this comes in the middle of one of the most difficult economic periods of our country's history! At the conclusion of 2010, the com-

binated conferences of the Southern Union led the North American Division (NAD) in total tithe and membership. Truly God has been good and continues to bless the Southern Union.

However, the Scripture says,

"...to whom much is given, much is required," Luke 12:48. As a part of the World Church, the Southern Union member churches and conferences provide resources here at home as well as abroad. Each local con-

## Year By Year Working Capital



100% = Operating for six months with no income

## Year by Year Gains



\* \$750,000 special appropriation given to conferences and Haiti Relief

ference collects the tithe from each of its individual churches. Of those total tithe dollars, nine percent is sent to the Southern Union. Approximately half of these Union funds are returned in either direct or indirect appropriations. Examples of indirect appropriations are taking care of audit costs, funding for Southern Adventist University, and computer development costs.

The remaining half is used to pay NAD retirement costs, operating costs such as Union departments and administration, and funds sent on for the work of the World Church. Not counting funds that are received and then sent back in appropriations, the Southern Union and its departments operate on a total of just 2.86 cents of each gross tithe dollar generated in

## Union Quinquennial Tithe Totals



Five year total: \$933,724,874

the Southern Union territory.

We are blessed to have an amazing treasury staff who are both competent at their jobs, and have a heart for the mission of the Church. Dennis Millburn serves as undertreasurer and manages statement preparation, as well as many administrative issues. Merkita Mosely serves as associate treasurer and is in charge of payroll and employee benefits, as well as other general accounting duties. Diana Gunter wears two hats as executive assistant to the treasurer and undertreasurer, and as human resources director. Cindy Bray serves as accountant and

deals with receipting, remittances, and paying the bills. Darleen Herbert is the face of the Southern Union to so many. She handles the receptionist duties in a terrific way. Eric Witter keeps us up and running as our man in charge of maintenance.

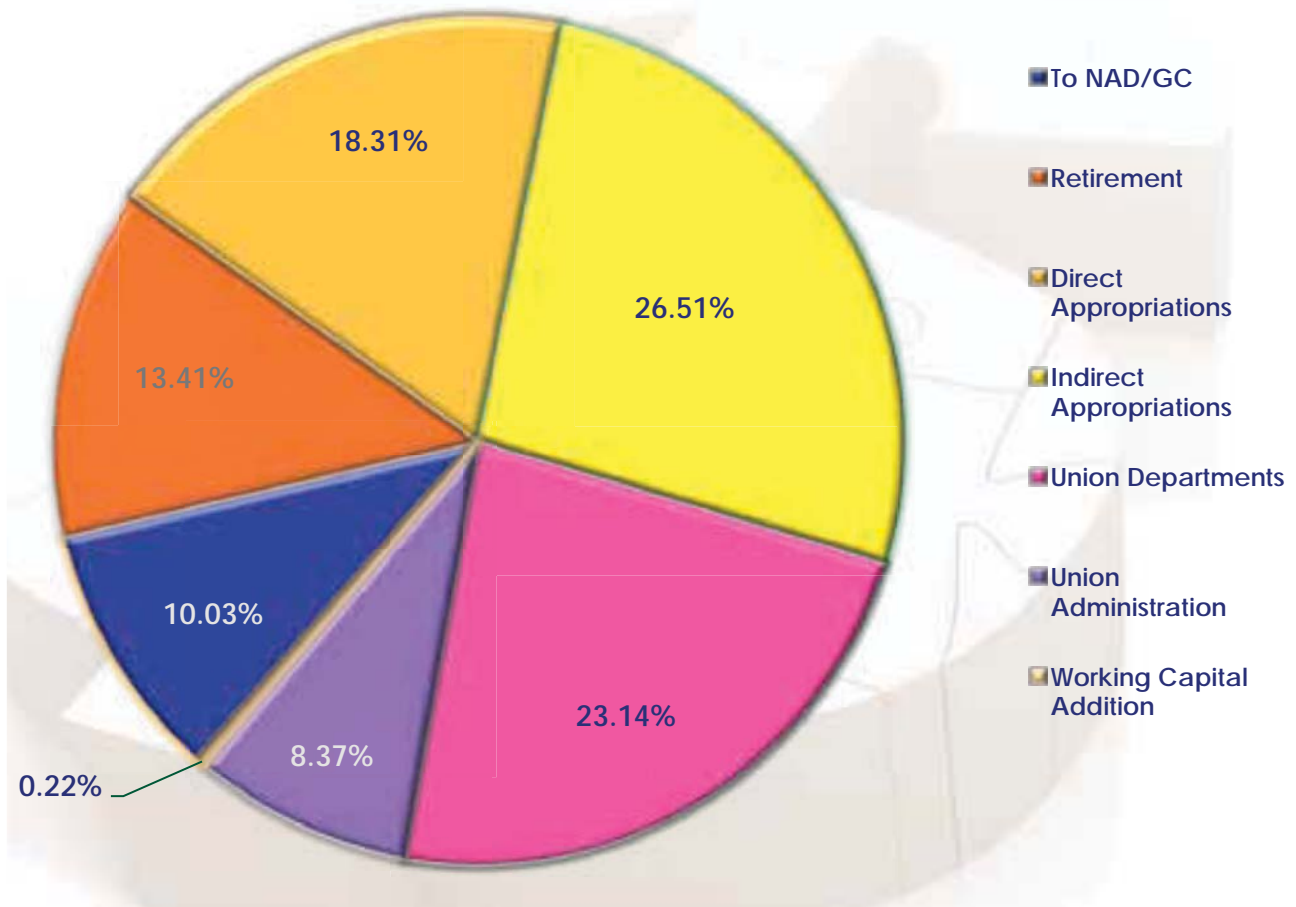
While all of these individuals are competent at the jobs they have been called to, they have also contributed to and supported the mission of the Church in terms of soul-winning. Most have conducted full evangelistic meetings, and some have done so multiple times. It is a privilege to engage in soul-winning, and to be a part of a

staff willing to do the same.

We live in a world rife with events that foretell the soon coming of Jesus. We have been through terrible natural disasters, economic meltdown, corruption, political gridlock, greed, and so much more. Yet we strive to do the best we can to bring the message of a soon-coming Savior to this dying world.

It is my prayer that as we wait on Him to come, we will continue to use the talents and resources He has given us to spread the word: Jesus is coming again!

## Union Retained Tithe Use - 2010



## ASSOCIATION & SOUTHERN UNION REVOLVING FUND (SURF)



*Carlos Salazar (center, sitting), Association treasurer; June Cranshaw, accountant; Peter DeVries, assistant treasurer; and Cheryl Hubbard, administrative assistant*

### **Association and Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF)**

The Southern Union Conference Association is the incorporated entity of the Southern Union, and holds title to real property as well as equipment. It also manages much of the investment activity of the Union, including oversight of the Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF).

SURF is a federally regulated organization whose primary purpose is to provide funds from which local churches, schools, and conferences borrow for building purchases, construction, or remodeling. The borrowing process is totally free of fees, and the interest rate charged is generally lower than market rates. The funding is provided from those in the Southern Union, including individuals, conferences, churches, schools, and colleges and universities, who wish to earn interest and provide funds for the benefit of borrowing institutions.

The interest rate paid is generally much more favorable than the market is offering for the same type of funds. So, we are able to provide investors with a no-fee process and favorable interest rates, while at the same time providing our investors with better-than-market rates. The SURF Committee strives to maintain that balance while keeping the fund solvent, viable, and protected into the future.

SURF currently charges borrowers 4.5 percent interest, and pays its depositors two percent. There are also protections in place, one of which we call the "Sinking Fund." This is a fund we set aside in cash, regulated by North American Division Policy and Federal agencies, that serves as a protection for investors against catastrophic defaults. Once the required threshold is met for that protection, a portion of SURF earnings are distributed back to the participating conferences in the Union.

During this quinquennium, which ended December 31, 2010, SURF deposits grew from \$165,270,000 to \$169,558,000, an increase of 2.3 percent. During the same period, total outstanding loans grew from \$79,600,000 to \$121,000,000, an increase of 52 percent. As you can see, local churches and schools are making use of these funds, and it has been a great blessing to many growing congregations in need of new or larger facilities.

We are so appreciative of the staff, including June Cranshaw, Peter DeVries, and Cheryl Hubbard, under the direction of Carlos Salazar. Many thanks for their efforts as we continue to do our best to provide the necessary services to you, our constituents.

## Total SURF Deposit Totals



## Total SURF Loans Outstanding



# PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES



G. Tom Carter, planned giving and trust services director, and Cheryl Hubbard, administrative assistant

## Defining Planned Giving and Trust Services

The Planned Giving and Trust Services Department of the Southern Union has been established to help individuals and families continue their whole-hearted support of the Lord's work through wills, trusts, annuities, special gifts, and other legal plans adapted to its state laws.

While fully considering the needs of one's family, the Christian will also want to consider the needs of the larger family and the mission Christ gave to us. That's why we are counseled, "In depositing of your property by will to your relatives, be sure that you do not forget God's cause," *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 328.

## The Financial Benefits of Planned Giving and Trust Services

Because of the careful planning and dedication of members in the Southern Union, during the past five years \$16,534,954 has come in to bless the Lord's work. Since 1970 when complete records started to be kept, \$101,256,295 has been received for the Lord's work. Think of it — more than \$100 million through the conference and institutional entities in the Southern Union for the Lord's cause!

To illustrate how much this means to the Lord's cause, let's look at the Florida Conference. Florida may have been hit by the recession more than any other state. House values have plum-

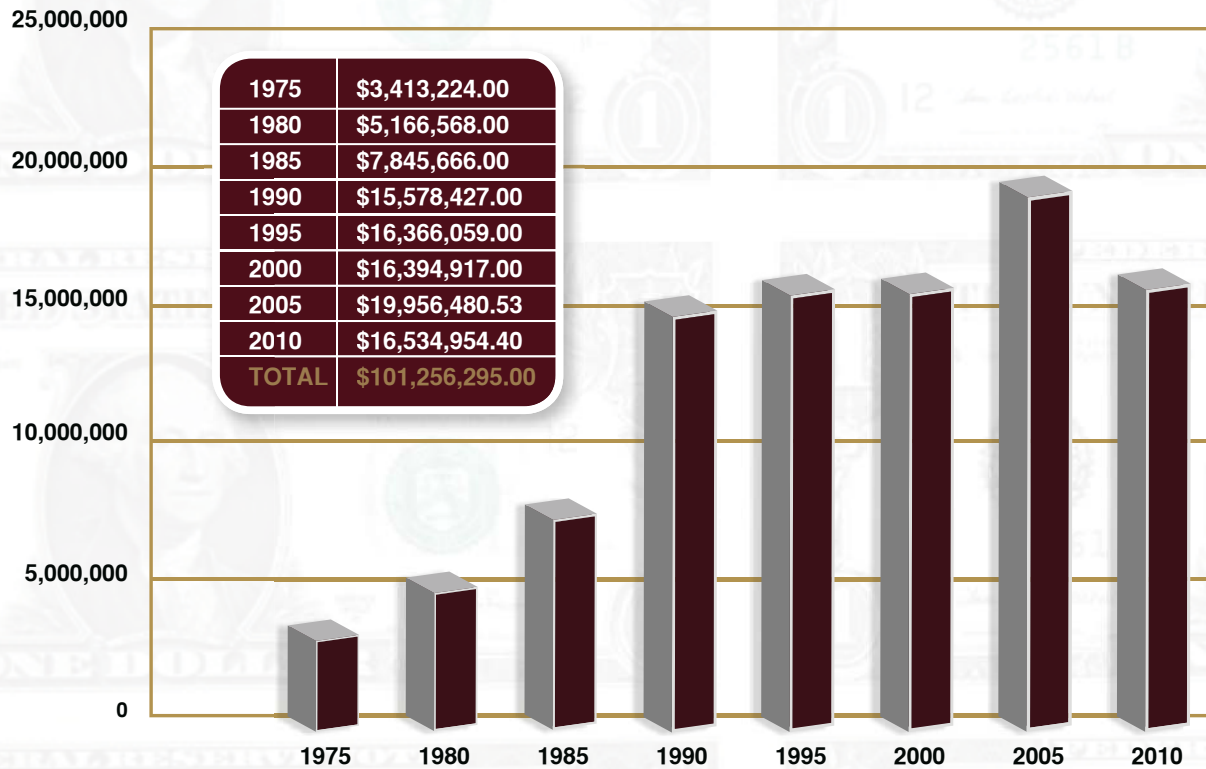
meted, while unemployment has soared. During the last five-year period, through Planned Giving and Trust Services of the Florida Conference, \$3,533,600 benefited the Florida Conference directly. In addition, local churches in the Florida Conference received \$2,110,959, and other Seventh-day Adventist entities received \$1,207,492.

## Expanding and Passing on Christian Influence and Values

"When a man [or woman] dies, his [or her] influence does not die with him [or her]; but it lives on, reproducing itself," *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 429. While the financial benefits of planned giving and trust services



## SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE TRUST INCOME & MATURITIES DECLARED IN FIVE-YEAR INTERVALS



are important, the most important object is to help members pass on their values. The last two years has seen a re-emphasis on this



in the Southern Union. Stories of members within the Southern Union are featured in the *Southern Tidings* as well as on the website. The General Conference June 2010 issue of the *Southern Tidings* featured stories from each conference and the two universities. Below are two brief stories involving faithful Southern Union members who have died during this quinquennium.

The late **Desmond Doss** is remembered for his legendary heroism during World War II when he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He left much of his humble estate, including his life story, to those who meant the most to him — God, his Church, his family, his country, and his fellowman. His values are preserved in the

values he left behind.

The late **Gladys and Silas McClamb** served the Adventist Church for more than 40 years. After his retirement as publishing director, they made a revocable trust that passed on their values in the training of new literature evangelists. They both died in their 90's with Elder McClamb dying at 99, but their values live on.



### Southern Union Responsibility for Trust Services Management

By policy, the Southern Union normally serves as trustee for Charitable Remainder Unitrusts and Annuity Trusts. This means that the conferences and institutions within the Southern Union are usually the remainder beneficiaries, with the donors usually being the life beneficiaries.

Being trustee is a demanding responsibility. With the limited staff at the Southern Union, it has been necessary to partner with a specialized entity to ensure that fiduciary duties are carried out. The Southern Union has chosen to link up with Western Adventist Foundation in fulfilling its duties. This still means that adequate files and oversight remain with the Southern Union. This process is under the Southern Union treasury with the Association board, and the trust services director and

the Association treasury all working together to make sure the trustee responsibility is faithfully fulfilled. Millions of dollars have matured to benefit the Lord's work through these trusts this past quinquennium.

### Planned Giving and Trust Services Personnel

As the quinquennium began, Tom Kapusta was serving as the Southern Union planned giving and trust services director; Jose LeGrand then served for three years; and Tom Carter has served since October of 2009. Cheryl Hubbard is serving as administrative assistant. Each conference and university within the Southern Union also has their planned giving and trust services directors with their support staff.

The North American Division has mandated standards for certification of all planned giving

and trust services personnel. It also mandates standards for each organization operating a trust services program. One of the requirements is the continuing education of all personnel. The Southern Union Planned Giving and Trust Services Department is assigned to coordinate this vital process, including a yearly combined seminar.

Planned giving and trust services is designed to benefit every area of the work of the Church, and thereby to fulfill the counsel given in *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 7, page 174: "Let every department of our work, every institution connected with our cause, be conducted on considerate, generous lines. Let every branch of the work, while maintaining its own distinctive character, seek to protect, strengthen, and build up every other branch."



*Southern Union planned giving and trust services directors: David Long (front row, left), Southeastern Conference; Carolyn Liers, Southern Adventist University; Jose LeGrand, Florida Conference; Lin Powell, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; Tom Carter, Southern Union; Mitch Hazekamp (back row, left), Georgia-Cumberland Conference; Michael Harpe, South Central Conference; Fred Pullins, Oakwood University; Lawrence Hamilton, South Atlantic Conference; Ken Ford, Carolina Conference; and Rick Hutchinson, Gulf States Conference*

# EVANGELISM CHURCH GROWTH INSTITUTE



*Ralph Ringer, director*

## Ministerial Evangelistic Training

Southern Union Adventist University Field Schools in public evangelism have made a dynamic change.

All theology students hold their own series of meetings. A central meeting is held by an experienced evangelist. The students conduct meetings in the surrounding churches four nights a week, and they attend evangelistic preparation classes two or three days weekly. One night a week they attend the main evangelistic meeting to observe and assist. The students also assist with the baptisms.

## Lay Evangelism Training

Boot camps for lay evangelism are held to train lay evangelists and those who assist them. Individuals are trained how to get involved in the community in various ways that help boost attendance at the meetings and make kingdom friends. The lay evangelists learn how to organize and conduct the meetings

using computer graphics and scripts by Share-Him. They also learn how to disciple the new members and interests as a part of nurturing follow-up. These meetings can be held in churches, classrooms, fellowship halls, schools, homes, apartment building meeting rooms, store fronts, community rooms, tents, or anywhere people can be gathered. The gospel commission says that we

should GO to where the people are. They are trained to preach to audiences that number from five to 500.

We show evangelists how to conduct low-budget meetings by using intercessory prayer, prayer ministries, and prayer countdown to reach communities.

## Elder's Training

Lay pastoral assistant training and elder's certification training are organized into four areas — elder's administration/pastoral duties, visitation, preaching, and personal evangelism — in more than 40 hours of class work. In cooperation with the pastor and the church, the on-the-job application of their training is applied in the local church.

## Jewish Ministries

The Shalom Learning Center trains individuals to reach the Jewish community and their friends. There is a building for Jewish ministries training in Hollywood, Florida, but we also have the mobile Shalom Learning Center that will come to areas where individuals desire to start a Jewish work. We now have five Jewish Adventist congregations in the Southern Union, 21 in the North American Division and 33 worldwide.

## Southern Union Evangelism Council

The Southern Union Evangelism Council is for full-time evangelists, pastor/evangelists, and lay evangelists. The purpose of the evangelism council is to inspire, train, and give the evangelists time to relax and network.

## Church Growth

Weekend seminars are held in local churches to help them grow. The pastor and members are challenged to practice the practical ways learned to grow their church: making the church service evangelistic, community prayer ministries, friendship evangelism, community outreach programs, and applying the cycle of evangelism.



*Ben Crerar, student evangelist, in Jupiter, Florida. The field school was held from May 13 until June 18, 2011, in West Palm Beach, Florida.*

# EVANGELISM



*Dennis and Jacquelyn Ross, director and associate*

This quinquennium was historical in nature. During the past five years, the Southern Union Conference baptized more individuals than at any other time in its history. To God be the glory!

## **Preparation for Service**

During this five-year period, the eight conferences had visions of a more active soul-winning participation in their territory. The sense of urgency was felt and the task was begun with much heartfelt prayer. The conferences began to have prayer summits, and days of prayer and fasting. Each conference put more emphasis on having a prayer coordinator, understanding that more is wrought through prayer than working without the power of the Holy Spirit. As we sought to win souls, the preparation was being sought through prayer.

## **Good News Atlanta**

Our visionary leader, Gordon Retzer, wanted to see the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences come together to make

a huge impact on the city of Atlanta, Georgia, for the Kingdom of God. Months of planning went into this mighty endeavor. Both presidents and selected leaders from each conference came together for prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and at the conclusion, more than 1,000 people were baptized.

## **Unprecedented Participation in Evangelism**

The Southern Union Committee set several goals at the beginning of the quinquennium. One of them was to involve the laity in preaching and winning souls to the kingdom of God. Having set this ambitious goal, the example was set from the Union committee, as nine persons, with many different professions, committed to a mission trip for three weeks in San Salvador. In addition, there were six Union staff, five ASI members, and eight students from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences. All of the above were novice in the art of the “pulpit-preaching ministry.” Only one professional evangelist and his wife were in the group. The team



*Carol Hollie-Tsede, administrative assistant*

was so blessed that 1,694 individuals came to Jesus from the willingness of laymen answering the call of service through public evangelism. The team from the Union office came back so highly charged that they have continued to preach whenever an opportunity is extended, and many are still being won. The president, executive secretary, treasurer, undertreasurer, associate treasurer, and human resources director; administrative assistants; and directors and associates from trust services, education, publishing, communication, stewardship, and religious liberty went out blazing the evangelistic trail. They are still on fire for Jesus. In our conferences from Florida, all the way up the east coast to North Carolina, our conference leadership has done a work unprecedented in the area of soul-winning. The days in which we live, demand that we all put our hands to the Gospel plow.

#### Year of Evangelism

In 2009, we celebrated the “Year of Evangelism,” and what a year it was. One of the goals was to increase church membership by 10 percent. The eight conferences in the Union came up with their own additional visions:

**Baptisms/Professions of Faith for the quinquennium (including last quarter of 2006 and first quarter of 2011): 44,102**

**Baptisms/Professions of Faith for 2009 Year of Evangelism: 11,066**

**Carolina Conference** – that every church district hold at least two evangelistic events.

**Florida Conference** – to make each member a disciple and each church a discipleship center of evangelism and training; also, to involve each department in the conference in evangelism in 2009.

**Georgia-Cumberland Conference** – that every church have a culture of evangelism — not a special event, but rather the life-blood of the churches in the conference.

**Gulf States Conference** – for every pastor, together with his leadership team, to conduct at least one ShareHim evangelistic series of meetings with a church member as the speaker.

**Kentucky-Tennessee Conference** – to ask God in faith to give them triple the amount in baptisms that they have baptized before.

**South Atlantic Conference** – to create an evangelistic process that has already begun, and build it to a rising crescendo leading up to the 2010 General Conference and beyond.

**South Central** – to seek a more prayerful approach, coupled with seed sowing, and harvesting; and to get all of the officers, conference workers, and pastors and their churches praying for the Holy Spirit, infusing all with the power and passion for soul-winning.

**Southeastern Conference** – to saturate the pulpits and the churches with evangelism, conducting large city-wide meetings throughout the territory.

The fact that more souls were baptized, mentored, and cared for than ever before is not by chance. House meetings, cottage meetings, tent meetings, hall meetings, church meetings, one-on-one

encounters, block parties, needs of community action plans, and young people and older people did the work, yet there is much to be done. God’s people prayed and fasted and worked hard, and the results spoke.

As we are ending this quinquennium, we are challenged as never before to keep the fires of evangelism burning brightly in our hearts, and in the hearts of all of our conferences. Tornadoes, floods, hail storms, and earthquakes such as we have not seen before are happening before our very eyes. These signs are telling us of Jesus’ soon return to take us home. We must keep the fires burning throughout the Southern Union, as we face a new quinquennium.

Give us a watchword for the hour, a thrilling word, a word of power;

A battle cry, a flaming breath, a call to conquest or to death;

A word to rouse the church from rest, to heed the Master’s high behest.

The call is given, ye hosts arise, the watchword is EVANGELIZE!

To fallen men, a dying race, make known the gift of gospel grace.

The world that now in darkness lies, O CHURCH OF CHRIST, EVANGELIZE!!!

--Author Unknown

# MINISTERIAL



*Dennis and Jacquelyn Ross, director and associate*

For the past five years, the Ministerial Department of the Southern Union has been focused on the pastor and his family.

The development and growth of the pastor's spiritual, intellectual, and financial needs have been targeted. The challenge of the pastor to weekly be ready to feed the people of God from the Word of God can be accomplished only if the pastor's own heart is fed, through personal devotion and study. This has been an important emphasis of the Ministerial Department through conferences and retreats.

Once every five years, the Ministerial Department has a Ministerium which brings the pastors and their families together for several days of meaningful seminars, spirit-filled worship experiences, wonderful children's meetings, power hours for ministers' wives, prayer-room time, divine mini-concerts, and a host of vendors with a wide

variety of resources for the entire family. The fellowship is unbelievable, and the food, delectable. In 2008, we were host to more than 2,000 pastors and their families. The department is praying and planning now for the next Ministerium to take place in 2013.

The pastor's intellectual growth in the Southern Union has been greatly enhanced through our seminary at Andrews University's In-Ministry Program. It is a program that gives the pastor opportunity to receive the master's degree and doctor's degree without leaving his field of ministry; the seminary brings the classes to the Southern Union territory. Hundreds of our pastors have taken advantage of this program and received advanced degrees through the help of the Southern Union administration.

Cheryl Retzer suggested that we find out about a very important segment of our ministerial team

here in the Southern Union: the females that are doing ministry as pastors. We learned that there are 12, and we are making efforts to be encouragers to them and their spouses. Because they bring a special and valuable perspective to ministry, we are seeking to enhance their work in building the kingdom of God.

Another main focus in the department is that of connecting with our older preachers' kids. It has been an absolute joy to share cards of love with them and to hear from them. They are helping us to learn more about the work of Jesus.

This report would not be complete without mentioning our brother and colleague, the late Oliver J. McKinney Jr., who served as ministerial secretary for many years, and now rest from his labors until the Life Giver calls him from his sleep for a "job well done." Our hearts and prayers are with his wife and family.

As the Ministerial Department begins a new quinquennium, with new challenges and new leadership, we solicit your prayers and support.



*Carol Hollie-Tsede, administrative assistant*



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# CHURCH MINISTRIES

Church Ministries - Adventist Chaplaincy - ASI - Family  
Children's Ministries - Prayer Ministries - Stewardship - Youth



*Allan Williamson, director*

The Church Ministries Department includes every age group from children to adults. Service and leadership are given to the following ministries: youth, young adults, Adventist Christian Fellowship, children's and family ministries, Vacation Bible School, Pathfinders, Adventurers, camping, personal ministries, Sabbath School, stewardship, and Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response.



## **Pathfinders**

The Pathfinder organization continues to grow under the dedicated leadership of volunteer staff. Adventurer ministry for children, which began in the Southern Union, continues

to grow and be a blessing to families and churches. Quality resource materials and leadership seminars have helped develop strong leaders in these ministries.

"Called to Serve" was the theme of the Southern Union Pathfinder camporee held at Camp Kulaqua in 2007. More than 5,600 were in attendance during the week, and on Sabbath that number topped 6,100. This was the largest Union Pathfinder camporee ever held in North America. On Sabbath afternoon a baptism was held, and 23 Pathfinders dedicated their lives to Jesus and His Church.

More than 6,500 Pathfinders from the Southern Union attended the "Courage to Stand" International Pathfinder Camporee, August 11-15, 2009, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The Southern Union had the largest attendance of Pathfinders camping at the EAA Airventure Campground. Our Pathfinders had the privilege of singing, worshiping, and making new friends every day with believers from around the world, and enjoying many activities.

On Sabbath afternoon a beautiful baptism was held in two



*Alicia Zinner, administrative assistant*



large swimming pools where 518 Pathfinders were baptized. One of the Pathfinders from Southern Union said, "I want to be baptized because I want to make it official. I want to show that Jesus Christ is my Savior, and that I am willing to do anything for Him."

Proverbs 3:6 describes the commitment of Pathfinders: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

### Youth

Youth and Young Adult Ministries continue to be a priority in the Southern Union. University commitment weekends are held each year at Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University. During this weekend, students make a spiritual commitment to be involved in some type of service.

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) became the official public campus ministry "umbrella organization" of the North American Division in 2005. ACF organizations are found on college and university campuses throughout the Southern

Union territory.

Our summer youth camps are evangelism in action. That is really what our Adventurer, junior, and teen camp ministry is all about — leading boys and girls to Jesus Christ. High school and college students serve as counselors and instructors at our youth camps. They also serve as big brothers and big sisters in being friends to the campers and modeling a Christian lifestyle. Hundreds of baptisms take place at our summer camps each year. Our year-round camp ministry continues to



serve the local church by hosting retreats, seminars, and leadership conventions.

Many of our youth, Pathfinder,



and family leaders attended the first-ever North American Division (NAD) “Just Claim It” Prayer Congress in Dallas, Texas, in 2007. They also attended the NAD “Just Claim It2” Prayer Congress in Columbus, Ohio, in 2010. They attended leadership seminars that helped to develop their knowledge and skills in ministry.

Spiritual commitment and student leadership training is a very important part of our Southern Union Academy Bible/Leadership conferences, which are held each year.

Students get excited about attending Southern Union Academy Youth Prayer Conference held each year. The reason is that Prayer Conference is a rich spiritual experience for them. Decisions for Christ and baptisms are made each year.



### Family Ministries

Strengthening families in our churches, schools, and communities is very important to family ministries. “From This Day Forward,” a one-day celebration of marriage commitment to reconnect, re-energize, and recommit has been held throughout the Southern Union. Leadership seminars help develop the knowledge and skills needed in family ministries.

### Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response

Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response provide services to disaster victims, their families, and communities. When disaster strikes, local church and conference disaster coordinators evaluate the damage situation and then take appropriate action. If

needed, Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response manages warehouse operations where donated goods are stored and organized for distribution. Disaster response training helps our leaders to be better prepared to serve when disaster strikes. The Southern Union has established a disaster response call center with a toll-free number that will only be activated in case of a major disaster.



*In September 2008, students from Bass Memorial Academy in Lumberton, Mississippi, assisted Hurricane Ike victims in Bridge City, Texas.*

### Medical/Dental

The medical/dental family of physicians, dentists, and optometrists has grown year after year until today there are approximately 2,000 members in our Union.

The Medical/Dental Council, along with its counterparts from the conferences, has accepted the mission of recruiting new physicians, dentists, and optometrists to come to the Southern Union.

The Southern Union Conference biennial medical/dental retreat provides continuing education credits, spiritual enrichment, and Christian fellowship for physicians, dentists, and optometrists.

One of the highlights of the past medical/dental retreat was the attendance of eight pre-medical/dental students from Southern Adventist University who attended the retreat. These students spent

time interacting with medical/dental professionals, and getting mentored on a personal level. Mentors shared knowledge and advice on what it is like practicing as a professional, and how their faith relates to their work.

The Southern Union believes that medical/dental professionals strengthen the Union; help build stronger communities, schools, and churches; and provide excellent leadership in the local church. Thank you, medical/dental professionals, for making a difference in the Southern Union territory. Together, with our dedicated members, we reach out to share with others the good news that Jesus is coming again.

### Health

Whether or not healthy living comes easy to you, science has shown that a healthier lifestyle can ward off many common illnesses. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long-supported a healthy lifestyle, and in recognition of the Bible passage that identifies our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Health Ministries Department in the Southern Union Conference believes that maintaining a healthy lifestyle will help a person reach their full potential in all aspects of life: mentally, physically, and spiritually.

To help a person live healthier, the Southern Union Conference Health Ministries Department provides support and consultation to conferences, health

ministries personnel, and programs in the Southern Union.

InStep for Life began in 2008, and is a new walking program designed to motivate and encourage a healthier lifestyle. For most people, walking is the simplest, most convenient, and least expensive way to be physically active. You can walk almost anywhere at any time. This new program has been welcomed with enthusiasm and increased physical activity by our Church members.

During the last quinquennium, two Southern Union Health Professionals' Retreats have been held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This retreat provides continuing health education for nurses, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA's), physical therapists, respiratory therapists, pastors, and health ministries directors in the local churches.



*Les Rilea, Southern Union chaplaincy director*

The Southern Union is also the co-sponsor of the Health Careers Fair at Southern Adventist University each year.

Remember the counsel given in the Holy Scriptures to each of us: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth," 3 John 2.



*Adventist Chaplain William (Whiz) Broome presents a flag to the mother of a friend at Arlington National Cemetery.*

### Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Chaplains are ministers who serve in institutional settings of hospitals, campuses, and prisons, as well as in the military and community assignments. Our department at the North American Division (NAD) provides endorsement for those who meet the requirements of pastoral experience, a ministerial license/credential, and appropriate education. Ministers who desire to serve as chaplains receive guidance from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) as they prepare for endorsement.

We are fortunate to have around 120 chaplains serving in the Southern Union territory at the present time, and it is our privilege to visit them and provide encouragement and support, as well as to assist them in maintaining a close relationship with our office at the NAD. Many of our chaplains are in situations where there are no other Adventists serving with them or even the presence of other Adventist ministers to fellowship with. We are also involved in assisting pastors who want to be chaplains as we help guide them in the process of preparing for endorsement.

Seventh-day Adventist chap-



*Les Rilea discusses military issues with academy students.*



*Chaplains from around the world attended the First Adventist Chaplains World Summit.*

lains from 22 nations helped make history as nearly 300 people participated in the First Adventist Chaplains World Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. The summit was held from June 22-27, 2010, allowing for them to participate in the first weekend of the General Conference session. For three days chaplains received encouragement, witnessed speakers being willing to share their vulnerabilities in ministry and personal life, and were challenged to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world that knows so little of the Christ who offers grace and hope.

Every chaplain hired in the public arena represents a free Adventist clergy person and witness that otherwise would not have a job. The presence of the Church in that place would be missing.

When the average cost of fielding one pastor on denominational pay is multiplied by the number of chaplains paid from non-Church funds, the savings comes to approximately \$27,600,000 per year (NAD only) in tithe dollars.

### **National Service Organization (NSO)**

NSO is the military relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is a chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Spiritual support and guidance

are provided to Adventist military personnel and also to those anticipating military service. Because of Sabbath concerns and issues relating to the bearing of arms, the Church strongly counsels its members to consider the possible conflicts of conscience in these and other areas, and discourages voluntary enlistment. The military states that they will endeavor to accommodate a person's request to observe their religious faith, but commanders have the last word and it is determined on the basis of military necessity. The facts are that Saturday is routinely a day like any other day and everyone, other than chaplains, receives combat weapons training.

Because of the complexity of these and other issues, it is important that our youth have information to help guide them before they make a decision that can place them in conflict with military regulations. Having taken the oath of enlistment, they are bound by law to obey orders or suffer the consequences of serious discipline. In addition to visiting our academies and colleges to provide this information to our youth, effort is made to be present at Bible conferences, youth rallies/congresses, conventions, camp meetings, and workers'

meetings to give this assistance for those not in our Adventist schools. A very helpful DVD called "Reality" has been produced by ACM, and it discusses these issues in detail. It is available free of charge from your conference NSO/Youth Department or from the ACM office; call 301-680-6782 or email [acm@gc.adventist.org](mailto:acm@gc.adventist.org).

For individuals who do decide to enlist, local churches can give them spiritual support by providing them with a Military Bible Kit before they leave for the service. This can be obtained from the conference NSO/Youth Department for a few dollars, and it contains a Bible, devotional material, and other helpful items to help keep them close to the Church. There is also information to request free Adventist literature of their choice while they are in the service.

For further information on chaplaincy and military issues, visit [www.nad.adventistchaplains.org](http://www.nad.adventistchaplains.org).

### **Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries Southern Union Chapter** *By Calvin Thrash, president*

The Southern Union Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) is composed of 233 individuals in business and lay ministry whose passion is to share Christ in the marketplace. Southern Union treasurer Randy Robinson currently holds the position of interim executive secretary/treasurer, and has done so since the untimely death of Oliver J. McKinney this past February.

During the past five years, the members of ASI have been active in occupations from construction and agriculture to healthcare and food distribution. Many have seized

on opportunities to give Bible studies, go on mission trips, and preach in lay evangelistic efforts. Others continue to find unique ways of witnessing for Jesus in their ministry and places of business, and each year up to \$100,000 is raised for mission projects that member organizations might otherwise have trouble funding. Our 2011 offering recipients include the following organizations:

**Haiti Helpers** organization has taken teams of people to Haiti over 25 times in the last 10 years for evangelism, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and agriculture among other projects. Most recently, Haiti Helpers provided shelter for widows and their children who were victims of the 2010 earthquake.

**South East Youth Conference (SEYC)** is an official regional chapter of Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC). Their focus is to train, equip, and inspire young people in active evangelism while maintaining a life of integrity and biblical spirituality.

**3Angel'sTube, Inc.** is YouTube for Seventh-day Adventists. Since its inception in 2009, this organization has witnessed a growing need for sharing the Gospel via the Internet. Their phenomenal growth was multiplied after streaming live the acceptance sermon of newly elected General Conference president, Ted Wilson, during the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Columbia Mission Project** ministers to orphaned children in Columbia, South America. The organization plans to provide scholastic, evangelistic, and Sabbath School materials which would



illustrate Bible stories to more than 17,450 children in 600 churches.

We thank our officers, members, supporters, and conference representatives who are of the conviction that they have a part to play in spreading the Good News of Jesus' second coming. Due to their tireless efforts, energy, vision, and support, our chapter is the largest, most active of all ASI chapters. To learn more about ASI, please contact our administrative personnel at the Southern Union Conference, P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031; call 404-299-1832, x449; or visit our website at [www.asisouthernunion.org](http://www.asisouthernunion.org).

*Calvin Thrash is president of ASI Southern Union Chapter.*

### Children's Ministries

*By Kathy Russell*

When God spoke His commandments through Moses to the children of Israel, He took time to emphasize the importance of teaching them to our children (Deuteronomy 4:9, 10; 6:5-9 and 11:18-21). The reason for this was "so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,

and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands," Psalm 78:6, 7, NIV. And so they would have long life: Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 11:21. God reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6. He wants His children to know Him and experience His blessings. He knows how important it is that we work with children while they are impressionable. This quote on a church bulletin board seems to mirror that thought: "It is better to build children, than to repair men."

With this in mind, the Southern Union Children's Ministries Department, in cooperation with the North American Division (NAD) Children's Ministries Department, has played an important role in the ministry of local conferences by helping with training events and by sending resource materials. The Southern Union and NAD Children's Ministries Departments have provided guidance, support, and funding for training events for children's ministries leaders in the

areas of Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, and other relevant children's ministries topics. Yearly Departmental Council Meetings have afforded the opportunity for speakers and resources to be shared with the local conference children's ministries directors.

During this quinquennium, four "Go Fish" children's ministries training conventions have been held in the Southern Union. Two were in Georgia-Cumberland Conference, at Cohutta Springs Camp in 2009, and in 2011 when a Hispanic track was provided with Spanish-speaking presenters; and two in the Florida Conference, in 2009 at Orlando's Florida Hospital, and 2010 at Camp Kulaqua, which featured training for Spanish-speaking leaders. These "Go Fish" conventions and other training events have provided opportunities for children's ministries leaders to receive basic and advanced certification through the NAD Children's Ministries Department.

In addition to training children's ministries leaders, the South Union Children's Ministries Department has had a direct impact on children by providing children's Sabbath School classes at medical/dental and health professionals' conferences, and by encouraging children to actively participate in their church programs by serving as ushers, deacons and deaconesses; providing music, scripture readings, and prayer; and by speaking at church services and at children's church. A Children's Ministries Prayer Summit was developed in

the South Atlantic Conference and funded through the Southern Union to help teachers, parents, and children learn about prayer. This seminar has been shared in other local Southern Union conferences with positive response. The local conferences have been blessed to receive the resources and training that they have been given through the generous support of the Southern Union Children's Ministries Department.

#### **Tribute to Elder Oliver J. McKinney Jr.**

In memorial tribute to the late Oliver J. McKinney Jr., who was the Southern Union director for children's ministries, John Swafford, director for children's ministries at the Georgia-Cumberland Confer-

ence, spoke of McKinney as someone who "took a personal interest in each of us (children's ministries leaders) and our families. He was a man of prayer." One time, McKinney said to Swafford, "Children's ministries is not my specialty, but I have some funding and I want to help." Swafford says that McKinney's phone conferences were upbeat and positive, he had a balanced attitude toward racial/ethnic issues, and "encouraged us by providing speakers and helping with funding for training events each year. He always came to every convention, though sometimes only for a short time."

Kathy Russell, Carolina Conference children's ministries director, once observed McKinney running



*Gordon Retzer, Ruthie Jacobsen, and the late Oliver J. McKinney were honored during South Central Conference's Prayer Summit. Pictured are Ruthie Jacobsen (left); Don Jacobsen; Dennis Smith, pastor; Anthony McKinney (standing in for his father); Dana Edmond, South Central president; Jill Edmond; Cheryl Retzer; Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president; Elaine Rugless; Roy Rugless, South Central prayer ministries director; Janice Browne; and Benjamin Browne, former South Central president.*

between two different retreats in different locations in one weekend. She says, “He was definitely a man who didn’t just speak of his support, he showed it.”

Oscar Sherrod, director of children’s ministries for the South Atlantic Conference, spoke with regard to the Children’s Ministries Prayer Summit: “We appreciated Elder McKinney’s support in assisting us financially and being there.”

Speaking on behalf of the local conferences, we will all miss Oliver J. McKinney Jr., a godly gentleman who supported children’s ministries not only with funding and resources, but with his supportive prayers and presence.

*Kathy Russell is Carolina Conference children’s ministries director.*

### **Prayer Ministries**

*By Roy Rugless*

It was a chain reaction. It started from the top and trickled down. What I am talking about is the advancement of prayer ministries in the Southern Union. Before I tell you how it trickled, allow me

to give you a brief review of prayer ministries.

There is no doubt in anyone’s mind about the importance of prayer. The servant of the Lord calls it the “breath of the soul.” It is our lifeline to our heavenly Father, a vital connection which without we cannot be saved. It is one of the prongs that aides our spirituality. There are three aspects to prayer ministries: prayer, Bible study, and witnessing. This combination helps one to grow in Christ, to be prepared for the second coming, and to help others to get ready. Prayer ministries helps the Church to do the work of God.

Ruthie Jacobsen, director of prayer ministries for the North American Division, has had a burden and vision for prayer ministries to reach our churches. She realized that in order for that to happen, it needed to start at the top. She spoke to Division leaders and union presidents about the necessity of prayer ministries, and encouraged the leadership to begin prayer ministries in their Confer-

ences. Gordon Retzer, president of the Southern Union, heeded the call and put in place the Prayer Ministries Department in 2005. He asked the late Oliver J. McKinney to be the director of that department. At the same time, he asked the local conference directors within the Southern Union to appoint prayer coordinators within their conferences as well. Some conferences already had prayer coordinators and were having prayer summits, but not all. Retzer then took it one step further and asked the local conferences to hold joint cultural prayer summits — regional and state conferences to come together to pray.

History was made, for this was the first time that cultures within the Southern Union came together to pray Union-wide at the same time in the same place. In 2006, all eight conferences held joint cultural prayer summits in different places within the Union, and state and regional churches came together for prayer during the same time when the summits were being held. The

Southern Union supplied the financial resources, and Elder McKinney helped to organize the Union events along with the conference coordinators. It was a tremendous success. Hearts and tears were blended together, walls were broken down, the Holy Spirit was present, and Christ’s prayer for unity in John 17 was experienced.

Since then, the Southern Union Prayer Ministries Department has held workshops for the local conference prayer coordinators, and those prayer coordinators have held workshops and weekend prayer emphasis. The Southern Union



Prayer Ministries Department has encouraged the local conferences to continue having prayer summits, especially the cultural exchange. The South Central and Gulf States conferences conducted another one in 2007, and will do it again this year. Two goals of the Southern Union Prayer Ministries Department are to bring God's people together through prayer, and to turn our churches into houses of prayer.

Special tribute is given to Gordon Retzer who had the heart to listen to God, and the late Oliver J. McKinney who had the passion to carry out God's will. We appreciate the contribution that they have made to prayer ministries within the Southern Union. The South Central Conference honored them and Ruthie Jacobsen at their annual prayer summit which was inspired by these three.

May the spark that they started fan into a flame that finishes the work in us and in this Union. May the Lord bless them all.

*Roy Rugless is South Central Conference prayer ministries director.*

## Stewardship

*By David Long*

The Stewardship Department is more than just another department of the Church. Stewardship actually represents who we are as individuals. The reason this department is so crucial is because in 2 Corinthians 5:10, it says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad."

The Stewardship Department warns those who are unaware that all will be held accountable for their days on this planet. It encourages those who are believers to exhibit integrity in every area of their lives and to "increase in wisdom

and stature, and in favor with God and man," Luke 2:52. Solomon, the wisest king of Israel and of all time wrote, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest," Ecclesiastes 9:10.

In an effort to edify the members as Paul admonishes, the stewardship directors of each conference preach sermons regarding God's grace, which is able to make all abound in every good work. Seminars and educational materials are also presented in order to give practical and hands-on training for the purpose of integrating stewardship principles into daily living.

Stewardship is much more than money. In fact, money is just a byproduct. The main goal of the Stewardship Department is to engender love — to increase love for God and to strengthen love for our fellowman. Ellen White wrote, "Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in Heaven and Earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation," *Christian Service*, page 197.

*David Long is Southeastern Conference stewardship director.*

## Tribute to Elder Oliver J. McKinney Jr.

For more than 50 years, Elder Oliver J. McKinney Jr. lovingly and faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He began his Church ministry as a literature evangelist, serving as pastor and administrator along the way. A 30-year employee of the Southern

Union Conference, Elder McKinney held the distinction of serving as the Union's first African-American ministerial director. For the past five years, he served as director of prayer ministries, children's ministries, and stewardship, and also served as executive secretary/treasurer of ASI Southern Union Chapter for the last four years.

Elder McKinney died in his sleep on February 24, 2011, following a brief period of illness. He wore many hats and was known as a "Jack of all trades." McKinney supported the ministry of the Church in tangible, meaningful ways, and made himself accessible to constituents and colleagues alike. Whether it was changing a tire, tinkering under the hood of a vehicle, or paying a visit to someone in the hospital, his help was always needed, and this servant of God and a friend to man was always just one phone call away.

Until his death, Elder McKinney remained a faithful leader, statesman, and consummate diplomat. He did all he could, in as many ways as he could, for as many as he could. We look forward to that great reunion day when we will meet him in the sky, and there shall we ever be with our Lord. While we work, wait, and reflect on McKinney's life, we are reminded and comforted by these words penned by John the Revelator, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them," Revelation 14:13.

*This tribute was humbly submitted on behalf of Elder Oliver J. McKinney Jr., by his administrative assistant, Carol Hollie-Tsede.*





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# OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION



*Nathan Zinner (left), assistant to the director of communication/Southern Tidings advertising manager; R. Steven Norman III, communication director/Southern Tidings editor; Irisene Douce, Southern Tidings editorial assistant/production manager; and Bobbie Millburn, Southern Tidings circulation manager, serve as the Southern Union communication team.*

God is to be praised for His goodness! Four-and-one-half-years ago, I was called to



*Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer*

the Southern Union Office of Communication. I continue to appreciate my immediate predecessors Ron Quick and Olson Perry, who enabled a smooth transition.

Samuel S. Snow once remarked we never have to fear when we turn our programs over to the Holy Spirit. These past five years have been filled with multiple displays of what can happen through God's Spirit.

### ***Southern Tidings***

July 2007 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of the *Southern Tidings*, which began as the *Report of Progress*: split into two papers, *The Southern*

*Worker* and the *Field Tidings* when the Union was divided; and then was renamed the *Southern Tidings* when the Union was reunited in 1932.

Since 2007, more than 100 years of the *Southern Tidings* have been available online at the General Conference Archives website. In 2008, we offered the *Tidings* via email, and with the January 2009 issue, we began to include a Spanish section.

In 2010, we moved from a centuries old linear approach in producing the magazine to a parallel, collaborative approach using K4. This reduces production time for each issue from an average of 17 days to 11 working days. K4 also positions us

to flow the *Tidings* in digital formats to all eight conferences and Hispanic websites, cell phones, iPads, and other mobile devices. Finally, it creates a much needed searchable database for all photos, articles, and video clips in the system.

During the past five years, our circulation has grown from 79,000 to nearly 105,000 in the months that the Spanish edition is published. Indeed, 2010 was the first year that our annual circulation exceeded one million!

Thanks to Bobbie Millburn, the church clerks, and each conference membership coordinator, whose diligent efforts with eAdventist manage the delivery of the *Tidings* to your homes.

Hats off to Irisene Douce, Nathan Zinner, Sheila Elwin, and Brian Wiehn and Brad Fisher of the College Press, and all the contributing editors, who write, edit, take pictures, design, and print the *Southern Tidings*. Together we share the news, history, and spirit of the Southern Union Adventist family.

### Internships and Mentoring

Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University have trained hundreds of communication, design, and broadcast majors. The Union is committed to helping these students obtain on-the-job experience and opportunities to use their skills within the Church. We foster a relationship with our students by sponsoring scores of students who desire to attend the yearly Society of Adventist Communicators convention, and by offering summer and two-year internships in the eight conferences, the Southern Union, and our universities. During this



*Lianna Carpenter loves catching up on the news in the Southern Tidings before dinner. Her favorite section is Carolina Conference news; her mom, Rebecca Carpenter, is Carolina associate communication director.*

quinquennium, more than one dozen students and graduates have served as summer interns and North American Division interns.

### Church Identification Program

Oscar Heinrich launched the church identification service in 1964. It is the only full-service church identification service within our denomination. Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer, secures permits, installs, and maintains the more than 1,500 signs in the Southern Union.

Recently, we began to offer yard signs to churches within the Southern Union territory. Signs are provided at near wholesale prices, with free installation, and free lifetime maintenance.

We have also launched a new website for the church identification service, where

churches and schools can select and purchase highway directional signs, yard signs, welcome mats, and other type of signs. For more details, visit [www.southernunion.com/signs](http://www.southernunion.com/signs).

### Other Services

We provide services to and foster the ministry of all departments of the Southern Union, the eight conferences, two universities, one college, and hospitals. Some of the new or updated things we have prepared:

- The Southern Union Crisis Management Guide
- An updated *Southern Tidings* Style Manual
- New Southern Union website
- A new Southern Union Trail of Adventism website with a printed guide to be published soon

# OFFICE OF EDUCATION



*Debra Fryson, director*



*W. Eugene Brewer, education specialist*



*Jim Ingersoll, secondary director*



*Diane Ruff, elementary director*



*Tamara Libonati, early childhood director*



*Gracie Culpepper, former registrar*



*Luberta Biggs, registrar*



*Currine Harris, administrative assistant*



*Raiza Fernandez, administrative assistant*



*Patricia Campbell, administrative assistant*



*Mariel Lombardi, administrative assistant*

## Pressing Toward the Mark of Our High Calling

The Psalmist declares, “Great is the Lord! How excellent is thy name in all the earth!” Psalm 145:3, 8:1. Because we serve a great and excellent God, throughout the 2006-2010 quinquennium, educators in the Southern Union have worked to accomplish the goals of the Adventist EDGE, the Southern Union’s implementation of the North American Division Journey to Excellence. To honor the God we serve, we press toward the mark of our high calling so that every school in the Southern Union will become a GREAT school, with GREAT teachers, who address all learners with a GREAT curriculum and with GREAT delivery of instruction.

The Southern Union is home to 90 early childhood centers and school-based pre-k programs, 158 elementary schools, 12 academies, one college, and two universities. During the 2006-2011 quinquennium, these birth-through- grade-12 centers and schools educated an average of 12,294 students annually. More than 1,200 teachers and administrators accepted the challenge of guiding students, both academically and spiritually. And, the Office of Education was responsible for providing administrative support to each of the eight conferences, assisting them in their education mission.

While space will not permit us to list all the wonderful things that have transpired during the past five years, in this report we share with you some snapshots of what GREAT edu-

cation looks like in centers and schools across the Union.

### God-centered

God-centered centers and schools integrate Seventh-day Adventists Christian principles with learning to anchor students in a relationship with God and prepare them for a joyful life of service.

#### • A Little Child Shall Lead

The God-centered nature of our Union’s early childhood education and care centers is evidenced by the testimonies program directors share on a regular basis. On one occasion a two-year-old little girl from a non-Adventist home was picked up from the center by her mom, buckled into her car seat, and was heading home quite happily. The mother, on the other hand, was not in such a contented mood. She’d lost her job, was going through a divorce, and felt like she was at the end of her rope. As the mother drove she cried and questioned aloud, “Why...?” “How...?” “What...?” The two-year-old heard her mother’s distress and began singing from the backseat, “He’s able, He’s able, I know He’s able, I know my Lord is able to carry me through,” a song she’d learned during worship time at Meadows Academy Child Care Center. The day after this drive home, the mother came to the director and related the occurrence. Again she cried, but this time with tears of appreciation and gratitude as she explained, “When I stopped to listen to what my daughter was singing, I felt an instant peace and hope that everything was going to work out okay, just like the

words of the song said: ‘I know my Lord is able to carry me through.’” With that she thanked the director sincerely for teaching her daughter about Jesus.

At another center, a four-year-old child shared with her parents what she’d learned at school each day, including the Bible stories her teacher told. Within the year, the father was baptized and the mother is currently taking Bible studies.

#### • Service/Outreach Activities

One Christmas, students at Silver Creek Adventist School chose to forgo a party where they exchanged gifts, and instead hosted a party for homeless children in their community. The money they would have spent on one another they used to purchase Bibles and other gifts for their guests.

Eighth- and 12th-grade students in many Southern Union schools, rather than plan an end-of-the-year class trip to relax, unwind, and celebrate the accomplishment of a major milestone, plan mission trips at home and abroad where they can serve others by building churches and schools.

Students at Appalachian Christian Academy, a small one-teacher school, held yard sales, read-a-thons, and many other projects during a two-year period to raise more than \$32,000 to help build an elementary school at the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho.

#### • Bible Study and Prayer

Bass Memorial Academy has involved their students in extensive Bible marking classes, giving Bible studies, weekly prayer meetings, Generation



of Youth for Christ conference on campus among other God-centered activities that have brought about an unprecedented spiritual awakening on campus.

Coble Elementary students participated in the Partners in Prayer Program. Each student had a Georgia-Cumberland Academy student and a Calhoun Church member teamed up with them in prayer. Coble students prayed for their partners daily, and in turn the partners prayed for them, and at least once each quarter they contacted each other. The valuable lesson learned: prayer changes things!

#### Results-oriented

Excellence is not a single accomplishment or a one-time event; it is a continuous cycle that pervades the classroom, the school, and the entire system. Regular examination of all aspects of the educational program must occur to determine if a quality product has been produced and if goals have been accomplished. Highlights below offer a glimpse of measures used to determine if desired results have been achieved.

- **CognitiveGenesis Research**

CognitiveGenesis is a longitudinal study to assess Adventist academics. From 2006 to 2010, test scores measuring both achievement and ability were analyzed for 51,706 elementary and secondary students. In each subject category, students attending Adventist schools scored higher than the national average. They also scored higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability

— a factor few other schools measure. One of the most dramatic findings is that students who transferred to Adventist schools saw a marked improvement in academic achievement. The more years a student attended an Adventist school, the more his or her performance improved. (Elisa Kiddo, “For Real Education Reform, Take a Cue From the Adventists,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, [www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/1115](http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/1115), November 15, 2010.)

- **Writing Assessment Program**

In preparation for transition from elementary to high school, the Southern Union elementary division adopted the Writing Assessment Program (WrAP), a criterion reference assessment that identifies student strengths and weaknesses in writing. WrAP is aligned with the six traits of writing and the new Pathways curriculum. An additional component of the WrAP assessment provides opportunity



for students to go online and participate in sample practice writing activities whenever they choose, with immediate assessment results. As a result of our focus to improve student writing, students are now becoming published writers.

- **Helping All Students Experience Success**

Madison Academy administration and faculty determined that the best way to meet the educational needs of their students was to identify each student's learning style and find ways to address the needs of all learners across the curriculum. Traditional education focuses on

### LEARNING STYLES

**Type One** learners seek personal associations, meaning, and involvement. They are good at making connections.

**Type Two** learners think about information. They seek facts, think through ideas, and learn what the experts think.

**Type Three** learners like to experiment, build, and create usability. They are always tinkering and applying ideas.

**Type Four** learners look for hidden possibilities. They like exploring, learning by trial and error, and self-discovery. They are good at creating original adaptations.

While all learners engage in all types of learning, most seem to favor one particular type. There is no right or wrong learning style, just different. This information is based on the work of Bernice McCarthy author of the 4MAT system of instruction.

learning styles 2 and 3. Testing revealed their student population to be composed of 43 percent 1's, 16 percent 2's, 13 percent 3's, and 28 percent 4's — totally opposite of what was expected. A look at students' records in light of learning styles showed that lower GPA's and the majority of attendance and discipline problems were experienced by students with learning styles 1 and 4. This information made it clear that traditional education does not address the needs of students with learning styles 1 and 4. In fact, it causes them to dislike school as revealed by their attendance and discipline issues and lower GPAs. It has become a high priority by administration and faculty alike to address this disparity in delivering education at Madison Academy, with goals of providing a balanced approach for all learning styles and of helping all students experience success in school.

- **Building Bridges**

In the field of early childhood education, "desired results" are

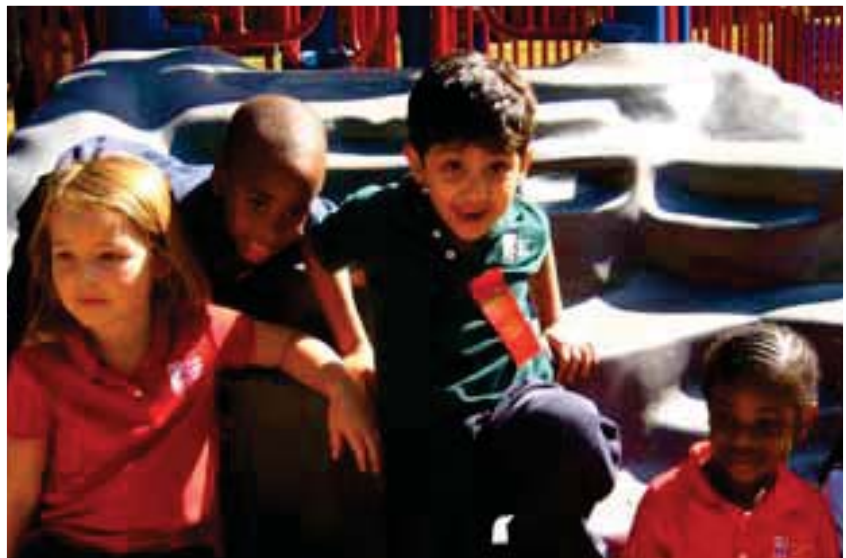
not measured by test scores. The results we strive for are realized when young children and their families take hold of the opportunity to make Christian education a priority in their lives. When parents are baptized and children go forward and enroll in an Adventist elementary school, we have constructed important bridges to both the church and the school. We have begun this work during the last few years, and with intentional efforts continue to seek and implement strategies for improvement in this area.

### Environment that is Safe and Nurturing

Administrators and teachers reflect God's love, and work to create safe and nurturing environments that foster respect; honor diversity; and establish a climate of grace, acceptance, and trust.

- **Respect for Others**

Centers and schools engage in a wide range of activities to create a safe and nurturing environment. Visitors are greeted warmly by friendly students,



teachers, and staff. Students are taught to be kind and to have respect for one another. One example of how this is accomplished can be found at A. W. Spalding Elementary School. Students in grades 6-8 participate twice each year in “Don’t Laugh at Me,” a program designed to create a caring, compassionate, and cooperative classroom and school environment. Through this program they learn a healthy expression of feelings; caring, compassion, and cooperation; the creative resolution of conflicts; and an appreciation of differences.

In addition, to accommodate and welcome more constituents and community residents, early childhood education and care brochures and documents have been translated into Spanish and made available to teachers, center directors, and administrators for assisting them in meeting the needs of the Spanish-speaking families in their churches and communities.

• **Intentional Customer Service**

Customer service is the life-giving force of an organization. It is great customer service that calls one to return again and again. It is embodied in reaching out and creating positive relationships. To capture this concept in Seventh-day Adventist schools, special Share the Spirit customer service presentations were conducted around the Southern Union by Womack

Rucker Jr., Adventist Health System corporate relations vice president. As stated by Aristotle, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” *Desire of Ages*, page 418, states that “Christian courtesy should reign in every household (and schoolhouse).” Hence, the ideal goal for each Adventist school is to always provide customer service that is invitational, intentional, and Christ-like.

• **Brain-friendly Classrooms**

It is the job of teachers to change the human brain every day. The more they know about how it learns, the more successful they can be. From the beginning, the Adventist EDGE adopted the 4MAT Model as the framework from which it would operate; thus, ensuring brain-based learning as the choice of instructional delivery. 4MAT is a method for helping all learners to be successful. It identifies

four types of learners and offers teachers a way to reach them all. It also offers learners insight into their personal approaches to learning. Southern Union secondary teachers, in response to the question, “Why is 4MAT useful?” had this to say:

- “It makes the concepts very clear for our students.”
- “It keeps me organized and fresh in my teaching approach.”
- “It is better teaching for our students.”
- “It is very useful and practical — this is an awesome approach.”
- “I think it will engage more students in the learning process.”
- “Focuses more on student learning rather than teacher teaching.”

• **S.A.F.E. Manual**

To ensure a more safe environment, the School Activation for Emergency (S.A.F.E.) Guide was restructured to provide





assistance for today's rising school emergencies and crises. Immediate responses for managing body fluids, bullying, child abuse, bomb threats, suicide attempts, and disasters are critical issues that each center and school must be prepared to address at a moment's notice. This Guide identifies the responsibilities of the center and school administrator, faculty, and staff during these and any other emergencies that may occur.

### **Aligned with Adventist and National Standards**

Adventist and national curriculum standards focus on what students should know and be able to do. To help students achieve, goals must be clearly outlined. In addition, resources for ongoing professional development must be readily available to ensure instructional quality.

#### **• Secondary Standards**

The Southern Union's secondary education leaders, during the past five years, have led out in the development of a full high school curriculum of Seventh-day Adventist secondary standards composed of 38 classes in 10 subject areas. These standards are succinct, yet comprehensive, and provide a user-friendly tool from which teachers can build their classes and ensure students are prepared for college. The North American Division Office of Education saw value in what the Southern Union was doing and provided financing, time, and people at their summer curriculum writing workshops to write standards for the last five subject areas. These secondary

standards are to be used in all academies across the Division.

#### **• Pathways**

This quinquennium also ushered in curriculum changes with the new NAD balanced literacy program, Pathways: A Journey to Excellence Through Literacy, which focuses on all of the components of reading and writing across interdisciplinary subjects in grades 1-8. To assist teachers with movement from instructional practices where they have traditionally served as the major delivery systems of knowledge, to becoming facilitators requires much professional development. The elementary team launched the initial introduction of Pathways for teachers in all eight conferences with training in balanced literacy. The North American Division Office of Education provided approximately \$200,000 towards this same effort. Furthermore, specialized Pathways professional development has been conducted in Florida and at Oakwood University each summer. Additionally, more than \$80,000 in Commonwealth grant funding was secured to provide print-enriched classroom environments.

#### **• 4MATION**

Every teacher in the Southern Union has a subscription to 4MATION, a web-based lesson design technology tool. It actively assists teachers in the creation of lesson designs that lead to individual learner growth at each step of the instructional process. Using 4MATION, teachers design lessons and units that integrate Adventist and national standards in an intentional way

— with a click of the mouse — to address the needs and enhance the learning experience of students.

4MATION web-based software also includes hundreds of exemplary 4MAT units, from all subject areas and for all grade levels. Nearly 1,500 units in the data bank have been prepared by Seventh-day Adventist teachers, the majority of whom are in the Southern Union.

Pre-service teachers at Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University have also been provided 4MATION subscriptions, and ECE teachers have recently received subscriptions to an early childhood version that more accurately accommodates learning experiences for young children. Our Union continues to exemplify a seamless educational system as teachers of toddlers through higher education share a cutting-edge electronic tool for effecting better teaching and learning at all levels of development and educational growth.

#### **Team Effort**

Strong partnerships between the home, church, center, school, local, and wider community are critical for GREAT education to occur. Students have the best advantage when a collaborative and supportive community exists.

#### **• K.I.D. School & Truth 4 Youth**

Kids in Discipleship training has equipped teachers, administrators, pastors, and parents to work as a team to be intentional about nurturing the spiritual growth of early childhood, elementary, and secondary students. The desired result is for



Southern Union children and youth to invite Jesus to be their Lord, then to share Him with their friends. The major thrust of KID School is to help students explore their faith as they develop a personal relationship with Jesus. KID School was extended through Truth 4 Youth, a dynamic, Christ-centered evangelistic series designed especially for youth. Because youth are five times more likely to make a lifelong commitment to Christ than adults, this program began in two conference schools, resulting in

more than 28 baptisms. Both programs knit together the family of God and provide an active

partnership between the pastor, home, school, and church.

• **Active Christians That Serve**

Almost six years ago when Hurricane Katrina struck, an opportunity was afforded Seventh-day Adventist college and academy youth through ACTS (Active Christians That Serve) World Relief to get involved in disaster relief that changes all who participate for life. Whenever natural disasters strike, ACTS provides our youth opportunities to directly help victims in desperate need to survive mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They unload, sort, and distribute food, clothes, cleaning supplies, ice, and water on-site; they help clean up yards and houses; search for and find precious possessions; prepare and serve hot meals; and pray with and hug people who have nowhere to turn. In so doing they get a clear picture of what God's Church is all about: being the hands and feet of Jesus.



• **Distance Education**

The demand for distance education in the Southern Union has been increasing over the past five years. Atlanta Adventist Academy, Forest Lake Academy, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Oakwood University, and Southern Adventist University have all developed distance education programs that provide secondary education and dual credit classes for students and schools needing these options. To further assist in the development of the distance education needs in the Southern Union, the North American Division Technology and Distance Education Committee (TDEC) has granted the Southern Union representation on their committee. Collaboration with TDEC will provide wider insights and opportunities on a national level in distance education as well as all areas of education technology.

• **A.N.G.E.L.**

The Adventist Network of General Educational Libraries (A.N.G.E.L.) program exists to provide professional library services for elementary and academy libraries in the Southern Union and North American Division. During the past five years, A.N.G.E.L. moved from the Southern Adventist University library and is now fully operated and funded by the Southern Union. Through A.N.G.E.L., school library catalogs are now accessible from any computer with Internet

access, making them available even when the library is closed.

**Excellence Awards**

Recognizing that excellence is never achieved by accident, Adventist EDGE excellence awards recognize schools, teachers, and administrators that are committed to the delivery of GREAT Adventist education and are intentional about moving to higher levels of excellence. During the past quinquennium 12 schools have received the School of Excellence Award, two teachers have received the Teacher of Excellence Award, and one principal has received the Adminis-



### **AAF Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients**

- 2006 *Gordon Davis, Walker Memorial Academy*
- 2007 *Stan Hobbs, Atlanta Adventist Academy*
- 2008 *Richard Hickam, Collegedale Academy*
- 2009 *Randy Heilman, Collegedale Academy*
- 2009 *Rusty Litten, Orlando Junior Academy*
- 2010 *Tammy Overstreet, Osceola Adventist Christian School*
- 2010 *Patricia Thompson, Alcy Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy*
- 2011 *Keren Taccone, West Palm Beach Junior Academy*
- 2011 *Steve Baughman, Highland Academy*

### **Adventist EDGE Schools of Excellence**

- 2007 *A. W. Spalding Elementary*
- 2008 *Decatur Adventist Junior Academy*
- 2010 *Beryl Wisdom Adventist School*
- 2010 *Dickson Adventist Elementary*
- 2010 *Duluth Adventist Elementary*
- 2010 *Forest Lake Education Center*
- 2010 *Greeneville Adventist Academy*
- 2010 *Madison Campus Elementary*
- 2010 *Silver Creek Adventist School*
- 2011 *Berean Christian Junior Academy*
- 2011 *Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy*
- 2011 *John L. Coble Elementary*
- 2011 *Ridgetop Adventist Elementary*

### **Adventist EDGE Teachers of Excellence**

- 2007 *Reggenia Baskin*
- 2008 *Sherry Housley*

### **Adventist EDGE Administrator of Excellence**

- 2010 *Keith Nelson*

trator of Excellence Award.

Southern Union teachers have also been honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award given by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF), an independent organization of volunteers willing to fund, advance, and sustain greater excellence in Adventist schools. North America's finest Adventist teachers are selected to receive this award on the basis of classroom innovation, passion for teaching, professional growth, and commitment to Adventist education. AAF recognizes that great teachers are the heartbeat of great Adventist schools.

#### **Teacher Certification**

Gracie Culpepper retired on

July 1, 2011, after serving for 28 years as the Southern Union certification registrar. During the years, she has helped countless teachers acquire or maintain denominational certification. Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president, observed that "Gracie exhibited constant attention to quality and excellence, and the field has appreciated her careful attention to all the details involved with the ministry of the registrar." She has been succeeded by Luberta Biggs.

#### **Our High Calling**

As we move into a new quinquennium, the Southern Union education team will continue on the journey to excellence to provide GREAT

education. Because of our high calling, we must enable learners to develop a life of faith in God, and to use their knowledge, skills, and understanding to serve God and humanity. When all is said and done, "the work of education and the work of redemption are one," *Education*, page 30, and the desired result is to prepare students to enroll in the school of the hereafter where they will sit at the feet of Jesus, the Master Teacher. What a GREAT education that will be!



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# HISPANIC MINISTRIES



*Ivette Figueroa, administrative assistant, and Jorge Mayer, director*

Ministering to the Hispanic membership during the past decade has been and continues to be a blessing to me. God has constantly manifested His power, through the result of the dedicated work done by the eight Hispanic directors in the Southern Union territory. Their leadership is an inspiration to the churches. We can constantly verify this when visiting the different congregations; the enthusiasm of members for sharing God's love is remarkable.

## **Statistics**

In spite of the difficult situation that the country is going

through in terms of finances and immigration, which affects to the majority of our membership, the charts show a significant growth in the past five years.

**Tithe:** The tithe figures, that were already higher in 2005 compared to 2001, were even higher in 2010, and in all years in between. If we only compare 2010 with 2005, the percentage of growth was 20 percent, and the same indicator for the rest of the Union was of 4.42 percent.

**Membership:** This indicator also shows a noticeable increase of a 30.65 percent in 2010 compared to 2005. It is worth mentioning that Gulf States Confer-

ence shows a 165.52 percent increase, Carolina Conference a 49.13 percent, and Georgia Cumberland Conference a 77.85 percent increase. The same indicator for the rest of the Union is of an increase of 9.86 percent.

**Baptisms:** There was a remarkable increase in the percentage of baptisms every year in the past quinquennium, and a 9.58 percent increase in 2010 compared to 2005. A total of 12,258 individuals have joined the Southern Union Hispanic family during the past five years.

Many events and programs were organized to help attain these results:

### Caravans

Twice a year, every conference organizes an evangelistic caravan in several cities. Only one sermon is presented in each location, and it is done by evangelist Alejandro Bullón. To this event, church members bring those people they have been working with on a personal basis, through small groups, missionary couples, etc. The purpose of these efforts is to help people in their final decision for Christ, and give church members the possibility to see this process.

### Festival of the Laity

The Festival of the Laity is a yearly event organized to bring together pastors and lay delegates from a specific area in the Union. In the past, this event was held every four years, but the need to do it more often was expressed by the laity in many occasions, and it is clearly shown by the attendance to the meetings that every time is near 1,000.

There is usually a main presentation followed by seminars, on simple outreach methods that can be applied in our daily activities, on the importance of prayer in obtaining better results and the reason why God uses church members to bring people to Him, etc. At the end, all available materials that the Union has for evangelism are sold, and people go back to their congregations trained, motivated and with the necessary tools to do the work.

### Academic/Professional Development

Southern Union continues to facilitate the academic and professional development for pastors, providing the possibility of registering in the pastoral ministries master's program, offered by the faculty of Andrews University Hispanic Institute of the Theological Seminary. Many pastors have completed this program in the past 10 years.

We have also seen the need

to provide training on family life. Pastors face many challenges in the field and need to be professionally trained to deal with the problems of the church members and the community. Topics like parenting, marital relationship, drug addiction within the family, jail, alcohol use, etc., are realities that pastors deal with almost on a daily basis in their ministry, and this program is helping to face them in a biblical context. After the completion of the program, pastors are certified as educators on family life, by the AAFLP (Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals).

### Overseas Crusades

Hispanic churches usually gather many cultures. Even though they speak the same language, those cultures differ in many aspects. Very often, ministering to multicultural churches is a challenge. In order to help pastors understand the different Hispanic idiosyncrasies, our department has organized crusades to Latino countries once a year, since 1999. Every conference selects a group of pastors to be the main presenters at the crusades, and share/learn different methods of evangelism. These groups have gone to Cuba (2007), the south of Argentina (2006), South of México (2008), Dominican Republic (2009), northeast of Argentina (2010), and Spain (2011).





uted in the churches of our territory, as well as other unions. The movie shows the process that a family went through as they realized their neighbors needed help. How they became friends, spent leisure time together, and comforted them as they mourned the lost of their son. Little by little their new friends became interested in their beliefs, and accepting Christ was the consequence.

### Elders' Retreat

Two elders' retreats have been organized at the Union level. There was a detailed review of the function of the elders in the church, as well as their role in its mission. Team work was presented as a very important asset to this function.

During the last retreat that was held in Atlanta in April of 2011, there was a lot of interaction at the meetings. People showed a deep interest in many of the topics that were presented, and participated actively by making numerous questions and comments. The event was transmitted via Internet, and 200 sites could participate from a distance.

### Small Groups

There are approximately 920 families that have opened their homes to small groups of Bible study. People find it easier to attend a meeting at the house of someone they know, and enjoy a Bible study in a familiar environment where they do not feel like strangers, rather than going to a church or a meeting hall.

Churches have been extremely enthusiastic about this method of evangelism, and the Hispanic Department has organized seminars and prepared materials and ideas to make the work easy. Usually, after a certain period of time, once small groups have finished a series of studies and become familiar with some of the church members, they are invited to an evangelistic campaign. Many individuals have been baptized after these efforts.

"In our churches, let small companies be formed for service...The formation of small companies as basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err," *Testimony Treasures III*, page 84.

### New Evangelistic Approach Movie La Ventana

Now, the concept of winning souls has taken a different approach. A more personal and natural method of evangelism was introduced through the movie "La Ventana" (The Window, script by evangelist Alejandro Bullón), which has been distrib-

### Personal Evangelism

According to a statistic presented by the Barna group, widely considered to be the leading research organization focused on the intersection of faith and culture, 80 percent of Christians will die without bringing someone to Christ. If these results applied to our Church, it would mean that only 20 percent of our members are participating in the mission of making disciples. We believe that one of the reasons for this is the methods of evangelism that churches have always presented. For a layperson, giving Bible studies or doing any type of public presentation is sometimes unthinkable. Other institutions make a big emphasis on the door-to-door work, and once again, most people feel uncomfortable practicing this method. We could mention many outreach strategies that have been very popular through the years, but have not made a big impression on Church members.

Since our standing against the devil's tricks depends on a daily and progressive relationship with



Christ obtained from the spiritual armor presented in Ephesians 6, the Word of God (listening), prayer (talking), and the readiness to announce the Good News of Peace (sharing), our focus was to think of creative ways of announcing the Good News, with which the majority of the Church members can feel comfortable.

Jesus spent a great amount of time at his followers' homes, either staying or just having a meal with them. People were very open to listen to Him in familiar environments, sharing social activities. Even the early Church's fast growth was, to a great extent, thanks to this simple method of friendship and care about people's needs.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as One who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then, He bade them 'follow Me,' *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143.

The call to the churches now, is to have a more personal method of evangelism. The Church has always talked about the power of love and a good example, but this, even though based on the same principle, is much more intentional. Inviting a friend, coworker, or neigh-

bor to our homes to strengthen our friendship may, as we show God's love and become closer to them, bring them to Jesus' feet.

### Homes of Hope

An invitation was extended to the 10,000 Hispanic families in the Union territory, to open their homes to a new friend. The idea was to pray for this person

of blessings received. At the end of the visit, the family prayed for the friend; gave him/her a small present; and lent a book, video, or CD that will leave the door open to a future encounter. The idea is to continue that friendship in a social way, and tactfully take every opportunity to show Jesus' kindness and love. Little by little, the friend will become interested



during a certain period of time, before inviting her/him to enjoy moments of fellowship during a special and simple meal at home, on May 14. After the invitation, and until May 14, families continued to pray for the Holy Spirit to provide them love and wisdom to witness, and to the guest the capability of seeing the love of the Lord toward men. The idea was not for a preaching session, but a nice and warm gathering, simple conversation on matters of mutual interest, looking for the opportunity to mingle stories

in the beliefs that make that family different. This method requires a lot of prayer and study.

The invitation goes even farther. Evangelism is not a single event; it is a lifestyle that attracts more people than the most eloquent sermon.

"By being social and coming close to people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than the most able discourse," *Gospel Workers*, page 193.

# DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



*Ivette Figueroa, asistente administrativa, y Jorge Mayer, director*

El ministerio de servir a la membrecía hispana durante una década, ha sido y continúa siendo una bendición para mí. Dios ha manifestado su poder constantemente a través del

resultado del trabajo dedicado de los ocho directores hispanos del territorio de la Unión del Sur. Su liderazgo es una inspiración para las iglesias. Podemos verificarlo constantemente al visitar las

diferentes congregaciones; el entusiasmo de los miembros por compartir el amor de Dios es notable.

## **Estadísticas**

A pesar de la difícil situación por la que atraviesa el país en términos de finanzas e inmigración, la cual afecta a la mayoría de nuestros miembros, las estadísticas muestran un crecimiento significativo en los últimos cinco años.

**Diezmos:** Las cifras de los diezmos, que habían experimentado un incremento en el 2005 comparadas con las cifras del 2001, fueron aun más elevadas en el 2010, y en todos los años de por medio. Si se compara el año 2010 con el 2005, el porcentaje de crecimiento en este indicador fue de un 20 por ciento, y en el resto de la unión alcanzó el 4.42 por ciento.

**Membrecía:** Este indicador muestra también un incremento



notable del 30.65 por ciento en el 2010 con respecto al año 2005. Vale la pena mencionar que la asociación de los estados del golfo, Gulf States Conference, muestra un crecimiento de 165.52 por ciento. La asociación de Las Carolinas, Carolina Conference, un 49.13 por ciento, y la asociación Georgia Cumberland un 77.85 por ciento de incremento. El mismo indicador para el resto de la unión muestra un crecimiento del 9.86 por ciento.

**Bautismos:** El porcentaje de bautismos anuales en el pasado quinquenio experimentó también un notable crecimiento. La cifra del año 2010 comparada con la del 2005, es un 9.58 por ciento mayor. Un total de 12,258 almas se han unido a la familia hispana de la Unión del Sur durante los últimos cinco años.

Para obtener estos resultados, se organizó un buen número de eventos:

#### **Caravanas**

Dos veces al año, cada asociación organiza una caravana evangélica en diferentes ciudades. Se presenta sólo un sermón en cada localidad, y el orador es el evangelista Alejandro Bullón. Los miembros de iglesia invitan a aquellas personas con las cuales ya han estado trabajando en forma personal, a través de grupos pequeños, parejas misioneras, etc. El propósito de estos esfuerzos es ayudar a estas personas en su decisión final por Cristo, y dar a los miembros de iglesia la posibilidad de ver el proceso.

#### **Festival de Laicos**

El festival de laicos es un evento anual organizado con

el propósito de reunir pastores y delegados laicos de un área específica de la unión. En el pasado, este evento se llevaba a cabo cada cuatro años, pero en muchas ocasiones los laicos expresaron la idea de hacerlo con mayor frecuencia; la prueba se ve claramente en la asistencia, que todos los años es de aproximadamente mil personas.

Usualmente se presenta un tema central, seguido de seminarios sobre métodos simples para el alcance de almas que puedan ser aplicados en las actividades diarias, sobre la importancia de la oración en la obtención de mejores resultados, y las razones por las cuales Dios usa a los miembros de iglesia para atraer gente hacia Él, etc.

Al final del evento, se ofrece para la venta todo el material de evangelismo que la unión tiene disponible, y los asistentes regresan a sus congregaciones entrenados, motivados y con las herramientas necesarias para hacer el trabajo.

#### **Desarrollo Académico/ Profesional**

La Unión del Sur continúa facilitando el desarrollo académico y profesional de los pastores, dándoles la posibilidad de registrarse en el programa de maestría de ministerio pastoral, ofrecido por profesores del Instituto Hispano del Seminario Teológico de la universidad Andrews. Un significativo número de pastores ha completado este programa en esta última década.

En adición al programa mencionado, se vio la necesidad de proveer educación en relaciones familiares. Los pastores enfrentan muchos desafíos en este área y necesitan ser

entrenados de manera profesional para poder hacer frente a los problemas de los miembros de iglesia y de la comunidad. Temas como paternidad, relaciones conyugales, adicciones dentro de la familia, encarcelamiento, etc., son realidades con las que los pastores se enfrentan a diario en su ministerio. Este programa los ayuda a manejarlos desde un contexto bíblico. Luego de su compleción, reciben un certificado como Educadores en Vida Familiar extendido por AAFLP, Asociación Adventista de Profesionales de Vida Familiar (Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals).

#### **Campañas en el Exterior**

Por lo general, las iglesias hispanas reúnen muchas culturas. A pesar de hablar un mismo lenguaje, estas culturas difieren en muchos aspectos. Por esta razón, frecuentemente el ministerio en estas iglesias se convierte en un reto. A los efectos de entender las diferentes idiosincrasias hispanas, nuestro departamento organiza desde 1999, un viaje anual para llevar a cabo campañas evangélicas en países latinos. Cada asociación selecciona un grupo de pastores para que oficien como oradores en estas campañas, y compartan/aprendan diferentes métodos de evangelismo. Estos grupos han ido a Cuba (2007), el sur de Argentina (2006), el sur de Méjico (2008), la República Dominicana (2009), el noroeste de Argentina (2010) y España (2011).

#### **Retiro de Ancianos**

Se organizaron dos retiros de ancianos a nivel de unión, en los que se repasaron detalladamente los objetivos y tareas de esta

función, y su rol en la misión. El trabajo en equipo fue presentado como característica esencial de este ministerio.

Durante el último retiro que se llevó a cabo en Atlanta en abril del año en curso, se destacó una dinámica interacción en cada una de las reuniones. Los asistentes mostraron un profundo interés en los tópicos que fueron presentados, participando activamente con numerosas preguntas y comentarios. El evento fue transmitido vía Internet, y 200 sitios a distancia pudieron beneficiarse del mismo.

### **Grupos Pequeños**

Existen aproximadamente 920 familias que han abierto las puertas de sus hogares para grupos pequeños de estudio de la Biblia. Es más sencillo atraer personas a reuniones en la casa de alguien que conocen, y disfrutar de un estudio bíblico en un ambiente familiar en el que no se sienten extraños, que asistir a un templo o lugar de convenciones.

Las iglesias adoptaron este método de evangelismo con mucho entusiasmo, y el departamento hispano ha organizado seminarios y preparado materiales e ideas para hacer este trabajo de manera sencilla. Generalmente, luego de cierto período de tiempo, una vez que participantes de los grupos pequeños terminan una serie de estudios y se han familiarizado con algunos de los miembros de iglesia, se los invita a una campaña evangélica. Muchas personas han sido bautizadas luego de estos esfuerzos.

“La formación de pequeños grupos como base del esfuerzo cristiano es un plan que se me



ha mostrado por Aquel que NO puede equivocarse” Joyas de los Testimonios tomo 3 pág. 84

### **Nuevo Enfoque de Evangelismo Película La Ventana**

En la actualidad, el concepto de ganancia de almas ha tomado un giro diferente. La película La Ventana (guion por Alejandro Bullón), que ha sido distribuida en las iglesias de nuestro territorio como también en otras uniones, introdujo un método más personal y natural de evangelismo. Se muestra el proceso que una familia vivió cuando se dio cuenta de que sus vecinos necesitaban ayuda; cómo entablaron una amistad con ellos y los consolaron mientras sufrían por la pérdida de su hijo. Paulatinamente sus nuevos amigos comenzaron a interesarse en sus creencias, y aceptar a Cristo fue el resultado.

### **Evangelismo Personal**

De acuerdo con las estadísticas presentadas por el grupo de investigación Barna, ampliamente considerado como la organización líder en el área de intersección entre fe y cultura,

el 80 por ciento de los cristianos morirán sin haber traído a alguien a los pies de Cristo. Si estos resultados se aplicaran a nuestra iglesia, significaría que solo el 20 por ciento de nuestros miembros están participando en la misión de hacer discípulos. Creemos que una de las razones para dicho resultado es los métodos de evangelismo que se han presentado siempre en las iglesias. Para una persona laica, el hecho de dar estudios bíblicos o tener cualquier tipo de presentación pública es algo impensable. Algunas instituciones enfatizan el trabajo puerta a puerta, y una vez más, la mayoría de las personas se sienten incómodas practicando este método. Se podría mencionar muchas estrategias de alcance misionero que han sido muy publicitadas a través de los años, pero no han tenido una impresión honda en los miembros de iglesia.

Debido a que nuestra resistencia frente a los trucos satánicos depende de una relación diaria y progresiva con Cristo obtenida de la armadura espiritual presentada en Efesios



6, -la Palabra de Dios (escuchar), la oración (hablar), y el estar siempre listos para anunciar las Buenas Nuevas de Paz (compartir)- nuestro objetivo fue pensar en métodos creativos de anunciar las Buenas Nuevas, con los que la mayoría de los miembros se sientan cómodos.

Jesús pasó mucho tiempo en las casas de sus seguidores, simplemente hospedándose allí o disfrutando de una comida. Las personas estaban predisuestas a escucharlo en ambientes familiares, compartiendo actividades sociales. Incluso el rápido crecimiento de la iglesia primitiva se debió en gran manera al empleo de este simple método de amistad y cuidado por las necesidades de la gente.

“El salvador trataba con los hombres como quien deseaba hacerles bien, les mostraba simpatía, atendía sus necesidades y se ganaba su confianza. Entonces les decía ‘seguidme” Ministerio de Curación, p. 102

El llamado a nuestras congregaciones en el presente, es de tener un método más

personal de evangelismo. La iglesia siempre ha promocionado el poder del amor y el buen ejemplo, pero este método, si bien se basa en el mismo principio, es más intencional. El invitar a un amigo, compañero de trabajo o vecino a nuestra casa para estrechar nuestra amistad y mostrarle el amor de Dios, puede traerlo a los pies de Jesús.

#### Hogares de Esperanza

Las 10,000 familias en el territorio de nuestra unión recibieron la invitación de abrir las puertas de sus hogares a un nuevo amigo. La idea fue orar por esta persona por un período de tiempo antes de invitarlo para disfrutar momentos de camaradería durante una comida simple pero especial, el día 14 de mayo pasado. Luego de la invitación y hasta la fecha indicada, las familias continuaron orando pidiendo que el Espíritu Santo les provea amor y sabiduría en su testificación, y que su amigo pueda ver el amor de Dios hacia el hombre. El objetivo no fue establecer una

sesión de predicación, sino un cálido encuentro de conversación simple acerca de temas de mutuo interés, buscando la oportunidad de mostrar agradecimiento por las bendiciones recibidas. Al final de la visita, la familia oró con su amigo; le obsequió algo pequeño, y le prestó un libro o CD que dejará la puerta abierta para un encuentro futuro. La idea es continuar esa amistad compartiendo actividades sociales, y con tacto buscar toda oportunidad de mostrar la bondad y el amor de Jesús. Poco a poco, la nueva amistad se interesará en lo que hace que esta familia sea diferente. Este método requiere de mucha oración y estudio.

La invitación se extiende aún más. El evangelismo no es un evento aislado; es un estilo de vida que atrae a más personas que el más elocuente sermón.

“Siendo sociables y acercándoos a la gente, podréis atraer la corriente de sus pensamientos más fácilmente que por el discurso más capaz.” OE p 201.

# NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES



*Fred Rogers, director*

Native American Ministries extends a heartfelt appreciation to the Southern Union Conference for having the vision to establish the ministry for Native Americans across the great Southern Union. There are 51 separate native tribes listed in a data base that tracks the native population across the United States. Seven of those are federally recognized, which means they receive federal dollars

to operate their health clinics, hospitals, housing needs, and other needed services for their people. Forty-four tribes are state recognized, meaning they do not receive federal dollars other than some grants that are available to many different organizations. One of the state recognized tribes (Lumbee) is the largest tribe located east of the Mississippi River, yet has not received federal recognition.

In addition to the 51 tribes indigenous to the 50 states of the United States there are numerous indigenous people living in the Southern Union from Central and South America. We became aware of these people

about two years ago. There are 56 different languages spoken by indigenous people in Mexico alone. The Kanjobal, Tzotzil, Chol, and the Mam are just a few of the indigenous people from the Americas. The Mam are also located in Guatemala.

Due to the discrimination and persecution of indigenous people in Central and South America, in

the not so distant past, they have mostly meshed with the Hispanic churches without revealing their true identity. They are able to do this because they speak Spanish as a second language. They became very excited to learn that the Southern Union has a ministry to reach indigenous peoples. We have partnered with many Hispanic churches that have indigenous people in their churches and communities. Following, you will find reports of the work of the Southern Union Native American Ministries.

- **Evangelism:** Native American Ministries funded 22 evangelistic meetings across the Southern Union in 2010, investing approximately \$50,000 evangelizing the native people. We conducted meetings in tents, churches, halls, and homes. Reports from all locations funded by Native American Ministries totaled 445 baptisms.

- **Equipping Churches:** During the past year and a half, Native American Ministries has invested approximately \$30,000 equipping churches with PA systems, DVD players, projectors, computers, printed material, and software. These materials are used to conduct small group ministries in anticipation of a great harvest soon to come. Native American



Ministries has provided training programs utilizing trainers from the North American Division and other conferences such as Oklahoma and South Dakota.

• **Vacation Bible Schools**

**(VBS):** Native Ministries has partnered with the North American Division (NAD) Children's Ministries, under the direction of Phyllis Washington, to conduct

VBS programs across the Union in native country. These programs have been conducted in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida. Plans have been set to conduct programs in North Carolina and Tennessee again in 2011. The teams sent by the NAD include native children from other states across our land.

• **Church Planting:** Due to the lack of transportation, we need to plant church companies to accommodate our native brothers and sisters. During the past two years, Native American Ministries has planted six new church groups. These church plants have been in Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee. With the help of an evangelistic-minded group from California,

under the direction of Carolyn Stuyvesant, Native American Ministries receives hundreds of pounds of literature to be given to our communities. Danny Arocho, a worker/volunteer with Native American Ministries, gave a copy of *Bible Readings for the Home*, which came from California, to the wife of the minister of a Pentecostal church in North Carolina. Danny had visited this church occasionally, becoming acquainted with the pastor and his wife, and felt free to give the book. The church has now changed their church sign to read their worship service is conducted on the seventh-day Sabbath. We will be contacting this church to see if we can be of further service.

• **Activities:** Native American Ministries conducted its first camp meeting in 2010 with about 200 people in attendance. We participated in the Indian Village during the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and also conducted several native weddings in the Southern Union.

• **Prayer:** Please pray for Native American Ministries. We are growing and need your support.



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



*Kevin James, associate director; Amireh Al-Haddad, director; and Aminga Bracy, administrative assistant*

## **Imagine Your World Without It**

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ...” Joshua 24:15 NJKV. In just one short text, Joshua conveys much about the grace of God and the importance of liberty of conscience to Him as well.

God has always placed importance upon free choice and

liberty of conscience among His followers. Imagine a world without it. Worse than that, imagine a god who does not believe in it.

In the spirit of Christ, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department strives to defend, preserve, and expand religious liberty both inside and outside of the Church. The department is staffed by its director, Amireh Al-Haddad; an associate director, Kevin James;

and an administrative assistant, Aminga Bracy.

Among its many programs and outreach opportunities, the department continues to deliver services to our constituents both on an individual basis and through the churches. During the last five years, we have made 189 visits to local churches, held religious liberty workshops and seminars, and made multiple appearances on both television and radio.



### Religious Discrimination Cases

The overall work of religious liberty is multifaceted, but we still place a great deal of time and emphasis on protecting individuals' jobs. Surprisingly there has been a slight decrease in the number of individuals we are assisting with Sabbath accommodation problems. In the last quinquennium we saw an increase in the number of long-time members experiencing problems. However, with the decline of the economy mid-session, we are now seeing the numbers about equal between long-time members and new members coming into the Church. Continuing to

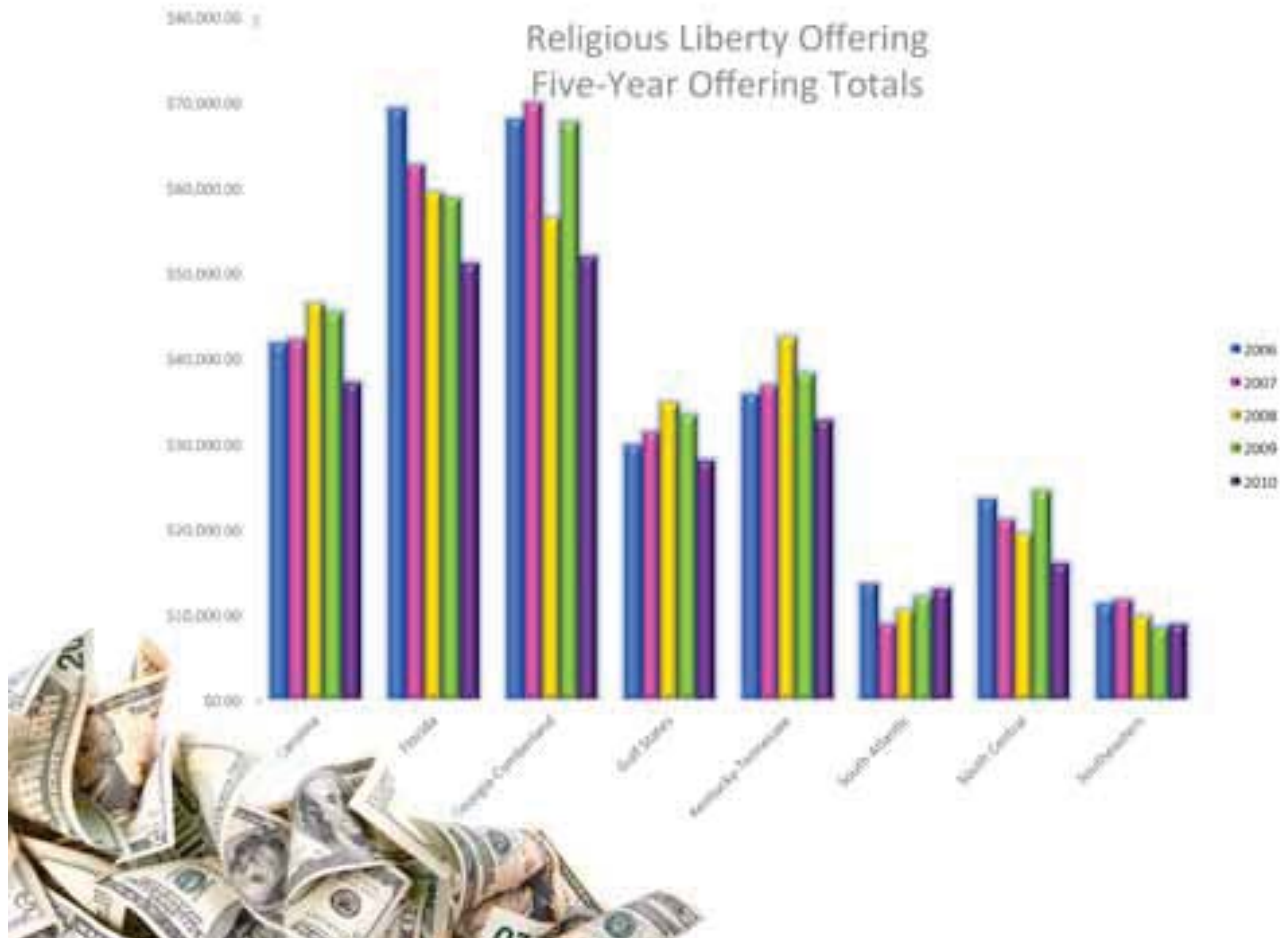
increase is the number of employers who are fighting unemployment benefits for members who are fired because of Sabbath problems. With the decline in the economy, fewer employers are willing to mediate cases, and our overall mediation totals have decreased in size. What this means for members is that settlement sums are getting smaller. The majority of all our settlements this session happened before the economic downturn in 2008.

While Sabbath accommodation issues have made up the majority of work, we have also dealt with cases regarding

child custody, dietary standards, prisoners' religious rights, and parents' education choice rights during the last five years.

### Religious Liberty Offerings and Liberty Magazine

The Southern Union continues to lead the North American Division in the annual religious liberty offering. With nine unions in total within the Division, the Southern Union has provided a five-year average of 27 percent or \$1,382,930 of the religious liberty offering. *Liberty* magazine continues to be not only the premiere religious liberty magazine out there, but also an important



outreach tool of this ministry. Looking at the individual years of the offering, we see a clear indicator that the recession has had a negative effect on overall giving in this sector. The exception to this was in 2010, when the religious liberty offering coincided with the Haitian earthquake and the special offering appeal made for that particular disaster. Overall, even in light of economic hardship, our constituents have shown faithfulness to this ministry that fills us with gratitude.

### Government Liaison Program

We continue to operate our state legislative program, and have worked diligently during the last few years not only to maintain the program but to grow it as well. Currently six of the eight states have a carefully chosen lay person working with our department in monitoring the legislation in each state. We also utilize an Internet service that assists us in monitoring the legislation for bills of interest to the Church and you, her members. Some of the current issues we are monitoring include, but are not limited to, Bible-based curriculum, public school prayer, labor union bills, and Ten Com-

mandment postings; and in Florida we continue to oppose the ongoing attempt to amend the state constitution to allow tax dollars to go directly to religious organizations. We still believe that "... *religion and Government will both exist in greater purity the less they are mixed together,*" James Madison, Letter to Edward Livingston, July 10, 1822.

### Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys

The society exists in order to provide spiritual and professional interaction for Adventists who practice law. Adventist attorneys and law students within the society currently number 159 members. In addition to area spring dinners, an annual family retreat is held for the attorneys in our territory. To contact the society or for application to join, email us at [ssaa@southernunion.com](mailto:ssaa@southernunion.com).

### Waymarks

Our bi-monthly newsletter currently has a circulation of about 3,500 names in the Southern Union. The newsletter serves to update and educate our pastors, religious liberty leaders, and interested laypeople on current religious liberty issues that are taking place in the United

States and abroad. The newsletter continues to be acclaimed by its readers as informative and resourceful, with information all members need to know.

### The Future

One hundred sixty-seven years since the Great Disappointment is a long time to wait, but Daniel's prophecies have all been fulfilled, and we continue to believe that Christ's return will happen soon. Religious liberty is important in final prophecy, and it is just one of the reasons why Adventists place such a high importance on this ministry. This department continues to pledge to do all it can to protect liberty of conscience, not only for our Church members here in the Southern Union, but for all people. You can email us at [ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com](mailto:ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com).



## PARL SABBATH ACCOMMODATION REPORT

CONFERENCE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Five-Year Total	Settlements
Carolina	12	15	4	5	8	44	\$21,000.00
Florida	3	15	15	15	14	62	\$20,000.00
Georgia-Cumberland	28	30	14	20	10	102	\$18,100.00
Gulf States	0	10	3	4	1	18	\$0.00
Kentucky-Tennessee	0	5	6	7	6	24	\$12,000.00
South Atlantic	16	24	21	33	13	107	\$39,702.00
South Central	18	7	11	8	11	55	\$13,000.00
Southeastern	3	10	16	19	7	55	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>\$123,802.00</b>

# Panasonic Projector Discount

Heavily discounted pricing available for Southern Union

- Churches
- Church Schools
- Conferences



See the full lineup at [www.panasonic.com/projectors](http://www.panasonic.com/projectors)

Only available through the Southern  
Union Communication Department

Phone: 678-420-1412  
E-mail: [nzinner@southernunion.com](mailto:nzinner@southernunion.com)

# PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT



*The Southern Union Publishing Department staff: Connie Beckworth (front row, seated left), administrative assistant for FHES and youth publishing; Beverly Perry, administrative assistant for publishing and HHES; Margie Compton, assistant treasurer; Keith Reid, publishing associate director; William Smith, publishing director; Wally Bray, shipping manager; Bob Mills, receptionist; Jennifer Reifsnnyder, accounts processor; Rick Christman, youth publishing director; Greg Medley, accountant; Margay Wilson, receptionist; Jim Wilson, treasurer; and Steven Davis, accounts processor*

“The Lord gave the Word:  
Great was the company of those  
that published it,” Psalm 68:11.

This past quinquennium, the publishing ministry in the Southern Union has continued to advance steadily, leaving a trail of blessings behind in the form of thousands of prayers and encouraging words; millions of truth-filled books, tracts, and DVD's; and thousands of tear-stained faces, revived students, on-fire church members, Bible searching souls, and newly baptized Seventh-day Adventists. To

God be the glory, great things  
He has done! The Lord has put  
together a winning, unified team



*Bill Beckworth (center) stands with baptismal candidates, Ryan and Angela Sebstedt.*

consisting of outstanding office personnel, exceptional conference publishing directors, excellent associate directors, top quality Adventist Book Center (ABC) managers, valiant youth outreach coordinators, inspiring local church publishing representatives, and a host of Spirit-filled full-time, part-time, and student literature evangelists.

The Southern Union is served by a literature ministries team consisting of various organizations, including Home Health Education Service (HHES), Family Health Education Service

(FHES), and Giving Light to Our World program (GLOW). From January 1987 until September 2010, Bill Beckworth served with excellence as the Union publishing director. He served as a literature minister for 43 years. Recently, while enjoying his retirement, yet still selling truth-filled books, the Lord led him to a wonderful couple who bought books from him, received Bible studies from him, and were baptized into this glorious truth. Beckworth, though retired, is still on fire for the Lord!



*Union and conference publishing leaders: Bill Beckworth (seated, left), Jim Wilson, Renita Samuels, Tim Merryman, William Smith, Felix Castro, Rocky Davis, Java Mattison, David Sigamani (standing, left), David Haugsted, Les McCoy, Carl McRoy, Dan Herwick, Dan Shannon, Lance Morrison, Theus Young, Tim Leffew, Peter Marzano, Bruce Germsheid, Demilson Reis, Keith Reid, Alfredo Gonzalez, Clay Grice, Tim Barker, Andrew Rachal, Cesar Quispe, and Joe Holloway*

### New Programs and Projects

1. Light America Mission (LAM): initiated by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to reach thousands of our

Hispanic brothers and sisters through highly organized, group door to door sales.

designed to engage thousands of church members in mass distribution of sponsored literature during special events. More than

2. Mass Distribution Projects:



*Doug Thompson, Kentucky-Tennessee ABC manager and coordinator*



*Student literature evangelists*

### HHES Sales Report 2006-2010

Total Sales of HHES, FHES, and GLOW	\$17,738,483.00
Total Sales of All Student Programs	\$5,938,756.71
Total Scholarships of All Student Programs	\$4,465,944.99



125,000 truth-filled magazines were distributed during Good News Atlanta.

3. GLOW (Giving Light to Our World one page at a time): designed to enlist hundreds of more church members to do literature evangelism work on a part-time basis. The purpose of GLOW is to provide every willing-hearted church member with the training and materials necessary to become a literature evangelist.

4. Electronic media: added as supplements with the literature being distributed.

### Adventist Book Centers

The Adventist Book Centers (ABC) continue to be a great source of truth-filled literature and vegetarian foods for our members. There are products designed to both strengthen our members' spiritual lives and to help them share their love of Jesus in the community. Many non-members also enjoy visiting our stores and especially appreciate the vegetarian foods sold through our ABC's.

The Southern Union has one of the strongest ABC

programs in the North American Division. With the support of the local conferences and the Union, they offer several promotions unique to the Southern Union. Each year they are able to

offer the new missionary book of the year for a price lower than standards discounts. During the last 10 years they have also been distributing the hardcover, five-volume Conflict of the Ages set for a special price of \$29.99. This program has allowed almost 14,000 sets to be distributed to our members during the past five years — that is more than 60 percent of the total hardcover Conflict of the Ages sets sold by all of the ABC's! The ABC's were also recently instrumental in the distribution of 50,000 copies of Mark Finley's

book, *Revive Us Again*, to our members.

There have been several capital improvements recently. The Georgia-Cumberland ABC completed a remodeling project at their branch store in Atlanta, and in Kentucky-Tennessee, the store has moved to a new larger building with better street exposure. If you do not live close to the ABC, you may be able to shop during one of the book-mobile trips the ABC makes throughout the year. Every year they make more than 370 stops at local churches and schools throughout their territory. If you prefer to shop online, visit [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) to browse many of the books and other products stocked at the ABC.

The Adventist Book Centers in the Southern Union are committed to the ministry of sharing the Gospel through the printed page and healthy living. Every piece of literature that passes through our ABC's is helping to prepare a life for the soon return of Jesus.



### HHES Missionary Report

2006-2010	Total
Church members participating as LEs	290
Students participating as LEs	510
Total Books, Tracts, and DVD's distributed	362,073
Total Baptisms from combined programs	541
Total Bible Course enrollments	47,684
Total Bible Studies given	7,142
Former Seventh-day Adventists contacted	2,307
Interested People invited to church	1,215
Prayers Offered in Homes	98,262

# INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Todd Mace (left), director; David Koliadko, accounting support specialist; Richard Stephenson, associate director; and Leonard Fernandez, support engineer

During the last three years, the Southern Union Information Systems Department has transformed itself into a cutting edge information technology ministry focused on spreading the Lord's message. In order to serve our territory better, we have made great strides in updating the department for the common goal of service. "Unity in Service" has been and continues to be our theme for the department. Information systems has facilitated in forming a fellowship of IS directors and associates, who serve in Southern Union conferences and schools, so as to create more efficiency in our service, and to grow together professionally. This group, named simply "SUIS" (Southern Union Information Systems), has held retreats and events in order to inspire and share in this endeavor, in order to break down silos, and come together for the common purpose of sharing the good news. The results from this organization have led to the creation of a unified mission and vision statement.

**The Mission of SUIS:** *To accomplish the mission of the Church. We will be a leader in our field, effectively...*

- *Supporting our technology professionals*

- *Maximizing the use of technology*
- *Advocating for the use of current and emerging technology*

### **The Vision of SUIS:** *IT Happens Here*

"Let the workers for God manifest tact and talent, and originate devices by which to communicate light to those who are near and to those who are afar off," *The Voice in Speech and Song*, page 282.

In order to do our part, we have instituted many services and systems that provide efficiency and savings for our Church. Some of these systems and services include information technology policies; new servers; new desktops and laptops; a fire protection and suppression system; moisture, humidity, and temperature sensors; offsite backups and protection; cloud-based computing; wireless access; document management system; new copiers; security surveillance; VOIP phone system; helpdesk ticketing system; sign ministry database; security encryption; new accounting systems; new high-speed Internet; remote support system; Microsoft training; and much, much more.



SOUTHERN UNION  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

This transformation has also led our department to reach out and provide accounting software hosting to more than 12 Southern Union Conference entities, E-mail hosting for four Southern Union Conference entities, remote backup services, and remote support services. We want, in the near future, to become an incubator for innovative and technological ways to spread the Gospel. We are not only a department of support to our Church, but also a ministry that can be a catalyst for modern-day evangelism.

We are continuing to grow and support the Church behind the scenes in many different areas of ministry, while also setting a forward pace and model for breaking down silos through our openness to creative ideas and unified mission. We encourage the Southern Union constituents to join us in accomplishing this unified mission as we work together and look forward to the soon coming of Christ.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity," Psalm 133:1.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



*Laura Smith, women's ministries director*



*Cheryl Retzer, shepherdess director and women's ministries advisor*



*Lessie Scurry, executive administrative assistant*

## **How We Achieve D.R.E.A.M.S**

*(Discipleship, Reclamation, Evangelism, Affirmation, Mentoring, Servant Leadership Training)*

During the past quinquennium the Spirit of God has continued to hover over the Southern Union Department of Women's Ministries. Under the power of the Holy Spirit the women have touched hearts and impacted the lives of individuals within the Southern Union and beyond. The mission of the Department of Women's Ministries is accomplished through effectual prayers as we seek God to build His kingdom through significant ministries and effective D.R.E.A.M.S.

## **Major emphasis has been placed on the following:**

### **Discipleship**

The vision and mission statements of the department are realized through teaching and nur-

turing experiences that grow and develop disciples. Emphasis is placed on knowing Jesus Christ on a personal level and helping others to know, love and serve Him. Spiritual growth activities include annual women's retreats, small groups, discipleship seminars, and Bible studies.

### **Reclamation**

1. Friendship evangelism is emphasized in the Southern Union.

2. Conference and church women's ministries leaders are utilizing Heart Call, a reclamation program developed by the North American Division Department of Women's Ministries to reclaim sisters who no longer attend church.

### **Evangelism**

1. "ShareHim" evangelistic training has been conducted to equip women for sharing the Gospel.

2. Women are conducting public evangelistic meetings with phenomenal success.

3. Women are engaged in friendship evangelism. They are touching hearts and changing lives through outreach ministries such as Bags of Love, Prayers and Squares, Celebrate Recovery, and God in Shoes.

### **Affirmation**

1. Women are affirmed through special women's ministries activities such as Secret Sisters, Prayer Partners, Mothers of Pre-schoolers, support groups for widows, and a ministry to home-bound members.

2. Each of the eight conferences sponsors from one to four conference-wide or area-wide retreats each year.

### **Mentoring Programs**

1. Conferences sponsor young women's retreats annually. Conferences are emphasizing





*Conference and Union women's ministries directors: Debbie Rapp (seated, left), Carolina; Laura Smith, Southern Union; Cheryl Retzer, Southern Union advisor; Nicolle Brise', Southeastern; Sheryal Vandenburgbe, Florida; Mary Jo Dubs, Georgia-Cumberland; Shirley Scott (standing, left), South Central; Janice Shipbaugh, former director for Gulf States; and Sylvia Wilson, South Atlantic.*

peer mentoring, Purity Celebrations, and teen support groups.

### **Servant Leadership Training**

1. Each conference sponsors leadership training for local women's ministries leaders.

2. Conference women's ministries directors are provided leadership training during the annual Southern Union Administration and Departmental Meetings, Women's Ministries Executive Committee Meetings, and during local conferences leadership weekends.

We praise God for the following accomplishments that have been made during the last five years.



*Gail McKenzie is women's ministries director for Kentucky-Tennessee.*



*April Hobbs is the new women's ministries director for Gulf States.*

### Southern Union United Women's Conference

Nearly 2,000 women attended the historic Southern Union United Women's Conference that was held September 4-7, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference was co-sponsored by the women's ministries departments in the eight conferences that comprise the Southern Union. Attendees came from the eight southeastern states, various other states within the continental United States, and from England. The theme for the conference was One Voice, One Vision.

The two goals for the conference were, first, to provide opportunities for women to be blessed and drawn to Jesus through the intensive prayer

times, inspirational music, informative messages and seminars; and second, for the women to touch the lives of hundreds of individuals in Atlanta through the Good News Atlanta and God in Shoes Community Outreach. The written and verbal comments of the attendees validated the successful accomplishment of both goals. Praise God!

### ENDITNOW

*(Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women and Girls)*

Women's ministries joined forces with the General Conference Women's Ministries Department and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in their global initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. In the Southern Union we raised an

awareness of the various forms of abuse and the magnitude of the problem. Church members throughout the Union used creative means to obtain hundreds of signatures on a petition that was presented to the United Nations. The Alabama State Capitol was one of several sites for successful ENDITNOW rallies.

### Leadership Certification

The eight conference directors and the Southern Union director completed the four levels of the General Conference Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Program. The conference directors utilize their training to conduct leadership training programs in the conferences. Collectively, they have certified hundreds of women at the local church level.





*The “God in Shoes” outreach ministry enabled women to serve by giving away shoes to individuals in homeless shelters during the September 2008 Southern Union Women’s Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.*

**Public and Friendship Evangelism**

The years of evangelism during this quinquennium have challenged women to make evangelism a way of life and not an event. Women were trained and propelled into conducting public evangelism campaigns in addition to being intentionally involved in friendship evangelism that included prayer ministry, home Bible studies, mentoring, nurturing, and kindness ministry. The evangelistic efforts resulted in thousands of baptisms.

**Touch a Heart - A Ministry for Every Woman**

**Statistics for 2006–2010**

\*Baptisms include those in Africa and other countries  
 Evangelistic Meetings . . . . .766  
 Reclaimed Members . . . . .658  
 Training Seminars. . . . . 2,317  
 Other Meetings . . . . . 34,326  
 Rereats. . . . .749  
 \*Baptisms. . . . . 3,321

**Mission Project**

The Southern Union Department of Women’s Ministries contributed financial support to an orphanage in Africa, “REACHING HEARTS 4 CHILDREN,” and Cheryl Retzer, advisor, delivered goods to the children in the orphanage from the department during a mission trip.

**Young Women’s Ministries**

Each conference has developed ministries for young women and girls. The goals for this ministry are to spiritually uplift and nurture; to assist young ladies in recognizing and appreciating their self-worth and their purpose in Christ; to identify and develop their God-given talents and abilities; and to enjoy a connection with Jesus Christ and others through Bible study, prayer, community service, kind deeds, wholesome recreation, and other activities.

**Women’s Retreats**

Retreats continue to be a source of spiritual renewal, inspiration, and fellowship for the women in the Southern Union. At the retreats, women have been blessed to have their specific and diverse needs addressed through the messages of dynamic speakers, seminar presenters, prayer groups, and other activities.

**Women’s Ministries Sabbaths**

Women’s ministries endorses and implements the Sabbaths designated by the General Conference and the North American Division: the International Day of Prayer, Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day, Special Women’s Ministries Offering Day, and the Abuse Prevention/ENDITNOW Emphasis Sabbath.

**As We Look to the Future**

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, women will continue to utilize their God-given gifts and talents to touch lives and to invite individuals to accept and follow Jesus Christ. I acknowledge with gratitude the Southern Union administrators, the women’s ministries advisor, and the conference directors for their tireless efforts and leadership in their local conferences and for their assistance in guidance at the Union level. I solicit your continued prayers that God will continue to shower His blessings upon the Department of Women’s Ministries.



## An Extension of His Touch

Praying with an anxious patient before surgery. Teaching the local community about preventable health measures. Developing breakthrough improvements in patient care. As a Christ-centered organization, Adventist Health System believes that every action and interaction is an opportunity to extend the healing ministry of Christ. Our growth and success as an organization exist for one reason — to serve others.

Serving more than four million patients annually, Adventist Health System has become the largest not-for-profit Protestant health care provider in the nation. Composed of 43 hospitals, 16 extended care facilities, and more than 20 home health and hospice agencies, Adventist Health System employs more than 55,000 people. Facilities exist in four of the North American Division unions: Southern, Southwestern, Lake, and Mid-America.

### Leading the Way Forward

The landscape of health care is changing. As health reform legisla-

tion is implemented, hospitals across the United States will be expected to deliver standardized, high-quality care based on exacting safety standards without increasing costs. As a system committed to not just keeping up with change, but setting the pace of change, Adventist Health System is developing creative solutions to meet these challenges head on. At the center of all of our efforts is our mission. Adventist Health System is committed to “Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ” to communities in need.

### Growing Stronger

In September 2010, Adventist Health System acquired five hospitals in the Tampa Bay area: University Community Hospital, University Community Hospital-Carrollwood, Long Term Acute Care Hospital, Pepin Heart Hospital & Dr. Kiran C. Patel Research Institute, and Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. The addition of these facilities has provided Adventist Health System with an opportunity to share the Seventh-day



*Donald Jernigan, Adventist Health System president/CEO*

Adventist health message with the Tampa Bay community as well as our new employees. Peter Bath, D. Min., accepted the role of vice president of mission for the new Tampa Bay Region.

“The questions of change abound as the wonderful people of the University Community hospitals seek to understand and embrace

the very clear mission and operating culture of Adventist Health System,” says Peter Bath. “Underneath it all is a sense of hope and help as we move forward in ministry to the large Tampa area population.”

### Investing in Our Communities

By putting Christ at the center of our efforts, we are driven to care for our patients even before they enter one of our hospitals. Adventist Health System is bringing CREATION Health to communities across the United States. CREATION Health is a transformational program designed to help us live an abundant life based on the principles found in the biblical story of Creation: Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. This blueprint on how to live a meaningful and well-balanced life is changing lives.

The small coastal town of Port Charlotte, Florida, knows first hand the power inherent in these principles. Once battling with preventable diseases, Port Charlotte is experienc-



ing a health revolution. CREATION Health teaches us that every choice we make will directly impact our health. Getting adequate rest will replenish our bodies. A calm environment will be nurturing. Increasing activity will help us become stronger. Remembering to trust in God will renew our spirits. Finding support in interpersonal relationships will strengthen us during difficult times. Maintaining a positive outlook on life will influence our overall health. Receiving well-balanced nutrition will fuel physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

### Meeting Needs

Each of our facilities is as unique as the communities we serve. While patients can be assured the same high-quality care at all Adventist Health System facilities, each community has specific needs. We are committed to meeting these requirements and helping a community

where they need it most. Two pregnancy support service organizations in Asheville, North Carolina, had a need for skilled radiologists to help provide ultrasounds to the growing number of girls and women experiencing unexpected pregnancies. Asheville Pregnancy Support Service reports that more than 90% of the women who receive an ultrasound choose to go through with their pregnancy. By participating in this program, Park Ridge Health is meeting a need in the local community and providing hopeful parents with a chance for a family.

### Mission Matters

“Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ” is a special mission that drives Adventist Health System employees to provide patient care at the highest of standards. This means caring for the whole person — mind, body and spirit. By focusing equal attention on clinical excellence, spiritual nourishment, and care that includes a personal touch, Adventist Health System believes that patients receive the best care possible. Mission matters at every level of our organization. From the boardroom to the hospital bedside, Adventist Health System employees are committed to sharing Christ’s example of hope, health, and healing.





The hand of God has been much in evidence during the development and growth of Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS). The college opened its doors in 1992 with an enrollment of 243. Next year will mark the 20th anniversary for the institution. Since its beginning, literally thousands of students have benefitted from a faith-based healthcare education offered by this institution of excellence. The mission statement gives a clarity of direction and purpose: "Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, a Seventh-day Adventist institution owned by Florida Hospital, specializes in the education of healthcare professionals. In harmony with the mission of Florida Hospital, the college provides an environment where students can develop spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically while pursuing professional expertise integrated with Christian values."

In keeping with its mission, four words have become central to the vision of the college: Nurture, Excellence, Spirituality, and Stewardship.

## FHCHS Enrollment



"These vision words, along with the motto of 'Healthcare as Ministry,' are a constant reminder to faculty, staff, and students of what makes FHCHS an institution of excellence," states David E. Greenlaw, D.Min., president of Florida Hospital College.

Since its inception, the College has enjoyed a continual increase in enrollment. During the last five years, the total number of students has grown from 2,112 in the fall of 2006, to 2,741 in the fall of 2010.

Increased enrollment has been accommodated by the completion of the new Campus Center building, a large three-story structure which houses 10 classrooms, five labs, administrative offices, service departments, marketing and enrollment services, a chapel, campus bookstore and café, student services, student lounge, financial services, and the new Center for Academic Achievement.

The degrees offered to students include undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. The B.S. in biohealth sciences prepares students for entry into dental school, medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine. Two-year associate of science degrees are offered in diagnostic medical sonography (general or cardiovascular ultrasound), nuclear medicine

technology, occupational therapy assistant, pre-professional studies, and radiography.



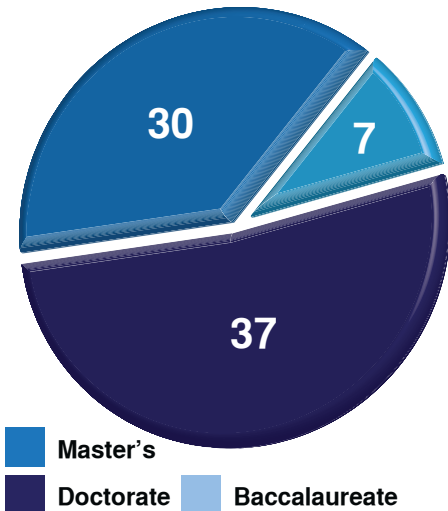
*David E. Greenlaw, D.Min., president of Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences*

technology, occupational therapy assistant, pre-professional studies, and radiography.

The newest degrees offered are a master's in certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), a master's in occupational therapy, and a bachelor's in nuclear medicine. And, beginning in the fall of 2012, the four-year B.S. in nursing will be taught on campus. (The R.N. to B.S.N. online will continue to be offered.)

Opportunities for the College to expand its on-campus programs beyond the Orlando main campus have been realized by a second site located at Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Utilizing live interactive technology (PolyCom), classes taught at the Orlando campus are accessed in Denver by students there who can participate as if being present in the

## FHCHS FACULTY DEGREES



same classroom with the teacher and fellow students. Presently, general education classes and radiography are being offered with plans to begin sonography and nursing by next year.

At FHCHS, more than half of the student body are enrolled 100 percent in online studies. This is largely in three completion programs for bachelor of science degrees in nursing, radiologic sciences, and diagnostic medical sonography.

None of these programs could be a reality at the college without a well-qualified and committed faculty. The educational level of the teaching faculty has continued to move upward with the focus being on nurture and excellence as an integral part of the vision. Continuing educational opportunities have greatly benefited the faculty, resulting in increased respect among professional peers, involvement in career leadership, seminar

and workshop presentations, and contributions to professional journals and textbooks.

During spring term 2010, Florida Hospital College launched a new course named "Philosophy of Healthcare," which every student coming to the college is required to take. It has two main goals: first, to help future healthcare providers develop their own philosophy of healthcare from a biblical perspective; secondly, students are given opportunities to work with teachers and coaches assigned to each section to identify academic vulnerabilities, learning style preferences, and time management skills. Don Williams, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic administration, states, "The course is now in its fourth term, and results indicate it is fulfilling its mission."

The Center for Academic Achievement (CAA) not only assists with the implementation of the common course, Philosophy of Healthcare, but seeks to assist students in learning to study smarter, not harder. That's why The Center helps students in the areas of academic coaching/advising, tutoring, counseling, disability services, and testing. The CAA offers free individual, group, and online modules on the following topics: anxiety, time management, study skills, learning style assessments and study techniques, nursing techniques, nursing success, English help for non-native English speakers, and stress management.

The driving mission of FHCHS is to produce a product, namely its

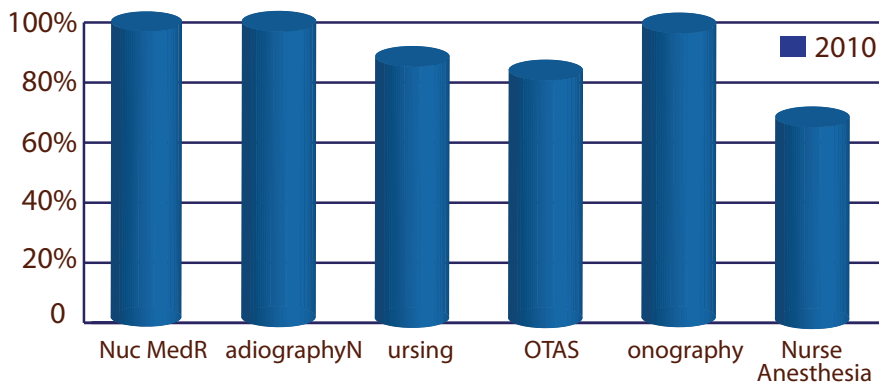
graduates, who have learned and experienced what it means to reflect the ministry of Christ in their chosen professions. Healthcare as Ministry is more than just a logo, it personifies the philosophy and vision this institu-



Motto: *Healthcare As Ministry*

tion wants to ingrain in each student. The campus ministry team seeks to support this experience through student prayer sessions at noon each day called "Circle Up," community service projects implemented and staffed by each department of the school, Friday night Vespers called "Sonset Café," Weeks of Prayer led by students, Sabbath services, and mission trips both domestic and beyond. Truly, the student experience at FHCHS is one filled with opportunity to learn, to grow, to practice the ministry of Christ through healthcare.

## FHCHS PASS RATE 2010



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Associate Degrees

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pre-Professional Studies
- Radiography

### Bachelor's Degrees

- Biomedical Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Nursing
- Radiologic Sciences

### Master's Degrees

- Nurse Anesthesia
- Occupational Therapy



## Strategic Progress at Oakwood University 2006-2011

*Aerial view of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama*

The following points of progress are of advances realized through pursuit of division strategic initiatives during this quinquennium. For all these signs of progress, we give God the glory:

### **Curriculum Development/Expansion**

The most significant curriculum development achievement was the creation of the graduate curriculum for the master's of arts in pastoral studies. This allowed the University to achieve Level 3 status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools with authorization to award a master's degree. Achieving Level 3 status corresponded with changing the institution's name to Oakwood University.

Another academic program milestone was the creation of the Communications Department. The separation of the communications program from the Eng-

lish and Foreign Languages Department was necessitated by the growth in enrollment and diversity of the emerging programs.

Continuous program improvements were evidenced by professional reaccreditation of the following programs: business & information systems, education, nursing, and social work.

### **Faculty Achievements**

Faculty contributions include excellence in the areas of teaching,

scholarship, and service to the University and community. Scholarship successes included multiple professional publications and presentations. In addition, faculty efforts resulted in three major grant awards: Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant of \$1,200,000, National Science Foundation grant of \$2,000,000, and Nursing Simulation Instrumentation grant of \$275,150.

### **Upgrade of Instructional Facilities**

Fostering a supportive learning environment is critical to student success. Renovations to the Health & Physical Education Complex (natatorium, weight room, and gymnasium) provided students with more up-to-date dressing rooms and equipment in addition to a more pleasant environment. The installation of an elevator in Blake Center provided needed handicap accessibility to key services. The security



*Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D. (left), former president, 1996-2010; Mervyn A. Warren, Ph.D., interim president from July to December 2010, and provost and senior vice president; and Leslie N. Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., current president*



of equipment and comfort of students were enhanced with the installment of metal roofs on most instructional buildings.

The addition of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center, along with major renovations of the Mosley Complex, helped to make possible the introduction of the University's first graduate program. Computer labs for student use were expanded with the addition of a lab in Moran Hall (History Department), Burrell Hall (Communications Department), and Cooper Science Complex (Science Learning Center). Additionally, several existing computer labs were expanded and upgraded. One of the latest achievements is the creation of a simulation lab for the Nursing Department.

Upgrades to existing heating and cooling systems remain a high priority.

Major upgrades were completed in the Eva B. Dykes Library, and work is continuing in the Cooper Science Complex. The Communications Department curriculum received important support with the creation and outfitting of a new television studio.

### Enrollment Trends

The institution experienced steady enrollment growth during the quinquennium. The following graph illustrates enrollment increase of 8.1 percent during the five-year period.

### Co-curricular Activities

The Academic Division sponsored and/or supported several co-curricular activities that enhanced student learning experiences. Annual participation in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge tournament resulted in first place awards for two consecutive



*Leslie N. Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., Oakwood University president, with his wife, Prudence LaBeach Pollard, Ph.D., PHR, Oakwood University professor of management and assistant vice president for faculty development, leadership, and quality*

years. In addition, Oakwood joined the United States Collegiate Athletic Association and won first place in the national tournament its first year of participation.

### On-Campus capital projects completed include:

- Student Dining Hall Renovations – \$5.0 million
- Bradford/Cleveland/Brooks Leadership Center – \$2.5 million
- McKee Business and Technology Complex – \$1 million
- Millet Activity Center – \$500,000
- Clara Peterson Rock Museum – \$80,000
- Jacobs Historic Silos – \$50,000
- Oakwood Memorial Gardens – \$35,000
- E. C. Ward Roadway and Parking Complex – \$500,000

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As stewards of God's financial resources, the following reflects our commitment to and God's blessing of maximizing the resources that God has given us.

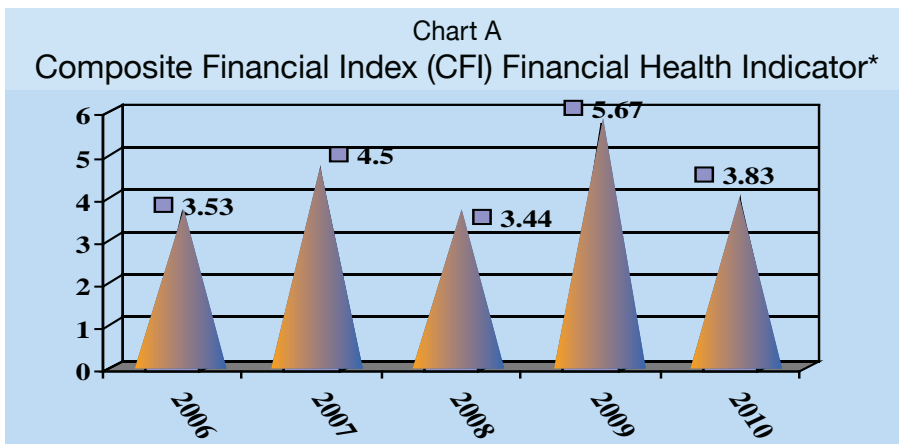


Chart B  
Financial Health Ratios

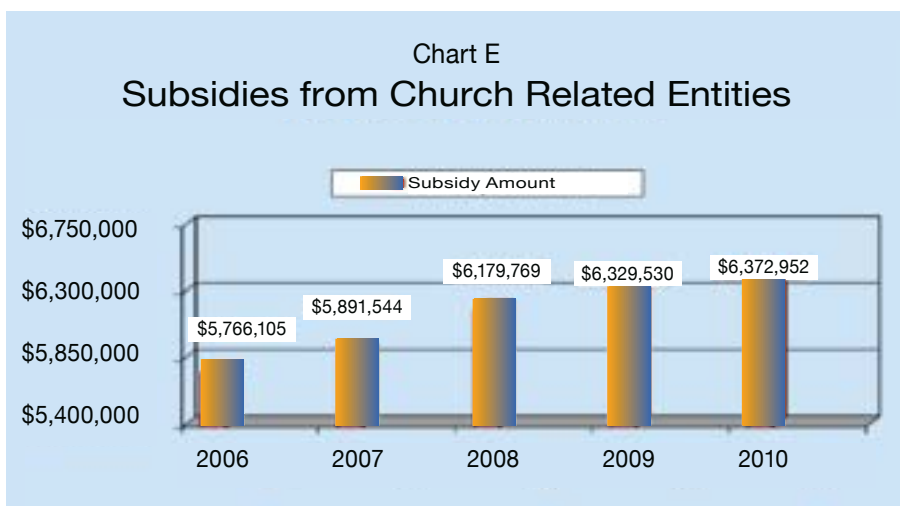
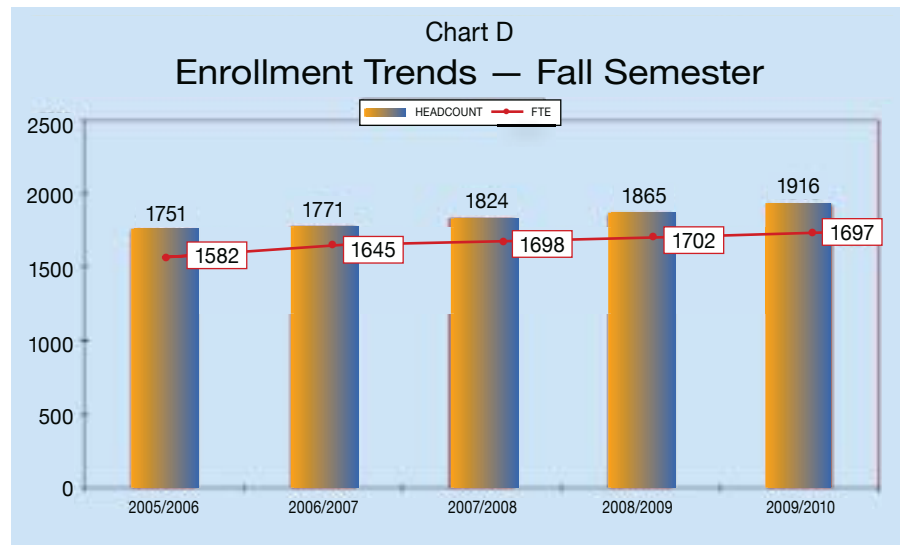
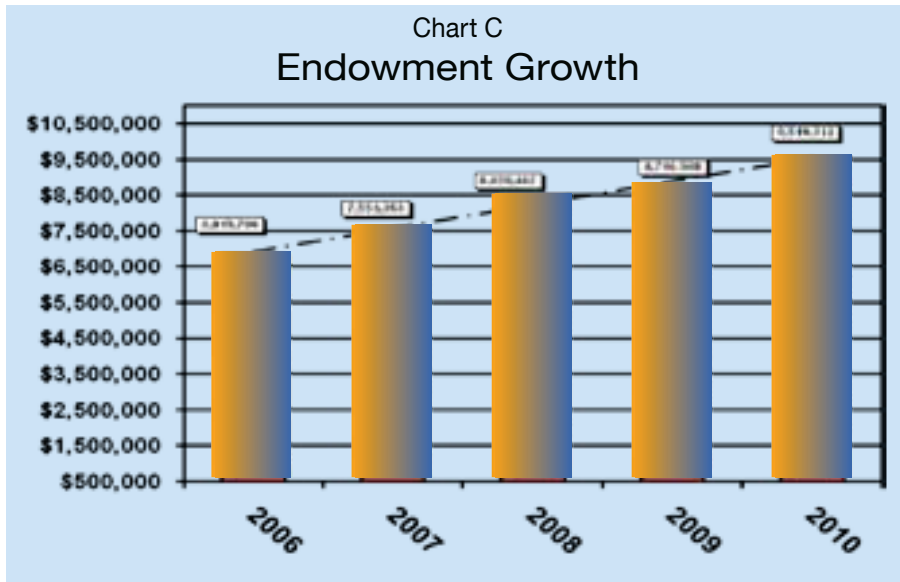
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Target
<b>Primary Reserve Ratio</b> How Long Can OU Operate w/o additional net assets	40%	46%	35%	46%	45%	40%
<b>Return on Net Assets Ratio</b> Does assets performance support the strategic direction of OU	7%	13%	9%	17%	4%	4-8%
<b>Net Income Ratio</b> Is OU living within its available resources	2%	6%	5%	14%	3%	2-4%
<b>Viability Ratio</b> Is debt managed strategically to advance OU	1.77	1.8	1.46	2.08	2.32	1.25 to 2

**Strengths/Success**

• **Timely Financial Reporting:** The University has developed a number of

policies and practices to ensure that financial statements are accurate, consistent, and auditable. During the last

10-plus years, Oakwood University has received unqualified audits. Furthermore, the University has achieved and maintained low-risk audit status for the audit of government funds. As of the last audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 — total assets were \$67.1 million, total liabilities were \$14.3 million, total revenues were \$48.6 million, and total expenses were \$46.4 million.



• **Financial Health and Viability:** In 2005, the University administration implemented a financial strategy to promote the long-term health and viability of the University. The strategy involved setting benchmarks and implementing plans and processes to ensure that the University had adequate resources to increase its overall wealth, attract and retain students, maintain and develop campus facilities, increase operational efficiency, and develop multiple revenue sources.

**From Fiscal 2006 through Fiscal 2010:**

- Net assets have increased by \$17.8 million (51 percent).
- Total revenues have increased by \$7.6 million (19 percent), while total expenditures have increased by \$7.7 million (20 percent).
- The University Composite Financial Index (CFI) has remained stable between 3.44 and 5.67 (target range is three to seven), which indicates Oakwood is financially healthy (Chart A) and needs to focus on transforming into a highly competitive organization. (The composite score combines different fundamental elements of financial health to yield a single measure of Oakwood's overall financial health).
- The University has a primary reserve ratio (measures financial strength. It is a direct measure of viability and an indirect measure of liquidity — it measures relative wealth against commitments) of 0.45. Oakwood's return on net assets (it determines if the institution is financially better off than in previous years) ratio is four percent (target

is eight percent). In addition, the viability ratio (measures the availability of expendable net assets to cover debt) has remained strong, and for 2010 it was 2.32 (target >1.25) (Chart B).

While the market value of investments has declined, the University's endowment has increased by \$2.7 million (40 percent) (Chart C). The 2010 endowment was \$9.5 million. The spending rate is generally between two to five percent and is located in the Investment Policy which governs the Endowment Fund investments.

- Net tuition

revenue has increased by \$2.1 million (14 percent); total FTE's have remained relatively stable overtime. In addition, as a result of the implementation of intensive recruitment and retention strategies in fall 2009, the University experienced a strong increase (9.4 percent/165 students) in headcount in the last five years (Chart D).

- The Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to be a strong supporter of the University. During the last five years, contributions from the Church have increased by \$600,000 (10.5 percent) (Chart E).

- **Sustainability - Budget Development and Monitoring:** In keeping with Oakwood University Board voted policies, the University has implemented and maintained a balanced budget for the last five years. The budget is monitored on a daily basis and normally reviewed monthly by the president and administrative officers to ensure that variances are reviewed and corrected.

- **Debt Management and Structuring:** The University administration under-



*Oakwood University students gathered at Wade Hall to watch newscasters give presidential election poll updates in November 2008.*

stands the role of financial stewardship in an organization and constantly endeavors to direct its financial resources effectively. The University has consistently maintained adequate assets to cover annual debt service, and ensured that the University's assets were not excessively leveraged. In fiscal 2006 the University's viability ratio was 1.77, for fiscal 2010 it was 2.32, and it has remained strong during the last five years (See Chart B).

For all these things we are grateful. We seek to make the Kingdom first, believing that He will add to us those blessings He promised in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom ... and all these things will be added to you." Our prayer is that God will continue adding to our vision of the future.

The story is told of a deeply discouraged blind man who, in feeling overcome by his sightless condition, approached the ancient cleric, Anthony, with a question: "Anthony, can there be anything worse than losing your sight?" Anthony paused for a moment, and then he spoke up. "Yes," replied Anthony. "There

is something worse than losing your sight — losing your vision!"

Oakwood University offers a world of possibilities to our Church. Its hopeful spirit reminds us of a brief quote from one of our favorite poets, Pablo Neruda, who wrote, "You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot stop the coming of the spring!" For Oakwood University, spring is on the way! In this 21st century, opportunities to spread our wings locally, nationally, and internationally are all around us. But vision without work and commitment is mere fantasy. Remember the words of Martin Luther: "We must work, as if prayer meant nothing. And we must pray, as if work meant nothing."

Under God's providence, the next decade will be a season of sunshine for Oakwood University. May God continue the mission of our founders. And may God bless Oakwood University!

# A Growing Institution, An Intimate Community



Southern Adventist University has been blessed by considerable growth during the last five years, and is able to offer more and more young people the opportunity to learn in a thriving Adventist environment. Students can now choose from more than 80 academic degrees and enjoy several new facilities on campus.

And, with the amount of growth we're blessed with, we're still committed to maintaining an intimate community. At Southern, students experience the feeling of being part of something bigger than themselves. As we continue to see growth in the upcoming years, Southern will remain a network of Christians connected by a common desire to be a part of a mission-driven institution.

## Academics and Student Success

Dedication to student success — that's one of the characteristics Southern's faculty and staff share. With pro-

grams designed to assist students academically and financially, by the time they graduate, our students are ready to conquer the professional world.



### New Academic Programs

Since 2006, Southern has added many new programs for students. Some of the new academic areas include early childhood education, outdoor leadership, non-profit management, and mental health counseling. Southern strives to offer relevant degrees that meet the demands of today's job market.

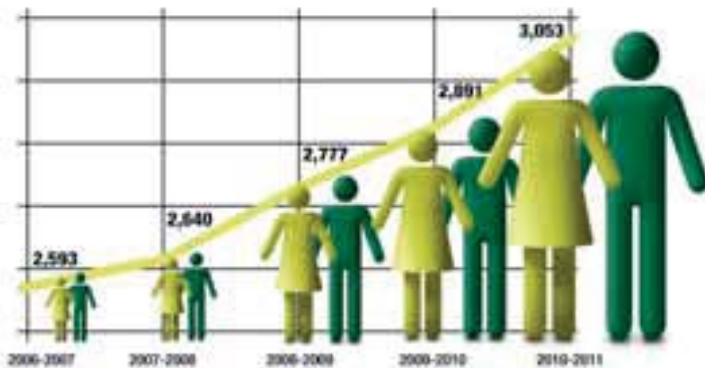
### Accreditation

In December 2010, Southern celebrated 60 years of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We continue to provide quality education as we reach milestones like this.

### School of Social Work

The School of Social work has expanded in the last few years. The Council on Social Work Education recently reaccredited our bachelor's program, and a new Master

## Enrollment Growth



of Social Work program started fall 2010. In this new graduate program, students with a bachelor's in social work can earn their master's degree in as little as 12 months.

### **Southern Connections**

In order to help new undergraduate students connect with peers and develop healthy study habits, in 2008 we established Southern Connections 101, a freshman orientation class. This class, along with the mentorship program, has been a contributing factor in Southern's increasing retention. The dropout rate for freshman decreased from 11.6 percent in 2007, to 7.6 percent in 2011.

### **Financial Aid**

Southern strives to make Christian education affordable. Since 2006, more than \$38 million in scholarships has been awarded to students. Besides the scholarships awarded to students who maintain high grades and participate in extracurricular activities, there are also scholarships for students who work at Adventist camps over the summer, work as literature evangelists, or dedicate a year as student missionaries. Generous gifts made to the university allow us to reduce tuition by 25 percent.

### **SIFE**

Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an international non-profit organization that encourages students to use their business skills to solve problems in communities, organizations, and the world. Southern's SIFE team won the SIFE Regional Competition, and later presented their projects at the national competition. Current projects include working with healthcare executives in Tanzania and organizing a bakery at Uruguay Adventist Academy.

### **Campus Expansion and Renovations**

In the 2010 school year, Southern's enrollment surpassed 3,000. With the continual support from the

Southern Union constituents, not only are we giving more students the opportunity for an Adventist education, but we're also raising the bar for our facilities and resources.

### **Florida Hospital Hall**

Our new nursing building, Florida Hospital Hall, opened January 2011. With a larger facility, Southern can train even more nurses for a field that's in desperate need.

The campaign to raise funds for Florida Hospital Hall and the Hulsey Wellness Center, Southern's modern fitness gym, was completed February 2011. A \$17.5 million project, the Campaign for Health and Healing was the biggest fundraising campaign in Southern's history.

### **Hulsey Wellness Center**

The Hulsey Wellness Center, which opened in 2009, features more than 100 workout stations, two indoor pools, a climbing wall, and a high-energy snack shop. Opening this building is one of the many ways we've impacted students' lifestyles. Home to the School of Physical Education, Health and Wellness, the wellness center also houses a human performance lab where, using the latest equipment, guests can get the information they need to better reach their fitness goals.

### **McKee Library**

Right before McKee Library celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, it was renovated to be a more open, student-friendly environment. Renovations included a Knowledge Commons area for events and casual study, and eight study rooms for research, study groups, or project preparation. Today, the library's 170,000 volumes are located in a spacious setting that continues to see improvements. More recently, the library's website was selected by the Association of College and Research Libraries as the "College Library Website of the Month" for January 2011.



### **Expanded Housing**

In response to our growing student body, two new Southern Village apartment buildings were added to campus this summer, providing housing for 64 more students. Additionally, ten other apartments were renovated for undergraduate housing.

### **Up Next: Summerour**

Summerour Hall, home to the School of Education and Psychology, is undergoing renovation to expand classroom size, construct a new front for the building, and redecorate the interior. The updated Summerour Hall will provide appropriate space for all four programs of the school and simultaneously create a connected community for students in each field.



### **Adventist Heritage and Spirituality**

Through Bible classes, Adventist heritage tours, and our new Ellen White institute, students are discovering that the founders of our church once were young and passionate people as well. In the same way that our original leaders dedicated their lives to Christ's work in their youth, Southern students are making a difference now.

## **Institute for the Study of Ellen G. White and Adventist Heritage**

In October 2010, the School of Religion inaugurated the Institute for the Study of Ellen G. White and Adventist Heritage. The four main goals of the institute are to promote Adventist Heritage tours, launch an annual lecture series, create a church history student writing contest, and continue studies on Ellen White apologetics. The institute will provide Southern with a new medium for promoting Adventist education and affirming church heritage.

### **Adventist Heritage Tour**

Each year, the School of Religion's Adventist Heritage Tour gives students the opportunity to relive the rich history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Under the leadership of Jud Lake, professor of religion, participants visit historic sites in New England. With a strong foundation in our history, students will better understand the importance of preaching our message in the present.

### **New Small Groups**

Southern is committed to providing a "small campus feel" despite record-breaking enrollment. One of the ways ministry leaders make Southern "smaller" is by organizing small groups called Life Groups across campus. These groups offer students a place to build their faith through prayer and Bible study in the company of friends. This fall, the Chaplain's Office will add 10 paid positions for Life Group leaders.

### **Student-Led Church**

Renewal, Collegedale Church's student-led service, has enabled students to participate and share their talents since 2008. The opportunity to plan, prepare, and execute this worship service each week gives students a creative outlet and an active role in the church. Beyond campus, there are 29 Adventist churches in the area. With so many options, it's easy for students to find a church family where they can feel at home.

## **Student Ministries**

Nearly 20 student-led outreach organizations exist at Southern. Each week, students participating in these volunteer groups head out to the greater Chattanooga area to provide food for the homeless, care for the elderly, play with kids, and witness to the community. Through these outreach ministries, students are able to use their talents to impact the community.

### **Student Missions and ERC**

In the 2010 school year, 87 students served as long-term missionaries and 113 participated in short-term mission trips. Student Missions enhances campus spirituality by equipping students to serve others in the name of Christ. Additionally, the School of Religion's Evangelistic Resource Center has sent students of all majors to preach around the world since 2001. In the last five years, more than 10,000 people were baptized as a result of these summer evangelistic trips.

## **Health and Sustainability**

Whether students are studying on the residence hall lawns, playing Frisbee by the Duck Pond, or biking through the Biology Trail, Southern strives to create a healthy campus in every sense of the word—a campus that promotes balanced living, positive recreational activities, and a dynamic atmosphere.

### **Wellness Institute**

Being a valuable resource for the surrounding community is important to us. Through seminars, the Wellness Institute provides important information on health and holistic living to the community. The Wellness Institute hosts several events a year, including CREATION Health meetings and the WELLkids summer day camp.

### **Expanded Biology Trail**

This year, community members partnered with the Biology Depart-



ment at Southern to add 11 miles to the Biology Trail. With the new paths, students, faculty, and the community will enjoy even more biking, walking, and exploring.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Administration, faculty, students, and Collegedale city leaders have come together to form a committee for environmental sustainability. The Green Campus Initiative outlines 12 steps towards sustainability with the goal of maintaining a safe, beautiful campus. The committee promotes recycling and the use of recycled materials, diminishes hazardous waste, and reduces total waste all with the help of project volunteers.

**Remaining an intimate academic community amid growth requires the continual support from our university friends. For this, we are thankful to the Southern Union constituents. You provide the financial support, moral encouragement, and prayers necessary to keep Southern Adventist University a great option for a Christian education. Thank you for sharing our vision and supporting us as we carry out our mission.**

# Southern Adventist University

hosts events for you!

## **28th Annual Sunbelt Cohutta Springs Triathlon: October 2**

Join Southern Adventist University students and staff at the 28th Annual Sunbelt Cohutta Springs Triathlon, Sunday, October 2, 2011 at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Georgia. Online registration opens June 1 at [southerntriathlon.com](http://southerntriathlon.com).

## **PreviewSouthern, October 13-14**

Students interested in attending Southern Adventist University are invited to bring their families and spend time experiencing campus life during PreviewSouthern, October 13-14, 2011. To register or learn more about PreviewSouthern events, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or go to [southern.edu/visit](http://southern.edu/visit).

## **Alumni Homecoming Weekend, October 27-30**

Southern Adventist University's Alumni Homecoming Weekend is coming up, October 27-30, 2011. If you can't attend, but would like to watch the Alumni Vespers, Friday at 8 p.m., visit [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

## **Online Vespers, November 11 at 8:00 p.m.**

Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, will speak at Southern Adventist University's vespers program on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 8 p.m. To enjoy the program from the comfort of your home, visit [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

## **Visit Us**

Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to [southern.edu/visit](http://southern.edu/visit).



Power for Mind & Soul

1.800.SOUTHERN  
Collegedale, Tennessee

# Session Delegates

## CAROLINA

### *Delegates (21)*

Bryan Aalborg  
Milton Aguilar  
Glen Altermatt  
Wanda K. Beck  
Ernie Boughman  
Bob Cundiff  
Donovan Davis  
Jeff Donaldson  
John Earnhardt  
Destiny Edwards  
Charles Ferguson  
Maury Gilmore  
Chad Grundy  
Jim Hakes  
Eulita A. Heisey  
Minner Labrador  
Gary Moyer  
Samuel D. Romero  
Rick Russell  
John Seaman  
Lionel Simmons

### *Delegates-at-Large (5)*

Jim Davidson  
Samuel E. Bonham  
Bonnie Connelly  
Carlos G. Molina  
Dan Tullock

## FLORIDA

### *Delegates (59)*

Eric R. Allen  
Daniel Amich  
Judy Anderson  
Leann Andino  
Ivor Angus  
Pablo Ayala  
Thomas Baker  
Gregg Cain  
Conrad Duncan  
Ana Maria Escobar  
Howard Fish  
Wanda Forbes  
Victor R. Garcia  
Tim Goff  
Keith R. Harding  
Robert Henderschedt  
Debbie Hilton  
Newton W. Hoilette  
Jose Isaac  
Daniela Jean

Joong Shik Kim  
Jack Leach  
José A. LeGrand  
Dalton Lewis  
Allan Machado  
Victor J. Maddox  
Kathy McCullough  
Olney McLarty  
Robert Murphy  
Tim Nichols  
Arne Nielsen  
Daniel Nieves  
Josie Oates  
Naomi Olson  
Abel Paulin  
Nurilda Perez  
Pedro Perez  
Luc Pierre  
Nancy Pleasants  
Elisa Rahming  
Jack Rieder  
David Rivera  
Carmen Rodriguez  
Freddy Rodriguez  
Juan M. Rodriguez  
Mayra Rodriguez  
Duane C. Rollins  
Frank Runnells  
Mark Schiefer  
Harold Sookie  
Stephen Stewart  
Dave Swinyar  
Rickard Szilagyi  
Oscar Tavera  
Jeffrey Thompson  
Alex Vaz  
Eugenia Vega  
Marvin Williams  
Phil Younts

### *Delegates-at-Large (5)*

Rose Beavers  
Eric Cantillo  
Scott Green  
Witford Reid  
George H. Whitsett

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

### *Delegates (37)*

Kurt Allen  
Jeremy Arnall  
Debbie Baker

Gail Bragg  
Danilo Cornejo  
Harold Cunningham  
Edward Denny  
Mary Jo Dubs  
Ivette Figueroa  
Jerry Fore  
Sharon Garner  
Cynthia M. Gettys  
Rick Greve  
Mitch Hazekamp  
Dwight Herod  
Paul Hoover  
Michaela Lawrence Jeffery  
Stephen D. Kelley  
Dennis Kiley  
Kevin Kossick  
Rob Lang  
Tim Leffew  
Olivier Lemaitre  
Samuel Mihordea  
Garry Nudd  
Neftaly Ortiz  
Michael Pettengill  
Neil W. Reid  
Steve Rose  
Gary Rustad  
Steve Shaw  
John Al Sines Sr.  
Jonathan Sumner  
Tiffany Swinney  
Kim Thompson  
Obinna B. Ubani-Ebere  
Fernando Verduzco

### *Delegates-at-Large (6)*

Ed Wright  
Shirley A. Camp  
Lyndon Gallimore  
George G. Mercurius  
John S. Nixon Sr.  
Millie Tomei

## GULF STATES

### *Delegates (12)*

Kathy Oakley Aitken  
Christopher Barr  
Eric Bates  
Kay Buckner  
Roger Burke  
Clara Cisneros  
April Hobbs  
Kristy Mobley

Ken Shaw  
Don T. Shelton  
Gary Tracy  
Phil Wilhelm

### *Delegates-at-Large (4)*

Melvin K. Eisele  
Arturo Ledezma  
Leslie D. Louis  
Martin Fancher

## KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

### *Delegates (15)*

Connie Aitken  
Robbie Anderson  
Larry Boughman  
Steve Breece  
Thomas Day  
Armondo De Leon  
Fred R. Fuller  
Xochitl Guerra  
Douglas A. Hilliard  
Marvin G. Lowman  
Daniel McFeeters  
Julie Murphy  
Jerry Rimer  
Charles Stone  
John Watkins

### *Delegates-at-Large (3)*

Steve L. Haley  
Nick Bradley  
Patricia Sutton

## SOUTH ATLANTIC

### *Delegates (43)*

Marc R. Borieux  
Chenetra Brewington  
Yvonne Brown  
Carlton P. Byrd  
Patrick Carter  
Natasha E. Chaney  
Herbon Flemming  
Robert Green Jr.  
Katherlyn P. Hailey  
Joyce W. Hairston  
Lawrence Hamilton  
Derrick Hinds  
Darryl L. Howard  
Crawford Humphrey  
Joseph Jackson  
Larry Johnson



# Session Delegates

Lloyd M. Johnson  
 Shirley Johnson  
 Beulah Kilpatrick  
 Orlando L. King  
 Pennie Lister-Smith  
 Francis McNeil  
 Phillip J. McNeil Sr.  
 Carl McRoy  
 Godwin R. Mitchell  
 Carl Nesmith  
 John Patrickson  
 Anthony Philips  
 Efrain Poloche  
 Calvin B. Preston  
 Melvin Preston  
 Juan Reyes  
 Stephen P. Ruff  
 Gregory Saunders  
 Oscar Sherrod Jr.  
 Cheryl Simmons  
 Harold Thomas III  
 Karen E. Thrower  
 Jean Hercule Toussaint  
 Richard Watkins  
 Calvin Watkins  
 Henry Wilson  
 William L. Winston

*Delegates-at-Large (6)*  
 Vanard J. Mendinghall  
 Drake P. Barber  
 Ronald Chunn  
 Jean-Jacques Medastin  
 Joyce Thrower  
 Iris Wray

## **SOUTH CENTRAL**

*Delegates (30)*  
 Barbara R. Barnes  
 Marvin Belcher  
 Jennifer Bennett  
 Michelle Brown  
 Lillie M. Buckingham  
 Sonja Crayton  
 Albert Dudley II  
 James Curtis Elmore  
 Vandeon Griffin  
 Curtis Hall  
 Michael A. Harpe  
 Sandra Hawkins  
 Edgardo Jose Herrera  
 Alex Horton  
 Auldwin T. Humphrey

Marshall Johnson  
 Benjamin Jones  
 Gary L. Jones  
 Edmund Julius  
 Christopher Marshall  
 James T. McGriff  
 Shayla N. Montgomery  
 James G. Owens  
 Pearlie Richardson  
 Michael Ross Sr.  
 Shirley P. Scott  
 Temika Simmons  
 Sargent Simms  
 Alfred Lewellyn Williams  
 Seth Yelorda

## *Delegates-at-Large (6)*

Dana C. Edmond  
 Laurene R.W. Brown  
 Brenda J. Cowan  
 Sheila P. Davis  
 Albert L. Dudley  
 Marshall Henley

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

*Delegates (42)*  
 Evelyn Johnson Adams  
 Roger Alvarez  
 T. George Aristide  
 Barry Bonner  
 Nicolle Brisé  
 Ronald A. Brisé  
 Darlene Brooks  
 Mark Brown  
 Carol Byrd  
 William C. Byrd  
 McKinley Crockett Jr.  
 Herman L. Davis Sr.  
 Lewis W. Edwards  
 Shelley Garner  
 Olinto Groce  
 Robert Henley  
 Renée P. Hodge  
 Sherrie Hodge  
 Lesly Jacques  
 Edson Jarvis  
 Magaly Jeanty  
 Sharon R. Lewis  
 David A. Long Sr.  
 Gregory Mack  
 Nicola McClymont  
 Jean-Allah Monestime  
 Betty F. Nugent

Michael Owusu  
 Josue Parker  
 David L. Peay Sr.  
 Curtis Powell  
 Caesar A. Robinson  
 Olga H. Simmons  
 Anthony T. Smith  
 Milton Sterling  
 Tony Taylor  
 Bienvenu Theodore  
 Gwendolyn Turner-Parker  
 Brent Waldon Sr.  
 Kalisha Waldon  
 Clarence L. Wright  
 Theus Young

## *Delegates-at-Large (5)*

Hubert J. Morel Jr.  
 Ricardo C. Major  
 Patrick Vincent  
 John Washington II  
 Eugenia Weaver

## **SOUTHERN UNION**

*DELEGATES-AT-LARGE (44)*

### **Administration**

Gordon Retzer  
 Ron C. Smith  
 Randy Robinson  
 Dennis Millburn  
 Carlos C. Salazar

### **Departmental Directors and Associates**

Amireh Al-Haddad  
 Gene Brewer  
 G. Tom Carter  
 Peter DeVries  
 Debra Fryson  
 Diana Gunter  
 Jim Ingersoll  
 Kevin R. James  
 Tamara Lopez Libonati  
 Todd Mace  
 Jorge Mayer  
 Merkita Mosley  
 R. Steven Norman III  
 Keith W. Reid  
 Les Rilea  
 Ralph L. Ringer  
 Fred L. Rogers

Dennis Ross Jr.  
 Diane Ruff  
 Laura Smith  
 William S. Smith  
 Richard Stephenson  
 Allan Williamson

## **ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM**

Lars Houmann  
 Don Jernigan  
 Terry Shaw  
 Roscoe J. Howard III

## **SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

Gordon Bietz  
 Robert Young  
 Tom Verrill

## **FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

David E. Greenlaw  
 Don Williams  
 Bob Curren

## **OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY**

Leslie N. Pollard  
 R. Timothy McDonald  
 Sabrina Cotton

## **NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION**

Daniel R. Jackson  
 G. Alexander Bryant  
 Tom Evans

## **TOTALS:**

Delegates ..... 259  
 Delegates-at-large ..... 84  
 TOTAL..... 343

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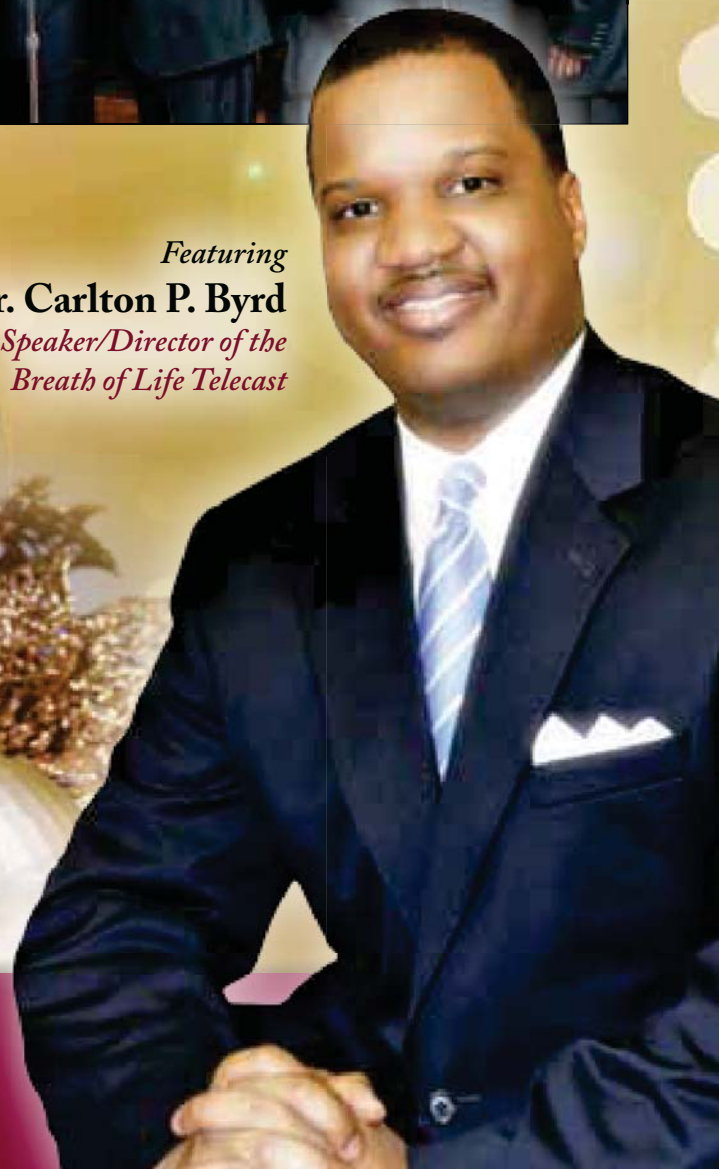


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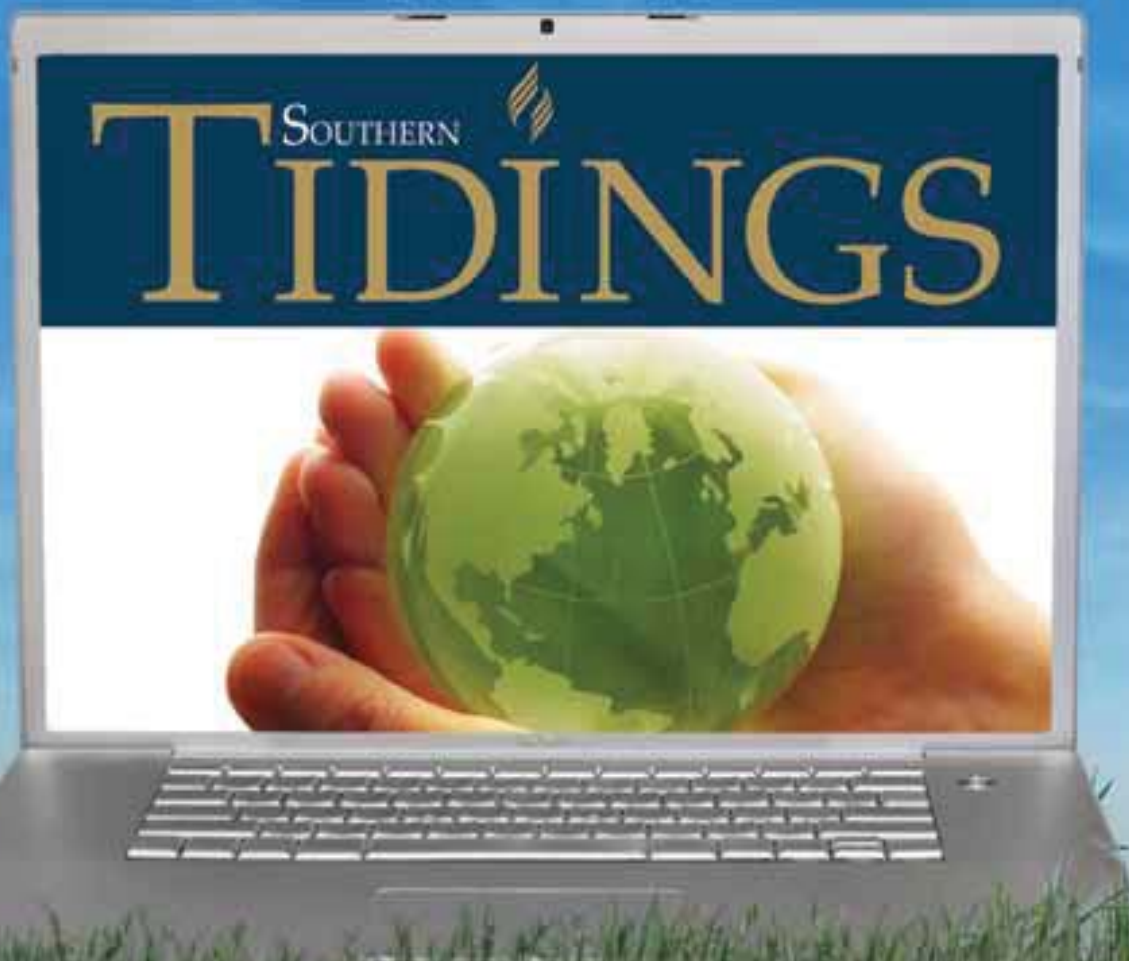
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**NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS** – 3 bed (2 are master suites), 3.5 bath + more. Blueberries, strawberries, and garden. 1.3 acres or up to 5+ acres. Call Carol at 828-361-9713. [9]

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Kentucky-Tennessee: Lin Powell, 615-859-1391  
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buildings, some fencing. \$350,000. call 931-242-1822 for more info. [9, 10]

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**PHARMACY DIRECTOR** opportunity available with **Gordon Hospital**, a member of Adventist Health System. PharmD preferred. The ideal candidate will have three or more years director level experience in a hospital setting. Gordon Hospital is located within 1 hour of Chattanooga, TN and Atlanta, GA. Southern Adventist

University is only a 45 minute drive. Please contact [jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org](mailto:jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org), 706-602-7800, extension 2345 for more information or apply online, [www.gordonhospital.com](http://www.gordonhospital.com). [9]

**FAMILY PRACTICE OPPORTUNITY** located in North Georgia. Gordon Hospital is seeking **Board Certified/Board Eligible FP Physician.** Highly respected, busy practice. Excellent salary. Excellent benefits. Outstanding Adventist elementary and high school. Southern University within a 45-minute drive. For more information contact [bonnie.shadix@ahss.org](mailto:bonnie.shadix@ahss.org), or call 800-264-8642. [www.gordonhospital.com](http://www.gordonhospital.com). [9-12]

**JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** is looking for physicians to work in our hospital. We are currently seeking the following positions: **Family Practice, Family Practice/OB, Orthopedic, Nephrology, Internal Medicine.** Please contact Jason Dunkel @ [jason.dunkel@ahss.org](mailto:jason.dunkel@ahss.org) or 423-784-1187 for more information. [9-7]

**ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM** is seeking qualified candidates in clinical and non-clinical capacities to further its mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. If you have a passion to be part of the Seventh-day Adventist health ministry, email your resume to David Gordon, AHS System Recruiter, at [david.gordon@ahss.org](mailto:david.gordon@ahss.org). [9, 10]

**ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM (AHS)** is seeking seasoned nursing executives and directors who have a passion for mission and a commitment to clinical leadership and excellence. If you are interested in exploring opportunities within one of the 43 Hospitals within AHS, please email your CV to [susan.jamerson@ahss.org](mailto:susan.jamerson@ahss.org). [9]

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**WILDWOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR:** October 2 – 16, 2011. 14-day program focusing on health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$740. Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com). [9]

**WILDWOOD COUNTRY LIVING SEMINAR:** October 23 – 30, 2011. Strategy to Escape the City, Going Debt Free, Beginning Organic Gardening, Evaluating Property, Building a Do-It-Yourself Home. Devotionals: Simple Living in the Last Days. Wildwood Health Retreat. Cost: \$349. Contact: Darlene 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com). [9]

**WILDWOOD HUSBANDS AND WIVES SEMINAR:** October 30 – November 6, 2011. A simple, practical, interactive approach to strengthening marital relationships. Site: The Wildwood Health Retreat. Cost: \$349. Contact: Darlene 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com). [9]

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees](http://www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees). [9-6]

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**SEE FORKS OVER KNIVES ONLINE:** \$4.99 at [www.ReformYourOwnHealth.com](http://www.ReformYourOwnHealth.com). Looking for medical missionaries & cooking school facilitators to join us. 770-324-4585. [9]

## Announcements

**Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys' Annual Fall Retreat** – Sept. 9, 10. Tradewinds Resort, St. Pete Beach, FL. Details: email [ReligiosityLiberty@southernunion.com](mailto:ReligiosityLiberty@southernunion.com).

**Manchester, KY, Church and Memorial Hospital Homecoming Weekend** – Sept. 9-11. Details: [zerbees@hotmail.com](mailto:zerbees@hotmail.com).

**Oak Park Academy Alumni Reunion** – Oct. 7, 8. Gates Memorial Hall, 825 15th Street, Nevada. Honor classes: '36, '41, '46', '51, '56', '61, '66', '71, '76, ('81, '82, '83) Details: [www.opainiowa.com](http://www.opainiowa.com).

**Southern Singles Ministries Alumni Reunion Potluck** – Sept. 10. First Church, Chattanooga, TN. Details: [avocadofiddler@gmail.com](mailto:avocadofiddler@gmail.com) or 423-243-4011.

**Association of Adventist Women's Annual Convention** – Oct. 13-16. La Sierra University. "Total You - Body, Mind, and Spirit." Keynote speaker is Chris Oberg. Registration fee, \$125. Register online at [www.aaw.cc](http://www.aaw.cc).

**Peachtree City, GA, Church 35th Homecoming Anniversary** – Oct. 14, 15. Harold Cunningham, Sabbath speaker. Details: Joanne Anderson 770-487-8505.

**Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend** – Oct. 14-16. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are 1937, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02 and 2007. Details: contact the Academy Alumni office at 269-471-6140 or e-mail [acadalum@andrews.edu](mailto:acadalum@andrews.edu).

**Society of Adventist Communicators Convention** – Oct. 20-22. Chicago, IL. Keynote speaker: David Neff, Christianity Today editor-in-chief. Theme: Integrated Communication: The Hub of Excellence. The 23rd annual convention is in Chicago, IL, this

year. We hope to see many professional and local church communicators there. Sometimes it is hard for them to attend because of finances. Would you consider sponsoring some of them to come to the convention? Imagine if more of the local church communicators would be able to get training on how to do communication for their local church — how great would that be? Please download the flier and pass on this opportunity to your local church and/or school communication leaders. Visit, [adventistcommunicator.org](http://adventistcommunicator.org) for further details.

**Southern Singles Fall Retreat** – Oct. 21-23. Sterchi Lodge, NC. Pastor Daniel Royo, guest speaker. Details: [avocadofiddler@gmail.com](mailto:avocadofiddler@gmail.com) or 423-243-4011.

**Festival of Praise Revival and Reformation** – Nov. 19. A joint convocation for Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences at the 7,000-seat Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, formerly Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA. The Thanksgiving season celebration will provide a unique opportunity for the children, youth, senior members, and leaders within the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual sisterhood of churches of both conferences to foster bonding, communicate information, and nurture inspiration to expand the kingdom of God. Additionally, the convocation will cast a vision for evangelistic outreach and kingdom building for 2012. Special features will include the following:

1. Children and Youth Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
2. Youth Divine Worship Celebration at 11:00 a.m.
3. Festival of Praise at 4:00 p.m. Featuring the best choirs, groups, and instrumentalists of both conferences.
4. Colors of the World - Pathfinders parade of flags representing the nations of the conferences.
5. Introduction and report from South Atlantic, Georgia-Cumberland, and new Southern Union Conference president.
6. Children's Church.
7. Youth Rap Sessions.
8. 100+ Mass Choir.
9. Youth vs. SAC/GCC pastors basketball game.
10. Social activities for the young and young at heart.

**"Mysteries of the Mark of the Beast – Revealed"** – Dec. 9, 10. Elim Church, Saint Petersburg, FL. Steve Wohlberg, author/evangelist, will conduct a weekend series of evangelistic meetings. Lifelong Adventists, new members, and guests are invited to attend the series of four meetings that will begin with a service on Friday evening, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m., and conclude on Sabbath, Dec. 10, with meetings at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and Sabbath afternoon. Details: Jim R. Davis, Elim pastor, 727-327-2374 or [pastor@elimsda.com](mailto:pastor@elimsda.com).

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Hispanic Men's Convention** – Sept. 2-4. Nosoca.  
**ShareHim Bootcamp** – Sept. 9-11. Nosoca.  
**Carolina Retiree's Retreat** – Sept. 12-15. Nosoca.  
**Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting** – Sept. 17. Summerville.  
**Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting** – Sept. 24. Greenville.  
**Women's Retreat** – Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Nosoca.  
**Hispanic Women's Retreat** – Oct. 7-9. Nosoca.  
**Lav Pastoral Training** – Oct. 7-9. Nosoca.  
**Annual Council** – Oct. 7-12.  
**Community Service Retreat** – Oct. 14-16.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/>  
**Florida Pathfinder events** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/youth/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.  
**Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.** Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/>, [djmiller4000@gmail.com](mailto:djmiller4000@gmail.com), or 407-703-3050.  
**Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups** – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups such as attention deficit disorder, bereavement, brain injury, celiac disease, diabetes, sleep disorders, and more. Details are available under the "Support Groups" link in the "Patients and Visitors" box at <http://www.fhdland.org/>  
**Florida Adventist Book Center** – Winter Park: 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](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)  
**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**  
 Oct. 1. Port Charlotte.  
 Oct. 2. North Port, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.  
 Oct. 8. St. Petersburg.  
 Oct. 9. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills,

Lakeland.  
 Oct. 15. Jacksonville Southpoint.  
 Oct. 16. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 Oct. 22. Tallahassee.  
 Oct. 23. Lake City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.  
 Oct. 29. Sunrise.  
 Oct. 30. Plantation, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)  
 Nov. 5. Naples.  
 Nov. 6. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Avon Park, Winter Haven.  
 Nov. 12. West Palm Beach.  
 Nov. 13. Midport, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.  
 Nov. 19. Port Charlotte.  
 Nov. 20. North Port, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.  
 Dec. 3. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.  
 Dec. 4. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.  
 Dec. 10. St. Petersburg.  
 Dec. 11. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills.  
**Florida Conference Evangelism Series**  
 Oct. 1-Nov. 12. Altamonte Springs. Bill and Sunshine Waters.  
 Oct. 14-Nov. 19. Clermont. Lester and Zula Pratt  
 Nov. 5-19. Northwest Miami Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Rios.  
**Young At Heart Retreat.** Oct. 9-13. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. A camp experience designed just for the young at heart (ages 50+). Events include a classic movie night, the Kulaqua 500, and plenty of fellowship moments. Cost varies depending on choice of accommodations, meals, and activities. Details and registration: [summercamp@campkulaqua.com](mailto:summercamp@campkulaqua.com) or 386-454-1351.

**Go Fish For Kids.** Oct. 22. Fort Myers Church. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kids are invited to come and learn great ways to witness to

friends and neighbors. Puppetry, nature, fitness fun, interactive storytelling, ballooning, music, and more. Cost: free. Bring your own lunch. Details: <http://www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/>, [rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com](mailto:rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com), 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Hispanic Atlanta Metro Evangelism Crusade** – Sept. 3-10. Atlanta, GA.  
**Festival of the Laity** – Sept. 7-10. Dallas, TX.  
**Adventurer Ministries Convention** – Sept. 9, 10. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.  
**Family Togetherness Week** – Sept. 11-17.  
**Pathfinder Drill Instructor Training** – Sept. 16-18. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.  
**Hispanic Small Groups' Evangelism** – Sept. 17-24. Northern Region.  
**Health Rally** – Sept. 17. Adairsville, GA.  
**"God in Shoes" Evangelism** – Sept. 18-25. To be determined.  
**Church Planting Training** – Sept. 23-25. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Young Adult LifeGroup Experience** – Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Health Rally** – Sept. 24. Atlanta First Brazilian, Smyrna, GA.  
**Hispanic Men's Retreat** – Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**NE Tennessee Church Retreat** – Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online** <http://www.gscsda.org>  
**Prayer Summit** – Sept. 9-11.  
**Canoeing Teen Invitational** – Sept. 16, 17.  
**Elders' Certification Training #1** – Sept. 24. Cody Road Church, Mobile, AL.  
**Family Ministries Couples' Retreat** – Sept. 30-Oct. 2.  
**Principal's Retreat** – Oct. 7-9. Camp Alamisco.  
**Gulf States/Kentucky-Tennessee Pathfinder Retreat** – Oct. 13-16.

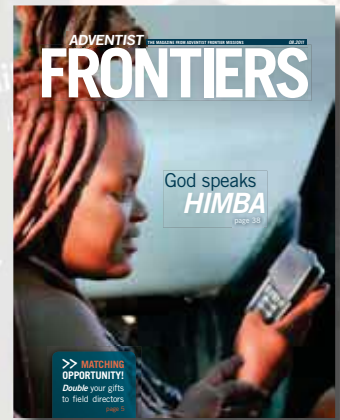
## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board** Oct. 4. Dec. 6.  
**Conference Executive Committee** Oct. 4. Dec. 6.  
**Young Women's Retreat** – Sept. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.  
**Women's Retreat I** – Sept. 23-25. Indian Creek Camp.  
**Women's Retreat II** – Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Indian Creek Camp.  
**Hispanic Women's Retreat** – Oct. 7-9. Indian Creek Camp.

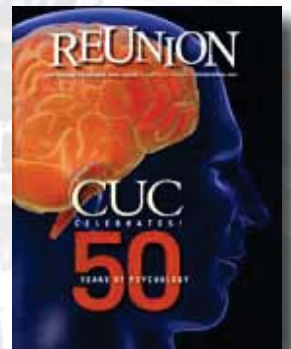
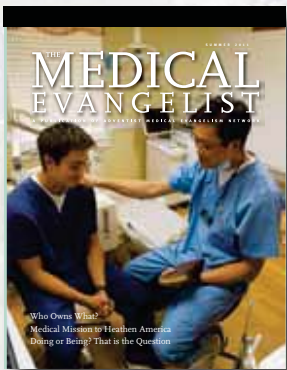
## Southeastern

**South Florida Adventist Youth Federation** – Sept. 16-18. Fort Lauderdale, FL.  
**Fall Workers' Meeting** – Sept. 26-28. Hawthorne, FL.  
**Hispanic Convention** – Oct. 14, 15.

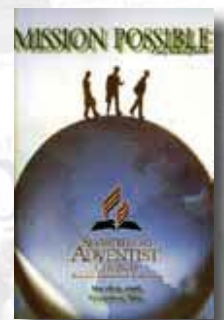
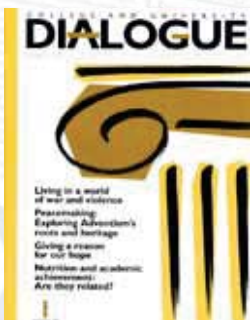
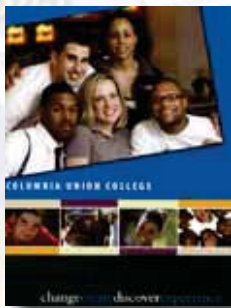
Sunset						
	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7
Atlanta, GA	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:30	7:20	7:11
Charleston, SC	7:40	7:31	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:54
Charlotte, NC	7:45	7:36	7:25	7:15	7:05	6:56
Collegedale, TN	8:02	7:52	7:42	7:32	7:22	7:13
Huntsville, AL	7:08	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:19
Jackson, MS	7:21	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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