

# T SOUTHERN TIDINGS

"I PRAY...  
THAT ALL OF THEM  
MAY BE  
ONE!"



REACH ACROSS  
INVITATION  
TO CARE

# Yes, You're All That, and More

“What is man?” Psalm 8:4

Who are you? Who am I? Here is one of the most difficult questions to answer, because everywhere you turn, we find a paradox. Look back across the wide scope of history. The same generation that produced compassionate, committed, and Christian leaders produced treacherous, tyrannical, and terroristic ones. When you begin to describe one aspect of a person's nature, another apparently contradictory but equally real aspect presents itself! Human beings are a mystery, even to themselves. They have power but are helpless; with all of their knowledge, they are so ignorant; with all of their experience, they are so stupid; with all of their possibilities for greatness, they can sink so low into the depths. In spite of all their pride, they are most often a disappointment to themselves. With all of their freedom, they are so frequently slaves.

The paradox of personhood appears pointedly in the life and teachings of Jesus. Nowhere did he use rose-colored glasses in His view of humans. How harsh He was in His criticism at times! Look at some of the words He used — vipers, white sepulchers, and dead men's bones. He saw the evil in the adulterer. He knew the depth of Judas' betrayal and the sting of Peter's denial. He knew perfectly well that people were capable of evil, but no one else ever had a higher view of human beings than did Jesus. While he knew what was in people, the weaknesses, the failures, He also saw the possibilities. It has been stated in different ways that what matters most to Jesus is not the actualities of people, but their potentialities.

Whenever we are disciplined enough to isolate our gaze on this paradox, here's what is often seen: People! Strange creatures! They can sink low into sin. They can rise to heights of usefulness. They can be so mean. They can be so good. One's life can be such a trifle. One's life can be truly great.

As we quest to minister and care, within this Southern Union, for every member, I am most poised to ask the question that was asked millennia ago: “What is man?”

The answer rings resoundingly clear that people are children of God, creatures of choice, redeemed by God and made for eternity. This transcends generational, gender, and ethnicity lines.

Have you noticed that human beings often go through the progressive seasons of their lives looking for identity and worth through dreams of securing the best job, fame, fortune, and public favor? Because of the inevitable losses and disappointments of just living, devastation and havoc are heaped upon our self-worth because of our tendency to define ourselves this way. We are almost unbelievably more than what we've accomplished, gained, or lost.

We are created in the image of God — and in the process of being re-created in the image of Christ. That gives us unimaginable worth, regardless of what we can or cannot do. Yes, you are all of the above, and more!

People become their best when they are living in an active relationship with the God who made them, who sustains them, who made redemption possible, and whom they quest to spend the ceaseless ages of eternity with. Yes, you are *all that* and more. Our magnanimous God designed it that way.



**Ron C. Smith,**  
D.Min., Ph.D.  
*Southern Union*  
*President*

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

## Staff

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

## Contributing Editors

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## Conference/Institution Directory

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
(800) SOUTHERN  
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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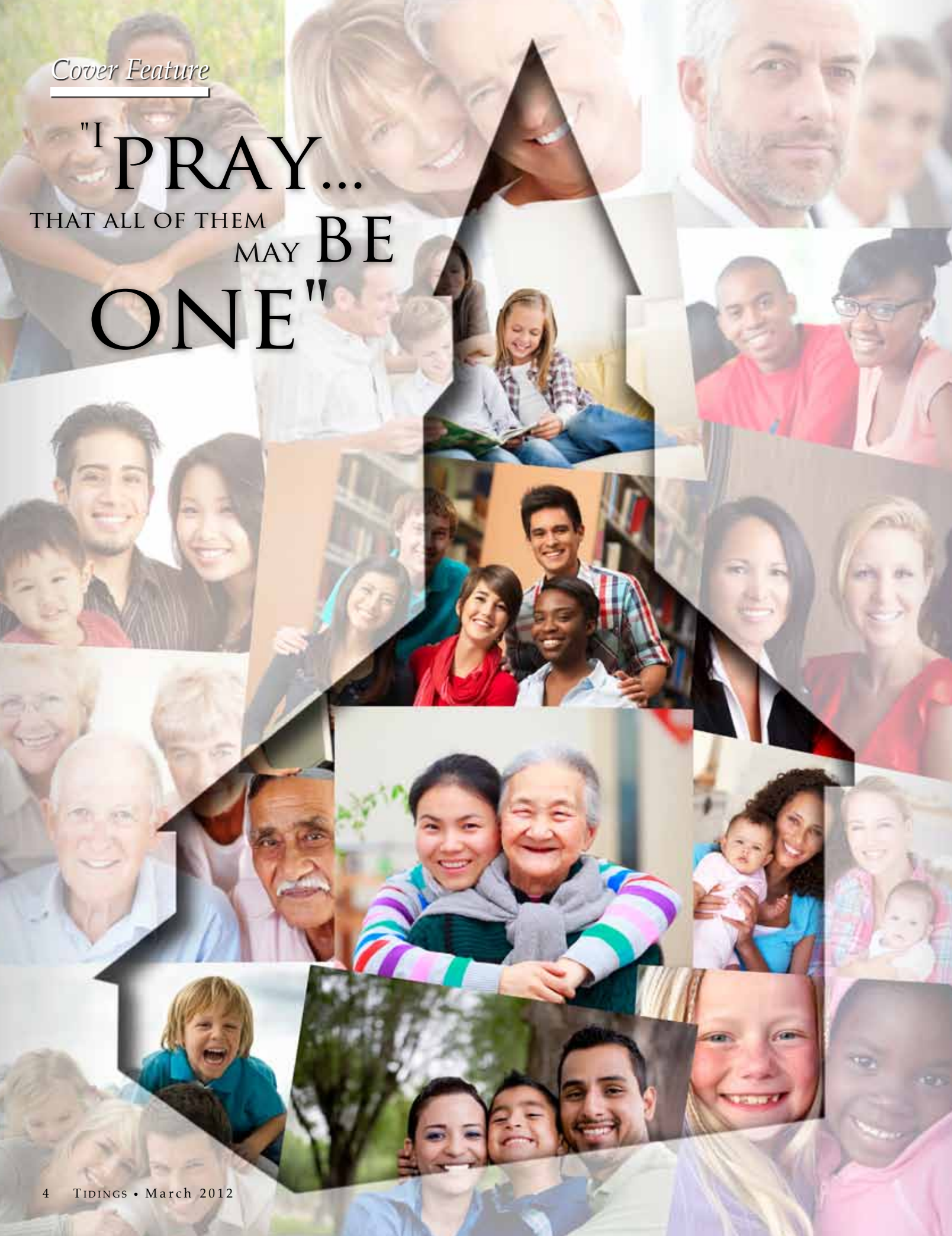
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"I PRAY...  
THAT ALL OF THEM  
MAY BE  
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# REACHING ACROSS DIVIDES: CULTURE AND MISSION

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By Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA

“Like many human characteristics, leadership is in the eye of the beholder — in particular, of those led. Just as the consumer and not the producer is the proper judge of the quality of a produce, so it is the followers and not the leaders themselves who know best about the quality and effectiveness of leadership.”<sup>i</sup>

I agree with cultural expert Geert Hofstede in the foregoing assertion — but with one caveat. What is true of how followers evaluate leadership is also true of how people evaluate our mission activities. For too long, we have tended to define mission effectiveness from our internal points of reference only. These points have included time spent in visitation, soul-winning, fundraising, etc. While these are important, and even essential, mission activities, they do not take the place of the ongoing assessments of our mission effectiveness engaged in by our constituents. In fact, this need to clarify mission effectiveness is never more critical than when we are working in multicultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and dually-gendered environments.

Effective mission in the 21st century requires both awareness and the competency to reach across the sub- and co- cultures within our territories. Our Adventist churches’ diversity makes the idea of limiting cross-cultural training for mission to departing missionaries an antiquated fallacy. The fact is that every cultural tribe and nation on the globe lives

within the Southern Union. Just visit Atlanta, Miami, Nashville, Birmingham, Jackson, or Louisville. Go abroad and visit Paris, Nairobi, Geneva, Rome, Hong Kong, or Sydney. In each of the places we will find an unprecedented association of persons from diverse cultures. Thus, church growth, evangelism, church planting, educational leadership, healthcare training, delivery, teambuilding as well as a host of other mission-based ministries consist of significant cross-cultural encounters. Further, as the conferences, churches, hospitals, and schools in the Southern Union diversify, the issues of multi-cultural cohesion and partnering in the local conference, union, and division will assume more significance.

I am impressed that one of our greatest needs at the beginning of the 21st century is ministry training at every organizational level that equips our institutions to competently accomplish the mission of the Church in our changed demographic situation. This article is dedicated to providing knowledge and awareness of some of the dimensions of culture that make various people groups unique. Then I will make a few suggestions to aid mission leaders in achieving effectiveness in their service. A full elaboration of the essential knowledge, insights, and skills is laid out in my book on the subject.<sup>ii</sup> But, first comes a story from one of my trips to Africa.

“Ahhhhh, a perfect postcard Thursday afternoon,” I think to

myself as I stand near the isolated Keekorok airstrip, anticipating the arrival of Air Kenya flight 422 to Nairobi. Kenya is good for me. She teaches this driven North American how to hurry up and wait. She also teaches me, on this beautiful August day, how to enjoy that waiting.

Today, I sit amid the peaceful surroundings of Kenya’s Masai Mara. My air strip is an isolated red rock and sand stretch of land about 240 kilometers west of Nairobi in the region known as Keekorok (meaning “place of the black trees” in the Masai language). This well-utilized landing area rests squarely in the grazing lands of thousands of wildebeests, zebra, Thompson gazelle, and impala. I have arrived during the season of the great migrations in Kenya, and as I inhale my surroundings I am keenly aware that this plain is fraught with both breath-taking beauty and incredible danger. For all of its apparent tranquility, hungry lions, stealthy leopards, and crouching cheetahs lurk within the golden strands of the Mara’s grassy knolls.

I sit in Masai land. Generous and approachable, the Masai are among Kenya’s pastoralists, i.e., herdsmen and shepherds. Their flaming red shawls light up the Mara and warn predators that the Masai will fight to the death to protect a cow or goat. I cannot help feeling impressed that the Masai are a proud and beautiful people.

Geoffrey Kulet, my 52-year-old Masai driver and tour guide, sits

quietly beside me. Geoffrey wears a carefully coordinated Safari khaki outfit. A gentle and quiet man of slender stature, Geoffrey seems reluctant to leave my side since doing so would be considered grossly inhospitable within his Masai values. Presence with a guest matters, and I am his guest. And me? Like a typical American, I never met a silence that I really liked. So in an effort to make conversation, I laughingly say to my host, “Hey, Geoffrey, suppose I wanted to become a Masai man. What would I have to do?” Geoffrey’s gentle eyes widen first; then he laughs heartily. “There is no way YOU could become a Masai man. You could live on the Masai land, but you could never be a Masai man.” “Couldn’t I be adopted into the tribe?” I ask. He laughs even more robustly as he remarks, “It does not work that way.” I respond light heartedly, “But, you are black people, and I am a black person. That should be enough!” Then, in his beautifully accented Kenyan English, Geoffrey says, “We have 42 two tribes of black people in Kenya. Being black is not enough. They cannot be Masai, and you cannot either. It’s where you are born and the way you are raised. You are an American.” While Geoffrey could point to 42 tribes in Kenya, it would be a mistake to simply tie them together solely around the incidence of racial commonality. So how can we begin?

**First**, it would be helpful to carefully explore the relationship between race and culture. After one departs from the notion of the existence of only one race — the human race, one must then define race based on biophysical characteristics. The weakness with this approach alone is that pigmentation, hair texture, and physical features have no inherent meaning for the values, outlooks, and attitudes that diverse persons hold. Socialization, acculturation, and choice influence these. That’s what Geoffrey was trying to say to me in response to my query about an African-American becoming a Masai. Ultimately, subsurface differences — values, beliefs, outlooks, religious

perspective, mores — make us who we are and make other people who they are.

Probably the first recorded use of the term “culture” as we know it is credited to Sir Edward Tylor, a British anthropologist. In 1871, he wrote that culture is “the complex whole, which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.”<sup>iii</sup> Culture represents a way of perceiving, behaving, and evaluating one’s world. It provides the blueprint or guide for determining one’s values, beliefs, and practices. Please note the following four characteristics of culture:

**1. Culture is learned from birth.**

Culture is learned from birth through learning one’s primary language, and through socialization or how one is raised. From society’s viewpoint, socialization, is the way culture is passed on and the individual is fit into a people group’s organized way of life. Group culture is expressed in the artifacts, religion, values, beliefs, mores, and assumptions that both define and distinguish people groups. Culture works as both the macro and micro dimensions.

**2. Members of the same cultural group gather around its similarities.**

In fact, it is the sharing of cultural beliefs and patterns that binds people together under one identity as a group – even though this is not always a conscious process. Shared culture also distinguishes groups from each other.

**3. Culture is an adaptation to specific conditions.**

These specific conditions are related to environmental, social, and political factors, and to the availability of natural resources. In other words, our culture can be passed on and modified by the kind of demands our environment places on us.

**4. Culture is dynamic, not static.**

Culture, although at its roots is stable, is on its surface a dynamic, ever-

changing process. Cultural beliefs, perspectives, and values change over time. For instance, the ladies’ skirt that comes to the knee would have been considered grossly immodest in 19th century America. Across time, the concept of modesty has changed. So what makes our mission multicultural and diverse beyond observable bio-physical differences? Let me first suggest that values and beliefs make a significant difference. Some of the concepts around which cultural values are formed for our members consist of a number of turning points.

***Here are 10 questions that each member should ask himself or herself in assessing one’s own cultural orientation:***

**1. In the culture that I am reaching across to, is deity immediate or distant?** Does the collective group life assume that God is immediately involved in its affairs, or is the deity distant, detached, and uninvolved? This knowledge will make a difference in our starting point for reaching the person who does not know the God of Scripture.

**2. What are the roles and relationship expectations between genders?** What are males’ primary and secondary responsibilities in the group? What are females’ primary and secondary responsibilities in the group? How do males and females rank in relation to each other?

**3. How is power accrued and utilized?** Is power a divine gift? Is it a function of political or familial relationship or biological endowment? Does power flow from top to bottom, or from bottom to top?

**4. What is the orientation toward past, present, and future?** Will the future be better than the past, or was the past more glorious than the future? Is the present to be endured or enjoyed?

**5. Is time a chronological or phenomenological reality?** Is time discreetly defined by the clock, i.e.,

is it fluid in its nature? Is time a more diffuse reality marked by historical and social occurrences, i.e., is time a more people- and event-ordered reality? Or, is time an external measure of efficiency, etc?

**6. What are the boundaries of public, social, and personal space?**

What are the group's expectations concerning how space between persons and sexes will be managed? Will there be public touch between persons of the opposite gender. When does personal space become intimate? How much space is required for comfort in public between differing "ranks" of persons?

**7. What are the qualifications for insider and outsider status?** How are insiders determined? Can one be more of a cultural insider than another? Who are outsiders? Can and how many outsiders become insiders?

**8. How do talking and touching function?** Is talk primarily for the communication of information or is it an affirmation of relationship. Is talk direct and precise, or narrative and allusive? When and where is touch between acquaintances appropriate?

**9. What is the relationship between individual and group identity?** In achievement, obligation, success, or failure, does the individual represent herself/himself primarily; or, is the individual primarily a representative of her/his familial, ethnic, racial, national, and cultural group?

**10. What is the role and place of formality and informality?** Are titles such as Dr., Captain, Mr., Mrs., etc., necessary elements of personal address? Does friendship require that titles be dispensed with? Are religious services formal or informal occasions? How quickly can a stranger address someone by his/her first name?

The beliefs formed around these concepts constitute starting points of discussion for the person wanting to communicate more effectively across cultures. But, we cannot stop there.

**Second**, every one of us must do the personal cultural analysis that will free us to identify and relativize our own cultural selves. This personal diversity work requires us to assess the strengths and limitations of our cultural of origin. Too many persons are only vaguely aware of the presence and impact of their culture of origin on their behavior. Tastes in music, dress, concepts of modesty, preferences in attire, and a host of other personal behaviors and outlooks may reflect one's cultural origins. Culture is learned through a process of cultural "osmosis" in which the values, attitudes, roles, and behaviors acceptable to and expected by the cultural group are absorbed and reflected. This process begins in the family. Parents set examples of "correct" cultural behavior through their use of praise, punishment, and communication to their children. The larger community also participates in communicating its cultural expectations.

For instance, the values of freedom, independence, and egalitarianism are so deeply imbedded in mainstream American and Canadian cultures that we Americans often assume that these are normative for others. Our reward systems both compensate and validate these values. However, there are many

groups for whom interdependence, hierarchy, and collectivism or harmony guide social relations. In other words, many individuals first reference their behavior against their group *prior* to deciding an individual course of action. Effective leadership for mission in today's multi-cultural marketplace requires new and informed ways of thinking about the various people groups who comprise our field, church, institution, etc. That means that we will need to change our thinking about local mission. George Bernard Shaw was correct when he said, "Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds, cannot change anything!" Change is the price we pay for progress, isn't it?

**Third**, we could and should explore the relationship of the Bible to *our* group's culture, before we presume to do a biblical critique of another person's culture. The Kingdom of God promotes very specific values such as loyalty to God over every human ordinance (Acts 5:29), denial of self (Matthew 16:24-25), self-abnegation (Galatians 2:20), sacrificial service to others (Matthew 20:26-28), collective good over individual expression (1 Corinthians 14:1-5), mutual cooperation over competition (1 Corinthians 3:1-9), preference for others over self-elevation (Philippians



2:3), esteem for the socially marginalized (Matthew 25:40, 45), and a host of other values. Members who in light of the Bible cannot articulate a biblical critique of their culture of origin's cherished and transmitted values are not qualified to objectively evaluate another culture. Almost without exception, culturally incompetent believers assume that their culture of origin is superior to the culture under their microscope. Thus, many well-meaning members move to condemn what they view as culturally unacceptable in someone else's cultural group sometimes too easily. The following story reminded me of this tendency in each of us.

The story is told of a missionary who worked among a group of Native Americans in New Mexico at the turn of the century. It was the missionary's task to evangelize the Native American group. Over time he had built a warm rapport with the Native American group, particularly their head chief, Chief Brave Eagle, and his tribal council members.

In the course of time one of the tribal elders, Running Bear, died. His tribal clan arranged for his funeral. One of Running Bear's tribal customs was to for each family to leave a plate of food at the gravesite in memory of the departed elder. The missionary was not aware of this custom. Upon arriving at the gravesite, the missionary was surprised to see a grave decorated with platters of food. In the missionary's mind the Native Americans were squandering this perfectly edible food.

Toward the afternoon sunset, after the family and tribal members

had departed the graveside, with the food still sitting atop the grave, the missionary was left alone with the Chief Brave Eagle. The missionary leaned over and asked the Chief, "Chief, when do you think Running Bear will have time to eat all of this food?"

The Chief paused, looked heavenward, and after a thoughtful silence replied, "Just about the same time that your dead will have time to smell all those flowers you leave for them." There is something worth thinking about.

**Finally**, the Christian movement's most prolific and effective cross-culturalist testified that when it comes to mission, culture matters (read 1 Corinthians 9:18-21). A comprehensive program of training for ecclesiastical, healthcare, and educational leadership needs to be organized and launched in the Southern Union. Why? Because we train to what we value. We value soul winning; thus, we put time, money, and personnel resources in this area. We value stewardship; thus, we pay persons to promote stewardship. In short, what we value, we pay for; what we pay for, we value. Thus, it is not enough to say that we value mission through diversity if we invest virtually no personnel or monetary resources in maximizing its potential for aiding in mission accomplishment and mutual ministry. Listen to Ellen G. White: "There is no person, no nation that is perfect in every habit and thought. One must learn of another. Therefore God wants the different nationalities to mingle together, to be one in judgment, one in purpose. Then

the union that there is in Christ will be exemplified," *Historical Sketches*, page 137. Her statement enjoins cross-cultural learning upon the body of Christ. This means that every cultural group can learn from every other group. It also means that every other cultural group can teach every other. Where one group is weak, I assure you another is strong.

Our mission is to go to "every nation, language, tongue, and people." But, what should we do when every nation, language, tongue, and people come to us! In our cities, urbanization is bringing together diverse people groups in ways previously unprecedented. A reason to organize and launch training is because every member's skill set expands with the acquisition of new insights, understandings, and perspectives. And one fact that will not go away is that the 21st century demands a generation of servants who are cross-culturally competent! Our greatest need on the ground is for believers having the spiritual maturity and personal security to see in every diverse person a candidate for the kingdom of God.

*Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA, Oakwood University president.*

<sup>i</sup> Mary L. Connerly and Paul Pederson, *Leadership in a Diverse and Multicultural Environment: Developing Awareness, Knowledge, and Skills* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005), ix. Geert Hofstede quoted.

<sup>ii</sup> See Leslie N. Pollard, *Embracing Diversity: How to Reach People of All Cultures* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2000). This book contains insider explanations of how particular cultures look at the world. Chapter authors from a variety of backgrounds show readers how to understand previously misunderstood or unknown facts and features of other cultural groups.

<sup>iii</sup> Edward Tylor, *Primitive Culture* (New York: J.P. Putnam's Sons, 1920 [1871]), 1.





## DEEP Retreat Ponders

# “What Should We Do With Differences?”

By Leslie Pollard and Gordon Bietz

The Diversity Educational Exchange Program (DEEP) between Southern Adventist University and

importance of culture on all levels — policy, administration, practitioner, and consumer.”

system, their way of treating people, and, ultimately, part of their mission.

Cultural competency is more than tolerance. Collectively, the Bietzs and Pollards have been married for more than 70 years. If we both decided to go on a cruise of the western Caribbean, suppose we husbands would say to our respective spouses on that first evening, across candlelight, and romantic music: “With each passing year, I tolerate you more and more.” Response? Our best guess would be, “Men Overboard!” That’s because there are times when tolerance is insufficient to express our covenant toward the people we love. Tolerance must give way to affirmation. That’s the first key to cultural competency. Here is a second key to cultural competency: *Acknowledge your own cultural lenses.* Replace outdated stereotypes by learning as much as you can about cultural differences, respecting them, and growing more comfortable with these differences. Here is a third key to cultural competency: *Seek out information about cultural differences.* If you are unsure about how something is done or what is appropriate to say, share this feeling and respectfully ask for an explanation about the



*Southern, Oakwood students in prayer*

Oakwood University convened with faculty, staff, and students in a retreat at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia, January 13-15, 2012. The purpose of the retreat was to take a conscious and proactive look at how we should relate to the differences that reflect our humanity. Gender, race, class, and socio-economic background were explored in the light of Scriptural teaching. Enjoy some of the captured moments from the retreat.

### Reaching Across: The Importance of Cultural Competence

DEEP is an opportunity for Southern and Oakwood students and faculty and administration to experience cultural competence. Cultural competence has been described as “the ability of a system, agency, or individual to respond to the unique needs of populations whose cultures are different from that of the dominant or ‘mainstream society.’ A culturally competent system of service acknowledges and incorporates the

Cultural competence for believers means that each believer is aware of cultural barriers people experience when they access educational systems. Cultural competence means that each employee is aware of the importance of culturally appropriate customer care. Cultural competence means that cultural sensitivity is a part of an organization’s operating



*Leslie Pollard (left), Ph.D., D.Min., MBA, Oakwood University president; Alec Jackson, Southern Adventist University student president; Nelson Pugh Jr., Oakwood University student president; and Gordon Bietz, D.Min., Southern Adventist University president, take time during the DEEP retreat for a photo moment.*

common practice. You may just learn something that inspires and amazes you! Here is a fourth key to cultural competency: *Resist the urge to lump different cultural groups* under a generic term such as Hispanic. There are wide cultural differences among Hispanics. And not all individuals in a group behave alike. Here is a fifth key to cultural competency: Respect cultural observations. Black History Month, Asian Pacific Heritage Week, Chinese New Year, and National Hispanic Week are all observations that celebrate cultural heritage. Here is a final key to cultural competency: *Find a cultural mentor* in order to validate or correct your observations of another culture.

Finally, a special word of thanks is due Howard Weems, Ph.D., senior chaplain, and the Oakwood Uni-



*Leslie Pollard as moderator and DEEP respondent, dialogs with a participant.*

versity Office of Spiritual Life for coordinating the entire weekend. We especially want to acknowledge the

role that Celestine Robinson played in organizing, coordinating, and executing the outstanding retreat.

## Resources to Improve Your Relationship with Jesus

### ***Putting Families First: How Family Friendly Churches Grow***

By Noelene Johnsson and Willie Oliver

This book is a guide that will help you focus on creating the main ingredient for a health church: healthy families. With much insight, author Noelene Johnsson addresses what families and their children need in order to feel welcome within the church. From making sermon time more kid-friendly to involving parents in children's Sabbath school, this book offers the necessary guidance and steps for creating an atmosphere where multiple generations feel welcome.

Catalog #043025

### ***Mission Lifeguard Kit***

*Mission Lifeguard* teaches adults how to connect with and mentor young people so they stay in the Church. The Mission Lifeguard handbook outlines simple steps that will help you spot youth and young adults who might be spiritually drowning, surround them with a swim team to

reduce their risk of going under, and send lifeguards to bring back those who are missing. It contains step-by-step instructions to help you recruit your team, and connect with God and young people. This kit includes a handbook, two T-shirts, whistle, media kit, and tote bag.

Catalog #603000

### ***The Youth Doing Ministry Formula: A Simple Strategy That Will Activate the Youth in Your Church***

By James Black

The energy, gifts, and talents of our youth are some of the greatest resources on earth, but unfortunately their abilities are often ignored. Nonetheless, hundreds of thousands are actively engaged in ministry and don't even realize it. The possibilities for ministry are endless: for every unique interest and skill, there is an opportunity for witnessing. This book provides a simple strategy for revitalizing your church and community by turning the interests and talents of youth into ministries for Christ.

Catalog #625784

### ***Mission-Driven Ministry***

By Eddie Polite with Furman Fordham II

*Mission-Driven Ministry* presents a model to transform your church from a traditional to a mission-driven ministry by connecting all of your church's activities to a central mission. It is based on the experience of two pastors who wanted to involve everyone in ministry. The authors examine some of the customary practices that hold the church back from growing to its potential, and offer solutions to fill the void caused by the infrastructural dilemma of many churches. By ensuring that all of your church's energies and resources are purposely focused, you can mold your church into a center for evangelism.

Catalog #416127

Resources available at Advent-Source at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800-328-0525.

# 5 tips

## for Starting & Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle

BY CHRISSE EARLE FARRELL

The Bible tells us we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, Psalm 139:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19. How easy it is to forget these things in terms of our health and fitness, and in our day-to-day lives. We don't intend to, but we are busy! Whether it's work, school, family, or anything else, it's so easy to be consumed by everything else, when being mindful of our health and well-being should be at the top of our list — not for selfish reasons,

but because our physical health directly affects our mental and spiritual health. This, in turn, affects our relationships with family, friends, and our Creator.

Many, like me, were raised in Adventist homes, and are well aware of the Health Message and NEW-START. But, as life progresses, other things become the focus and we put health on the back burner. Then, after one too many Sabbath dinners of veggie meat and macaroni and cheese, followed by long Sabbath afternoon naps, we become concerned that our buttons or clothes are pulling a little too much. We want to make changes, but are not entirely sure where to start. Well, good news! Here are a few suggestions that I have found helpful in my own experience.

**First, make wellness a matter of prayer.** Ask God to show you what you need to do, and to guide you to the right resources. Books, magazines, the Internet, and health and fitness professionals can steer you on to the right path. Just be sure to prayerfully and carefully do your research.

**Second, think about the small changes you can make immediately,** that will have a positive impact on your health long term. If

you have a soda/juice habit, replace those drinks with pure water. If you are not in the habit of exercising, start walking for five to 10 minutes each day, until you reach a minimum of 30 minutes daily. If you are not eating enough fruits and vegetables, try adding a serving to each meal, even breakfast! You are eating breakfast, right?

**Third, get enough sleep.** I know that life is busy, and we are in constant motion, but getting at least six hours of sleep each night will give you more energy and help you control your weight. Seven to eight hours would be ideal, but I am a realist.

**Fourth, build a solid support system.** Enlist family and friends to help and encourage you along the way, and to help you be accountable. A strong support system helps ensure long-term success.

**Finally, but most importantly, be prayerful and patient.** We must be prayerful because without God's help, we can do nothing. And, be patient with yourself and with the process of change, because when you decide to make changes to improve your health and fitness, they don't happen overnight.

*Chrissa Earle Farrell is a wife, mother, and certified fitness trainer.*

### Helpful Apps and Websites

#### iPhone Apps:

'Drink-O-Matic,' a water intake tracker

'iMapMyFitness+,' an app to track all fitness activities, diet, and calories

#### Android Apps:

'Cardio Trainer,' to track fitness activities

'Fluid Counter,' to track fluid/water intake

# Students Publish Philosophies of Healthcare

BY RAINEY PARK

Each trimester, nearly 350 students at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences record their personal philosophies of healthcare. These clips, ranging in length from 30 seconds to two minutes, are published online at fhchs.edu/podcasts.

The project comes at the conclusion of a class entitled Philosophy of Healthcare. A required course for new students, the class covers topics such as human brokenness and worth, assumptions, and the vital role spirituality plays in well-being. It also introduces students to the lens of faith through which the college views and teaches healthcare.

“We show students what healthcare as ministry means to us, and then ask what it means to them. This project is an invitation to personalize and own the philosophy,” says Don Williams, academic dean. The responses are as rich and varied as the voices that make up the recordings. For some, the podcasts take the form of a personal story that led to a calling. For others, it’s a reflection on the type of healthcare provider students want to become.

“It’s sort of like a personal mission statement,” says Yvette Saliba, director of the Center for Academic Achievement and one of the pioneers of the class. “It challenges students to think about why they’ve chosen

to pursue a career in healthcare, and gives them something to hold on to as they go into the medical field.”

Crafting such a statement is important for several reasons, says Stefanie Johnson, who helped design the class. “If I say, ‘I’d really like you to think about the three most important things in your life,’ it goes into the cloud of other things swirling in your head. But when someone forces you to write that down, turn it in, make it public, it makes you do the work,” says Johnson.

In doing the work, students also learn to convey what matters most in just a few words, a skill critical to their interactions with patients, which are often limited to a few minutes.

Of course, developing a philosophy of healthcare is an ongoing project. As students progress through programs and spend time working in real-life settings, their philosophies are expected to mature. To set an example, many college employees have also recorded their philosophies of healthcare.

“It’s our way of showing we’re still thinking about what it means to be an exceptional healthcare provider,” says Johnson. “We have to, because that’s what we’re striving to help students become.”

## PODCAST EXCERPTS

*“Going into nursing for me is a lot like going into the ministry. I feel like I was called by God to do this. Christ ministered to the physical, the emotional, and the spiritual needs of those that came to him for help. He looked beyond their color, their sex, their money, and their religious stance. As a nurse, it’s my duty to do the same. As I do that, God promises to give me patience, understanding, wisdom, and empathy.”*

—Kevin Ives, nursing

*“I’ve worked with many healthcare professionals who forget that their patient is someone human, and not just some other case file. Because of this, I feel that nurses especially are there not only to make sure you’re given the right medication and the treatment that you need, but to also give compassion and understanding to a person when they are feeling most in need.”*

—Erica Serbia-Rodriguez, general studies

*“I have learned that ‘cure’ and ‘heal’ are not the same. To cure takes knowledge of treatment, and to heal comes from within; it is to make whole restoration of the spirit of the mind. . . . This class has taught me to value individuals for who they are as children of God and to look past all other things.”*

—Nichole Ziegler, health and biomedical sciences



## Medicine With a Personal Touch

*Patricia McEachrane-Gross, M.D., M.D.H., recently opened a new medical practice, Peppertree Primary Care in Ocala, Florida. Following is a condensed version of a story printed with permission from Ocala Magazine.*

“I call my philosophy ‘functional medicine,’” says McEachrane-Gross.

“It’s treating the patient as an individual person, with a unique makeup, and looking at the symptoms to find an underlying cause,” she explains. “It’s just a natural way of thinking about things.... We then might use a combination of mainstream medicine, drugs, supplements, and modification of one’s lifestyle and diet as treatment. That’s preventive medicine.”

Prior to seeing a patient, McEachrane-Gross will review the individual’s medical history and background in detail, followed by a 20-minute conversation with the patient. Her approach, she says, involves “spending time with the patient, looking carefully at the symptoms and medical history, and getting lots of information.” This helps her tailor the



*Patricia McEachrane-Gross, M.D., M.D.H., worships with the Crossroads Mission Group congregation in Ocala, Florida. (Photo: courtesy Ocala Magazine)*

treatment for each individual.

McEachrane-Gross is board certified in family medicine and preventive medicine. Her practice, she notes, will be primary care with

office hours throughout the week. However, she intends to reserve Thursday and Friday afternoons for house calls — a component of family medicine that has practically disappeared in the 21st century.

Educating patients about proper diet and lifestyle will be a major component of her practice, she says. “Most of our chronic diseases, whether it’s high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, cancer — all of them have a lifestyle basis. Yes, there are some hereditary aspects, but the majority of the causes are based on lifestyle and diet. The Western diet is what I call an inflammatory diet, because it produces inflammation in the body.... Often, it’s what we choose to eat.”

McEachrane-Gross is aware of how difficult it is for some patients to make a transition to a healthier lifestyle, but she says she’s here to help. “It can be difficult to make these changes, but that’s my goal — to help my patients through these transitions.” It’s a common-sense philosophy, or as McEachrane-Gross calls it, “medicine with a personal touch.”

# Rising from the Rubble

BY REBECCA GRICE

*Newly rebuilt Piedmont, Alabama, Church*

The reopening of the Piedmont, Alabama, Church on Sabbath, January 14, 2012, was a time for rejoicing and giving thanks as members, friends, and special guests filled the beautiful, new sanctuary. The Sabbath service began with a rousing song service, as more chairs were brought in to accommodate all the visitors. Pathfinder clubs from Piedmont and Gadsden, Alabama, marched up the aisle with flags flying. A report from the youth was given.

A special plaque which read “Piedmont Church, constructed 2011 through the combined efforts of the Worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church” was presented to Pam Anderson and Andrew Myaing who were from the General Conference Risk Management team. Conference leaders took part in the service. Arturo Ledezma, Conference treasurer, called for the offering. Leslie Louis, former Conference executive secretary, told the children’s story. He and his wife, Carole, sang for one of the special musics. Rick Blyth, pastor, and Mel Eisele, Conference president, shared the sermon time.

Nine months earlier on Sabbath, April 30, 2011, the church’s situation had seemed bleak as the stunned members gathered on a concrete slab which was the only thing left of their church. That day was supposed to have been a special Sabbath with a mortgage burning ceremony planned for their church facility which had been built with a lot of sweat eq-



*A plaque was presented to the General Conference Risk Management team as a thank you for their invaluable help: Pam Anderson (left), Andrew Myaing, Rick Blyth, Ginger Blyth, and Mike Duman.*

uity four years earlier. But three days before, around 7:12 p.m., on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, an EF5 tornado slammed into the building leaving behind only splinters and debris.

As the members gathered with Rick Blyth, pastor, and his wife, Ginger, they were reminded by Rick that the building had been destroyed, but not their church. Ginger Blyth read the reassuring words of 2 Corinthians 4:8, 9. “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.”

Piedmont Church was started in 2001 when Rick and Ginger took a sabbatical, and came back home to take care of Ginger’s elderly parents, and to hopefully fulfill Rick’s dream of raising up a congregation in his hometown of Piedmont. The dream had become a reality when they met Mike and Tracy Duman while attending the nearby Rome, Georgia, Church. The Dumans felt called to plant a new church, so the two couples worked together, and before too long a small group started meeting once a week in the Blyths home. The church was officially organized on March 18, 2006.

As Ginger reflects again on what has transpired since the church was destroyed, she says, “We are thankful that no lives were lost. We were also given opportunities to witness — the contractor, workmen, city and county officials, and many others. After the storm, complete strangers would stop and hand us donations. Through it all, our faith has been made stronger.”

The rebuilt church looks much the same as the former one, except that now it is built on a basement — a basement that is designed to be used as a storm shelter, not only for the congregation, but the surrounding community.



*The congregation joined in joyful singing as the Sabbath program began.*



# A GIFT OF LIFE

BY MARVIN LOWMAN

*Michelle and Ruben Comstock*

In April 2011 Ruben Comstock wasn't feeling well. In fact, he hadn't felt well in weeks, which is unusual for a 19-year-old. After several visits to the doctor, the doctor arranged for full blood lab work to be done. The results for Ruben's mother, Michelle, were devastating.

Michelle teaches fifth and sixth grades at Highland Adventist Elementary School in Portland, Tennessee, and Ruben had attended adjacent Highland Academy. The tests revealed that both of Ruben's kidneys had failed. He was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, where he was diagnosed with Stage 5 kidney failure, and told he would have to be on dialysis.

The doctor told them that it is very unusual to have both kidneys fail at the same time, and she had no idea why Ruben's kidneys failed. Ruben remembers the doctor saying, "Kidney failure is a terrible thing to have, but the good news is if an organ is to fail on you, it is the best organ to have because it is the organ that they can replace the most easily." They were somewhat comforting words at such a stressful time.

Ruben went through various types of dialysis. His name was put on a kidney donor bank list, but he was told that it would likely be a three- to five-year wait before a kidney would be available.

Several people offered to be tested



*Ruben Comstock and Becky Massey venture out into the hospital hallway the day after transplant surgery.*

to see if they were a match. One of those who offered was Becky Massey. Becky and Michelle have known each other since they were children. They went to school together in Ridgeway, Tennessee. They grew up together, went on Pathfinder campouts together – all the fun things that kids do. Years later, after they had gotten married, Michelle's son, Ruben, started kindergarten with Becky's son, Ethan.

In August, Ruben went in for his regular dialysis. Due to an infection, his fever had spiked to more than 105 degrees. He was taken to Vanderbilt. Ruben tried to call his mother but couldn't reach her. So, he contacted Becky to try to get hold of Michelle.

Becky remembers, "The last time he got sick, Ethan and I went to the emergency room with him. While we were waiting for Michelle to come, I'm standing there rubbing his feet thinking, 'God, there's got to be something I

can do for this child.'"

When Michelle got to the hospital, Becky asked her, "What do you have to do to find out if you can be a donor?" Michelle gave her the website.

When Becky got to work the next day, she went to the website and there was a small form to fill out. She filled in the information and when she hit "send" she prayed, "Okay God, it's up to You."

Two days later the hospital called and asked Becky to come do the initial testing. Michelle remembers, "She came up here to my classroom and started singing. We laughed and we cried! Just for her to consider giving my son a kidney meant so much."

When Ruben learned about the compatibility and Becky's decision to give up one of her own kidneys, he recalls, "That was a moment of pure joy. It was very rewarding and very unique, and I can never repay her for what she did."

Just a few weeks later, on October 16, 2011, Ruben had surgery at Vanderbilt to receive his new kidney from Becky — just six months after being diagnosed. "It was just a complete miracle," says Michelle.

Ruben's education was interrupted by all this, but he has completed his GED and is attending a local community college. He plans to attend Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee, next fall to study nursing.

## Emory-Adventist Hospital Receives Statewide Patient Safety Award for Improvement in Geriatric Patient Care

The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) presented its Quality and Patient Safety Award to Emory-Adventist Hospital, Smyrna, Ga., for its geriatric fracture program that provides specialized care for fragility fractures among geriatric patients. The project, "Improving Management of Fragility Fractures Improves Outcomes and Post-Discharge Quality of Life," won first place in the Hospitals with Less than 100 Beds

Category. These annual awards recognize Georgia health care organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

One of the most common injuries in the geriatric population is a fall resulting in a hip fracture. Almost all hip fractures require surgical treatment to bring about stability, healing, and to maintain a patient's functional status. Observations reveal that patients who need surgery

for this injury are often treated as non-emergent, low priority cases. The goal of Emory-Adventist Hospital's Geriatric Fracture Program is to treat these patients with a high sense of urgency and to return patients to independent living at home instead of long-term skilled nursing facility placement, as well as returning them to their pre-fall functional status within 12 months.

At the time of program implementation in September 2010, there were only a few known facilities across

the country, and none in Georgia, with fully functioning programs. Results of Emory-Adventist Hospital's program showed the average time to surgery was 27.4 hours compared to the national average of 96 hours. Inpatient mortality rates were five percent compared to 10 percent nationally. The average length of stay of 6.8 days compared to seven days nationally, and the 30-day readmission rate was seven percent compared to 19.4 percent nationally.

"Returning patients

to a better quality of life after hospitalization is the goal of all hospitals," said Joseph Parker, Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) president. "We applaud Emory-Adventist Hospital for taking a leadership role in this effort, and are grateful for its dedication to providing the best and safest care possible for its patients."

—BY TONYA LONG



Joe Parker (left), Georgia Hospital Association president, presents the Quality and Patient Safety Award to Dennis Kiley, Emory-Adventist Hospital CEO; Jeffrey Kovacic, M.D.; Debbie Smith, administrative director; Jana Luce, geriatric fracture coordinator; and Ed Moyer, CNO/COO.



## Rugless Receives “Excellence in Ministry Award”

Roy Rugless, South Central prayer ministries director, received the “Excellence in Ministry Award” for outstanding service in the North American Division for prayer ministries on January 15, 2012.

The award was presented at the North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention in Innisbrook, Fla. The descriptive caption in the Convention program read:

“Roy Rugless served for many years as a pastor in the South Central Confer-



*Ruthie Jacobsen (left), North American Division prayer ministries director, presents Roy Rugless, South Central prayer ministries director, with the “Excellence in Ministry Award” for outstanding service in the North American Division for prayer ministries.*

ence. One day Conference President Benjamin Browne approached him and invited him to serve also as Prayer Ministries Coordinator for their field. He wore both hats for a time, but through the prayer confer-

He is known as a high-energy, kind, wise leader who gets things done. He is a man of prayer, of faith, and an outstanding role model. It is a great privilege to present him with

ences and training events he conducted and his ability to motivate and encourage both pastors and members, he became recognized as uniquely gifted to become a significant conference-wide spiritual leader. South Central Conference became therefore, the first Conference in the NAD to put in place a full-time salaried Prayer Ministries Coordinator.

this year’s Excellence in Ministry Award.”

On receiving the award Rugless said, “I want to thank Elder Benjamin Browne, former South Central president, for first appointing me to this position, and I thank Elder Dana Edmond, South Central president, for making the position full-time. I thank Philip Palmer, former South Central treasurer, for providing the resources that made the program possible. I also thank my secretaries, Connie Lister and Elayne Bedney, for their clerical support. Above all, I thank Jesus Christ for blessing me with success, and allowing me to represent Him and South Central Conference with Excellence in Ministry.”

## Tornado Strikes Alabama Twice in One Year

Alabama was hit yet again by another wave of tornadic activity within one year. The latest disaster occurred during the pre-dawn hours on January 23, 2012, when many were still asleep, and were aroused by sounds of sirens that alerted area residents to retreat to a safe place. Two people were killed in Jefferson County, Ala. One of the men killed was a survivor of the Oak Grove twister that hit in April 2011. Residents of Oak Grove were hit particularly hard again with Monday’s tornado. Unfortunately, two lives were lost and many people displaced as a result

of this disaster.

The closest South Central Conference church to the affected area is Hillview, Birmingham, Ala. The basement of the church was turned into a distribution center. The site is managed and staffed by the central Alabama Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation in South Central. Those affected by the disaster

have been taking advantage of the kindness of ACS and the disaster response staff.

The distribution site not only distributes donations from its fixed site, but also provides mobile distribution to the affected areas. Veronica Edwards-Johnson is the distribution site manager.

The warehouse facility used during the April 27, 2011, tornadoes in Alabama is being used for the January tornado.

—BY JULEUN A. JOHNSON AND BARBARA R. BARNES



*Members of the distribution team met to discuss their mission: Larry Johnson (left), volunteer; Veronica Edwards-Johnson, distribution site manager; and Carolyn Burgess, local Adventist Community Services team member.*

## Carolina Welcomes Leslie D. Louis as President

Leslie D. Louis, executive secretary for the Gulf States Conference, is the new president of the Carolina Conference. Louis re-

places Jim Davidson, who recently accepted the position of executive secretary for the Southern Union.

Louis has served more than five years as the executive secretary in the Gulf States Conference. Prior to that he was a teacher and/or administrator in the Florida, Ohio, Carolina, and Kentucky-Tennessee. Before joining the Gulf States Conference, he was the principal of Madison Academy in Nashville, Tenn. For five years Louis served Gulf States as the superintendent of education.

In 2006, he was elected by the delegates of his constituent churches to serve as their executive secretary, and was re-elected to serve another five-year term in this capacity on June 5, 2011. This year marks his 39th year in service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During his years at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), he was drawn to the teaching ministry. In 1971-1972 he spent a year studying theology and history at Newbold College in England. He completed his B.A. in religion at Southern in 1973. In 1982 he completed his master's degree in education at Andrews University

in Berrien Springs, Mich.

The love of his life and faithful supporter of his ministry is his wife Carole. She is a nurse working for Medical Outreach Ministries. The couple have two adult children, both graduates of Southern. Their son, Christopher, along with his fiancée, Rebecka, completed master's degrees in English from Andrews University and are currently teaching English in Korea. Their daughter, Catherine, and her husband, Greg, are physicians in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Leslie D. Louis is the 37th president to lead the Carolina Conference.



Leslie D. Louis

## Couple Shatters Literature Sales Records

With our recent poor economy, many have said, "You just can't make literature sales these days!" Well, if you were to say that to Nil and Mercy Maldonado, they'd disprove it every time. The two of them are hitting the streets and shattering records selling Bibles and Adventist books. Largely due to their dedication, the Carolina Conference literature sales are five times what they were compared to

last year at this time.

This couple has a special place in their heart for the literature ministry. Before their conversion, both Mercy and Nil had been in convents studying to be a nun and priest, re-

spectively. Then members of their family purchased Adventist books from a literature evangelist. After reading the materials, the two were convicted of the truth and decided to join the Adventist Church, even though other family and friends were against the decision. They answered the call to become literature evangelists and went to work for the Carolina Conference.

When Ron Davis, Carolina publishing director (pictured far right), challenged

the literature evangelists at their year-end meeting to sell \$200,000 in books this year, Nil and Mercy went out and sold nearly \$8,000 their first week! The Maldanidos have their sights on exceeding the challenge and selling over \$250,000 this year. Each day as they knock on a new door, they have a sense of excitement to see what God is going to do. They have given their ministry to the Lord, and feel that no goal is set too high when He is on board.

The Maldanidos work in the Wilmington and Jacksonville areas of the Carolina Conference.

—BY RON QUICK AND BECKY CARPENTER



RON QUICK

# “Itimidad Con Dios” Revival Comes to Carolina



RON QUICK

“Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, ‘Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine’.... Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day.” Steps to Christ. This consecration was the main purpose of the recent revival seminar held in the Carolina Conference, called “Itimidad con Dios,” or “Intimacy with God.”

The seminar, originally developed by Ben Maxson (former director of stewardship for the General Conference and current pastor of the Paradise Church in California) and a pastor in Brazil, Miguel Pinheiro Costa, has had amazing success in Central and South America. Separated into three segments that focus on stewardship, health, and the Holy Spirit, the revival leads members to consecrate their lives every morning to the Lord and develop a special and



Jose Smith

MARY ROMERO

permanent relationship with Him.

Braulio Concepcion, president of the Western Association of Panama, and the treasurer, Jose Smith, were invited to present the seminar in the Carolinas. Concepcion presented in the Charlotte Spanish Church and Smith preached in Durham Spanish on Sabbath, January 14.

On the following day the two split up to go to Mount Olive and North Charleston. These were strategic locations to invite all the Spanish churches and companies from North and South Carolina. In all, around 1,500 members attended the seminar.

Members were overwhelmed with the seminar and are encouraging other members to participate. One man has been waking up at 3:00 a.m. every morning to dedicate an hour of study and prayer before he leaves for work



Braulio Concepcion

BRYAN ARVELO

care about them.”

The presentation by Concepcion was recorded and will be used as training for local Hispanic pastors, who will then present the same seminar to the rest of their members.

This revival has been a great blessing for those who have participated. They feel that this is an answer to prayer — a revival for the Latter Rain and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

—BY MARY ROMERO

at 4:30 a.m. He enthusiastically shares, “This has changed my life. People notice the change in me, and when I ask to pray for them and their family, they are so amazed that I would



BRYAN ARVELO

## Florida Conference Sells Headquarters Building and Property

Nearly four years ago, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) gave notice that a portion of Florida Conference's property at 655 North Wymore Road, Winter Park, would be subject to eminent domain and taken for expansion work on Interstate 4.

With God's leading and through careful negotiation, the FDOT ultimately approached the Florida Conference Executive Committee with an official proposal to purchase the entire facility/property, instead of only a partial taking, with extended possession by Florida Conference.

Florida Conference hired experienced, respected legal counsel, and negotiations with the FDOT were professional and positive. The FDOT proposal and purchase details for the



DALE CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

*Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has operated from its facility at 655 North Wymore Road in Winter Park, Florida, since July 1992. On Friday, January 27, 2012, the Florida Department of Transportation purchased this property as it plans to expand Interstate 4. Florida Conference is in a strong position to identify a new headquarters location within the next two years.*

property were both fair and advantageous to Florida Conference. Thus, the Florida Conference Executive Committee was unified in its decision to move forward to sell the property. On Friday, January 27, the agreement between Florida Conference and FDOT was completed.

Through the agreement, Florida Conference can

remain in the building, rent-free, for the next two years. A third year, if needed, will be offered at commercial property rental rates. Whenever the move is made, the FDOT will cover certain moving and relocation expenses.

Florida Conference is in a very strong position to relocate. This is a timely opportunity since existing office space and parking capacity was outgrown several years ago.

The Florida Conference Executive Committee is committed to keeping the office located in the greater Orlando area, and the Committee is moving forward together to determine future steps.

The office's relocation will be beneficial to serving churches and schools, as there will be more space in

a new facility to house all ministries and support teams in one centralized location. There will also be more urgently needed storage space for the Adventist Book Center.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the interaction between our professional staff, our trusted counsel, and representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation," says Mike Cauley, Florida Conference president and Executive Committee chair. "We are in a better position than we could ask or imagine as we make plans to relocate. We see this opportunity as God's next stepping stone for us as we seek to positively impact more and more people and ministry for Him."

Frequently Asked Questions and future news updates are published on the official relocation web page: <http://www.floridaconference.com/steppingstone/>

## Small Starke Church Impacts Community in Big Way

Months ago, God prepared the 49-member Starke, Fla., Church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their community. Telephone conversations with Second Harvest Food Bank and local government officials helped get the ball rolling, while countless hours and many Sundays were spent preparing a building to house a food pantry.

The members began

handing out bread on Tuesday afternoons before their Bible study. This blossomed into distribution of nonperishable food and produce on the third Tuesday of each month. Since September, church members have helped 660 families, totaling more than 1,300 people.

"Many prayers



TERESA WILES

*Starke, Fla., Church members operate a food pantry on the third Tuesday of each month to disperse bread, nonperishable food items, and produce to the community.*

have made a miracle for this small church," says Curtis Johnson, lay pastor. Also, many hands have helped with picking up and delivering food to the church from Second Harvest Food Bank. Each month, 10-15 members consistently turn out to volunteer with this program.

—BY TERESA WILES

## Hollywood Spanish Church Members Inaugurate New Campus

Hollywood, Fla., Spanish Church members recognized God's blessings with a week of concerts, worship, Bible study, and praise that culminated in a day-long inaugural celebration in their new church facility. This congregation parented four additional churches in the south Florida area during the 18 years of working and struggling to acquire their own house of worship.

"Every step we took when trying to move to a new church was met by an attack from Satan, but the Lord has helped and blessed us," said Freddy Poggi,

church elder. "I hope that now our church can be a beacon of light here in Hollywood."

A member, who prefers to remain anonymous, donated the 34,000-square-foot facility, which is a 1920s historical landmark in the city. He and his family also donated funds for renovations, as the church had fallen into disrepair during a five-year period after it was abandoned.

"This is all the product of one member's kindness and desire to serve God," said Emilio de Leon, Hollywood Spanish's current

pastor. "There is no doubt that God can do what seems impossible. When I look at what He has done for this church, I know He has great plans for all of us."

"When I think about how God has gifted this congregation with this beautiful facility in a prominent location in this community," says



MIKE CAULEY

*The recently inaugurated Hollywood, Fla., Spanish Church covers almost an entire city block and has a main auditorium, a youth chapel, a large multi-purpose room, a kitchen, and enough classrooms for a school.*

Mike Cauley, Florida Conference president, "I think it must have something to do with their seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and their desire to extend the mission of Jesus into this community."

—BY NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON

## Florida Conference Hosts First Live-streamed Prayer Revival Weekends

"It is so powerful to know that God's people are gathered together at this time, this weekend, praying together from all over this state for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for the presence of God, and for the renewing, refreshing, revitalizing power of God to come into lives as we begin a new year together," said Mike Cauley, Florida Conference president, as he welcomed members and guests to the first of two Prayer Revival Conferences in January 2012.

Prayer Revival Conferences were held for English- and Spanish-speaking members during two weekends. Technological history was made as churches and members were linked

together in prayer through streaming at the original sites and from churches throughout the Conference via Skype videoconferencing. Approximately 20 percent of the total program came from remote locations.

The English-language weekend was hosted at Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, with Geoff Patterson, senior pastor of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, as speaker on Friday evening, the first Sabbath worship service, and Sabbath afternoon. The second worship service speaker was Mike Cauley.

The Spanish-language weekend was hosted at West Palm Beach Spanish Church with Homero

Salazar, pastor of Washington Spanish Church in Silver Spring, Md., as speaker. Both weekend programs included testimonies, prayers, and music from church members throughout the Conference via Skype.

"Our team produced a program that has only received positive reviews," says Dave Bog-gess, Florida Conference information systems di-

rector. "The streamed broadcasts may have reached more than 20 countries, including those in Europe, Africa, and the South Pacific. We estimated that

we reached between 50 and 65 percent of our total membership in Florida Conference."

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL



*Florida Conference's 2012 Prayer Revival Conferences were broadcast live online, depicted above. Complete archives are available at <http://www.floridacconference.com/media/>*

## Dempsey Honored with InStep Award

Congratulations are in order for the leadership of adult health ministries director, E. W. Dempsey, who received an award in recognition for outstanding participation in promoting health and wellness through the Adventists InStep for Life and Let's Move programs. The award was presented at the North American Division (NAD) Health Summit in Orlando, Fla., on January 28, 2012.

Katia Reinert, director of health ministries for the NAD, said of Dempsey, "He has received the 'Adventist InStep for Life Award' for the incredible way he has promoted the InStep initiative since its inception, mobilizing churches across the Southern Union. Also, his leadership has been instrumental in helping churches to engage kids, schools, and others in the community in Let's Move Day. Georgia-Cumberland was the conference that recorded the most miles and had the greater membership participation rates in the Southern Union."

Dempsey says the concept started in 2008 while he was serving on a NAD



GEORGE BRILL

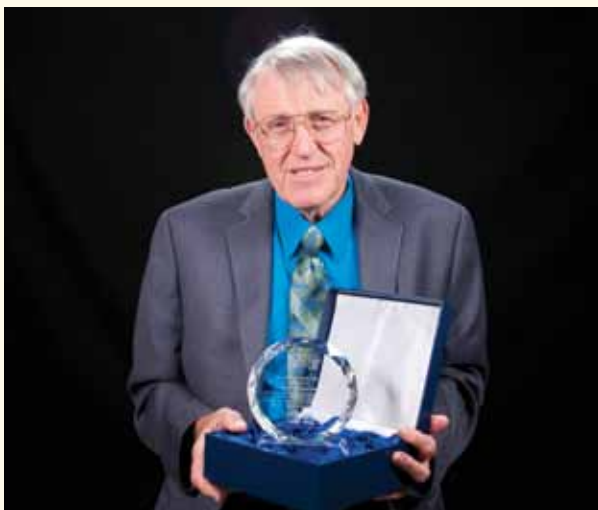
*E. W. Dempsey (center), Georgia-Cumberland Conference adult health ministries director, received the Adventist InStep for Life and Let's Move Health Award at the NAD Health Summit in Orlando, Fla. He is standing with Heidi Christensen (left), associate director, Center for FaithBased and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Donna Richardson Joyner, member, President's Council for Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition; Regina Benjamin, U.S. Surgeon General; and Dan Jackson, NAD president.*

health committee. "One day I made the proposal that we need to have some type of exercise program for all of our churches," said Dempsey. The idea was voted and approved, and subcommittees were

formed to get the word out to North America. Dempsey was asked to chair the committee for the unnamed group, but declined. Reg Burgess accepted the challenge to chair the committee and coined the name

InStep for Life.

Georgia-Cumberland has recorded more than 400,000 miles for InStep during the past three years. Dempsey inspires and motivates the churches to get involved. Accolades go to the local church InStep coordinators who work with the congregations to keep



BRIAN YOUNG

*E. W. Dempsey*

them motivated, collect their miles, and report them to the Conference each quarter. The philosophy is to have a well-balanced fitness program with aerobic activities like walking or running, and to also include strength training and flexibility.

The Lenoir City, Tenn., Church was also honored with an award at the NAD Health Summit for their outstanding organization regarding the Let's Move Day held September 25, 2011, under the leadership of Nancy Wheeler and Larisa Brass. A variety of community entities were involved. The

whole program was so impressive it was shown at both the health directors' advisory and the Health Summit, as well as featured on the NAD website. Dempsey, who participated in their program, said that this is the ideal example of what should happen in a community on Let's Move Day.

"I am very excited because the whole concept that I envisioned is growing faster than I thought," said Dempsey. "It is now to the level where it will really take off. We will see amazing things. We as Seventh-day Adventists ought to be leading the world in fitness."

## Lopezes Celebrate 60 Years

Ruben Lopez met Delpha Weir working in the business office at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Collegedale, Tenn. Ruben was studying business administration, and Delpha nursing. They married in 1951. Upon graduation, Ruben was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served as



a medic on the front lines in Korea.

Upon his discharge,

they moved to Nashville, Tenn., where Ruben earned a master of business education degree from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College for Teachers, and Delpha went to work as a nurse for Madison Hospital.

They served at Highland Academy, Portland, Tenn.; Bass

Memorial Academy, Lumberton, Miss.; Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla.; and Ruben at the Florida and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences; and Delpha at Florida Living Nursing Center, Madison Hospital, and Florida Hospital.

They retired in Collegedale, Tenn. They have four children: Kent, Rebecca, Thomas, and Tamara. They also have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## Churches Merge in South Georgia

December was an exciting time for the members of the Park Avenue Church (formally Lakeland-Valdosta, Ga., churches). The group met on December 18, 2011, on the property of their new church on East Park Avenue in Valdosta.

With a combined membership of around 80, the Lakeland and Valdosta churches were urged to combine to one church in 2008.

"For one year the members would alternate church attendance every other Sabbath, back and forth," said Steve Rose, southern region ministerial director. The Valdosta Church sold in 2011, and the congregations chose a location on East Park Avenue to build their new church and a school. The Lakeland Church facility is still for sale.

Mike Adams, pastor of the Park Avenue Church,

said, "I think God prepares us all for the many different adventures He has planned for us. I think with my work experience prior to beginning my ministry, and even my personality, fit perfectly with what had been going on and what was about to happen in

the Lakeland and Valdosta churches. God chose the time and place to use me, and then He called. What a blessing it's been to know that the call has been supported by the church and the vision we have shared together to this point."

The short service

dedicating the new church was followed by the groundbreaking for the newly merged Park Avenue Church.

The members are looking forward to April, when they plan to move into their new church building.



BRENDA WALKER

*Those represented with a shovel at the Park Avenue Church groundbreaking include Lee Whitehurst with Eleite Metal Buildings, Grace McConville, Hazel Branch, Melody Poland, Dan Williams, Steve Rose, Ed Wright, Mike Adams, and Don Devlin. Also attending were Gene Griffin and Scotty Orenstein with Pinnacle Construction.*

## New Radio Station to Start in Marianna



REBECCA GRICE

*Leonard Moore has a burden to reach the residents living in Panama City, Fla., and the surrounding areas.*

A new commercial-free Christian radio station should be coming on the air in the fall of 2012 in Marianna, Fla. Leonard Moore, a member of the North Bay Church located near Panama City, Fla., is heading up the establish-

ment of the new station. Moore and four other members of the Health and Happiness non-profit corporation own the channel. The Marianna Church is allowing the group to put its radio tower and a 64-square-foot tower equipment building on the church property.

Moore said the station will primarily broadcast gospel music and talk programming geared to healthy lifestyles and character building. Doctors will offer advice on various topics, like diabetes and heart health, and counselors will provide tips on how to maintain healthy marriages and other relationships, he said. It will have a coverage range of about 10 miles. He does not expect to turn a profit on the sta-

tion, and says that most expenses will be paid out of pocket. He sees this as something the Lord is calling him to do.

Moore made this statement to the local newspaper, "I just feel like we need to use any way of communicating, to get information out to the public that will help them,

and help them think about their health and their lifestyles, to guide them when they're looking for ways to live healthier lives.... There won't be advertising, but

we'll probably be doing some sponsorships where the sponsor's name would get mentioned. It's just something I thought I'd like



LESLIE LOUIS

*The Marianna, Fla., Church has donated this land on which to put the radio tower and a 64-square-foot equipment building.*

to be part of, that hopefully will live on long after I'm in the grave, not thinking of anything."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## Eleven Thousand Members and Growing

When Robin Joslin answered her door, two of her neighbors, Julien and Brenda Boutin, had stopped by to introduce themselves. During the coming weeks, a friendship developed, and the Boutins began to share video sermons by David Asscherick, pastor. As Joslin watched the sermons, she exclaimed to her husband, "He's teaching exactly what we have believed for years!" On November 5, 2011, Joslin became officially a part of the Dothan, Ala., First Church through baptism.

She says, "I felt like a part of the family the first Sabbath I visited."



*Eric Bates, pastor of the Dothan, Ala., Church, baptized Robin Joslin. She began attending as a result of a friendship that developed with Adventist neighbors.*

With stories like this happening around the Gulf States Conference, there leaves little question as to why the membership continues to grow: God is leading and the people are responding. In 2001, the Conference reported a membership of 8,016. That year, for the 29th Conference Session, delegates voted a goal of 10,000 members by 2006. Soul-winning, with the laity and pastors working together, became a priority. When the delegates met again in 2006, the

membership was more than 9,000. Three years later, in March of 2009, the 10,000th member was baptized. As of December 2011, just two and a half years later, the Conference membership stands at 11,001.

During 2011, 80 evangelistic series were conducted by lay members, pastors, evangelists, Conference departmental directors, and administrators. During this time, 449 individuals made a decision to give their lives to Jesus, and become members of the Conference.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



## Teens Enjoy Epic Weekend



*These teens and staff enjoyed an awesome experience at the inaugural youth weekend held at Camp Alamisco.*

appreciated their energy, creativity, and message.

Philip Mitchell, a member of the Huntsville, Ala., Central Church, led a praise band that had everyone singing.

Michael Showalter, Conference

Teen in Leadership (ILT) coordinator exclaims, “When I volunteered to lead out in planning the Epic Encounter weekend, I had no idea how much work was required! But it was well worth it. I received a HUGE blessing! I am grateful to James and Tania Mangum for guiding me through the whole planning process.”

—BY REBECCA GRICE AND MICHAEL SHOWALTER

More than 42 teens, staff, and special guests attended the inaugural youth weekend Epic Encounter, which was held at Camp Alamisco, November 11-13, 2011. “In the words of a teen attendee, “That was AWESOME! I wish it could be a week long instead of just a weekend!”

Guest speaker Victor Czerkasij caused the attendees to laugh, cry,

and think. He challenged the attendees to have an Epic Encounter with their communities and everyone they meet. Czerkasij told the audience, “We should always think about what message we are sending to those around us about our Christian beliefs.” Destiny Drama Company from Southern Adventist University added a dramatic twist to the weekend. The youth



*Being with friends was a part of the experience for Isabella Showalter (left), Sarah Canaday (wearing a hat), Dana Lloyd, Rosie Thompson, and Eneae Smith.*

## Opelika First Church Welcomes New Pastor

On Sabbath morning, December 10, 2011, the Opelika, Ala., First Church welcomed their new pastor, Pavel Kulakov, and his wife, Nina. A special dedication service was held with Melvin Eisele, Gulf States Conference president, officiating.

Kulakov came to Opelika after serving as a pastor for 11 years in the Michigan Conference. Before moving to the United

States in 2000, he was founding director of ADRA Euro-Asian Division.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA



*Participating in the dedication were Melvin Eisele (left), Gulf States president; Pavel and Nina Kulakov; and Patrick Jones, local elder.*

## Thanksgiving Celebrated — Guatemala Style!

The Ridgetop Church just north of Nashville, Tenn., decided to enrich its membership experience by focusing on evangelism. The members' plan was to take a mission trip to help others. God's plan was to strengthen the church by pulling it out of its comfort zones and single-minded focus.

The church selected Manos Ayudadores, "Gods Helping Hands," clinic near Poptun in northern Guatemala. Founded by Elden Lopez, M.D., its main goal is to use medical evangelism to win souls for Christ. The church's planning team agreed on three main projects: evangelism, medical clinics, and construction.

Ridgetop wanted to have something to give the children at the clinics, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and the nearby orphanage so they agreed on Beanie Babies and Matchbox cars. One member asked a relative to donate 150 Beanie Babies from her collection. At pickup the woman said to take her whole collection — more than 1,000! The employer of another member donated 350 unclaimed Matchbox cars.

This family-friendly mission trip included 60 church members and friends. On Sunday, November 20, 2011, everyone arrived at the airport in Nashville.

In collaboration with



*Ridgetop children led out in the singing at Vacation Bible School.*

the local district pastor, the church funded a five-day evangelism reaping campaign, ending on Sabbath morning with a baptism. The sermons were mostly preached by Ridgetop's pastor, Jeremiah Smart, and translated by one of the members. The average nightly attendance was more than 500 people, and about 100 children crowded into their own meeting to sing, make crafts, and hear Bible stories.

A church member donated 60 Spanish Bibles, which were the most coveted door prizes ever. Each evening an appeal was made with 20-30 people responding. On

Sabbath morning, Pastors Smart and Santos, the local minister, baptized 29 precious souls in the Machaquila River.

The VBS program was held each morning at the local public school. The Ridgetop team of children and youth sang, gave action to the stories, and helped with the crafts.

Attendance grew each day, and on the last day more than 230 local children attended.

One of the highlights was when 11-year-old Yanita Smart, daughter of Ridgetop pastor and a former Guatemalan orphan herself, met two of her childhood friends who now live at Los Pinos.

Two physicians and eight nurses on the team served in seven medical clinics. More than 700 patients were treated and prayed for during a span of five days. Early one morning, Lopez received a call that a two-week-old baby boy was being transported by ambulance to Guatemala City. When they arrived



*Jeremiah Smart (center), pastor, participated in the baptism at the close of the evangelistic series.*

at the clinic, the doctor and several team nurses quickly assessed the grim situation. The baby, whose weight was less than four pounds, was breathing only intermittently, was malnourished, and had multiple deformities.

When the 19-year-old father was asked why he called God's Helping

Hands Clinic, he said he had been told that "God was there and that they would pray for his child unlike other hospitals." And pray they did! Doctors, nurses, office staff, and 60 volunteers all prayed for healing.

The group left Guatemala not knowing the outcome, but fearing the worst. But, the Great Physician was at work, and the baby is now growing normally.

The team started the process of building a new Lifestyle Center, but the main focus was building the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit arrived beforehand. They could lay 2,100 blocks and tie 426 feet of steel, but only God can change a heart. Even more important than building the Lifestyle Center was that they were able to witness to others, share their faith, and lay a foundation in receptive soil.

God took 60 willing hearts and changed them over that week and a half in November. He galvanized a church

and gave it His Spirit. When the Ridgetop Mission Team left for Guatemala, they planned to take the Thanksgiving holiday to serve others. They returned to the United States, realizing that they had been ministered to by the people there as well.

—BY JASON BLANCHARD

## Lighthouse Members Unite in Mission Project

Recently four members of the Lighthouse Company in Lafayette, Tenn., participated in a three-week mission trip to Ibencho, Kenya, Africa. During their travel to Ibencho, Mitchell and Gwen Barfield and Tom and Pam Brito of the Lighthouse Company joined the Pewee Valley, Ky., Church pastor, Douglas Na'a, and his wife, Meliana. These men and women conducted daily evangelistic services for the villagers and neighbors

from other surrounding villages. Some of these neighbors walked eight or more miles to attend the meetings.

The Barfields and Britos will tell you this mission experience was very rewarding, and the faces of the dear children remain etched in their minds and will always hold a special place in their hearts. Tom says, "We are so thankful for the work being done there by the faithful Seventh-day Adventist work-



*Pam and Tom Brito (center) are shown with members of the village who were head hunters.*



*Gwen and Mitch Barfield (left) with several children from the orphanage*



*Douglas and Meliana Na'a*

ers and we are longing to return." All agree that Kenya is as beautiful as the people are warm and kind.

While there, measurements were taken and plans were made to dig a mile-long water line to the village and orphanage at Ibencho. The local women carry five or more gallons of water on their heads from a natural spring one mile above the community to the orphanage and village several times every day. This project, which includes labor and PVC piping, is estimated to be approximately \$3,000. The Lighthouse Company has decided to help finance this water line to the orphanage and to the village, where there are only a few Seventh-day Adventist members, as a witness of God's love for all mankind.

Before leaving Ibencho, the Barfields, Britos, and Na'as saw a harvest

of 30 baptisms from the evangelist meetings that were held. The Barfields and Britos plan to return to Ibencho in the future.

The orphanage is taking in more children and is already stretching its facility borders. There are two acres next to the orphanage that are for sale that, if purchased, could be used for growing food for the orphanage. This land is greatly needed and would help sustain the orphanage.

For more information about the Ibencho Orphanage project, email Advent Hope Ministries at [adventhope@hughes.net](mailto:adventhope@hughes.net).

—BY KEITH WILSON

## Berean Chariots Donate Gifts, Food for Needy Boys and Girls



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

*Berean Chariots and staff surround gifts and canned goods.*

The Atlanta Berean Chariots Adventurer Club annually donates decorated shoeboxes and canned goods to needy boys and girls in the Atlanta, Ga.,

area. This past holiday season, the club was blessed to donate 32 shoeboxes stuffed with gifts to help brighten the holiday season for area boys and girls. The group also donated 44 canned goods for those who are less fortunate. These items were given to Berean's Family Life Department on December 7, 2011, for dispersal. Established in 1994, the Berean Chariots Adventurer Club currently has a membership of 50 registered children and is led by director Samuel F. Cort Jr., M.D.

—BY SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

## Bethany Christian Academy Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Considering it an honor to be one of two schools invited to participate, eight students from Bethany Christian Academy in Macon, Ga., attended and participated in this year's community breakfast honoring Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration took place on Monday, January 16, 2012, at True Faith Church of God in Christ. With this year's theme, "Maintaining Non-Violent Standards in a Violent Society," Bethany students recited and acted out a poem entitled "We Stand for

Peace," by Jennifer "Niki" Ates, a member of Bethany Church. Bethany members have regularly participated in this celebration; however, this was the first time

that the academy students have been invited to take an active part in the Community Breakfast Celebration. The students look forward to participating each year.

—BY BEATRICE BANKS



*Pictured are Antonio Coley (left), 7th grade; Victoria Colbert, 5th grade; Patrick Watson, 5th grade; Sole Fountain, 3rd grade; Makayla Axom, 6th grade; Shanbrina Axom, 8th grade; and Mikyla France, 6th grade.*

## Carolina Adventist Academy Students Soar to New Heights

Six students from Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) in Whiteville, N.C., took their education goals to new heights when they took the controls of a Piper Navajo twin engine business airplane and soared to the clouds — literally — to complete the practical aspect of their aviation class at CAA taught by Vonzel Chancy. Chancy is a commercial licensed pilot and also a licensed aircraft mechanic who enjoys sharing aviation with the students. He volunteers his time at CAA as he acquaints the students with various

facets of aviation flight and maintenance. Chancy states that “our prime focus is mission. Whether in the USA or in another country, aviation can be a part of spreading the Third Angels’ Messages.” A number of students, some of whom

were flying for the first time, were so blessed and impressed with the experience that they have voiced their desire to be missionary aviators in addition to their educational goals.

The pilot who owned and flew the Navajo was Richard O’Brien, a member of the Wilmington N.C., Church. He is a veteran commercial licensed pilot with multi-engine rating, and has more than 3,000 hours of flight time. He was very impressed with the knowledge of the students in their pre-flight round-table discussion.

As a result of the contacts that Chancy has, CAA has been blessed with the donation of a 1976 Cessna 150. This plane was donated to the school by an organization called Build-a-Plane.org. The plane will be used for, among other things, maintenance instruction such as performing 100-hour inspection, navigation and communication instructions, and airframe riveting and instrument identification. Although it will not be used for flight instruction, the plane will add a tremendous blessing to the CAA aviation program.

—BY RICHARD G. BERRY, M.D., FACP



Teacher Vonzel Chancy (left), and pilot Richard O’Brien (second from right), stand with students Tatiana Davidson, Paige Davis, Tiana Moye, Kiana Berry, Brianna Boone, and Michael Taylor.

## Shiloh on Fire for God

Shiloh Church, Spartanburg, S.C., held its fourth baptism of 2011 on November 26. The new members were baptized by Carl Nesmith, pastor, after completing a Bible



Joseph Bethea (left), elder, Lachema Demus, Amber Bethea, Shanasia Demus, and Carl Nesmith, Shiloh pastor

study course instructed by one of Shiloh’s elders, Joseph Bethea. Lachema and Shanasia Demus, and Amber Bethea were baptized. Nesmith has baptized eight individuals since becoming Shiloh’s new leader.

He and the members are diligently laboring to reclaim God’s people, and hasten the coming of Christ.

—BY ANGELA SELF



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## North Orlando Food Pantry Makes Strides

The north Orlando, Fla., community services department started the 2011 year with an ambitious goal of being more visible in the local community and expanding its services.

Colin Sheepy, newly installed community services director, embarked on a facelift program immediately after assuming office. Sheepy refurbished the food pantry and the thrift shop, landscaped the area around the buildings with shrubs and colorful flowers, made an office in the food pantry building,

and cleaned the kitchen facilities.

“Only those who have experienced hunger know what it means,” stated Sheepy, while explaining why he has donated some of his own funds in helping the north Orlando community services food pantry go from feeding 40 families at the start of 2011, to feeding more than 400 families by the end of December 2011. “We provide each family with canned, fresh, and frozen foods, freshly baked breads, rice, and other grains to make complete meals for a family

of four for at least a week,” explained Sheepy.

Second Harvest Food Bank of central Florida, a federally funded agency, is the largest supplier for the church’s food pantry. Due to federal regulations, Second Harvest performs quarterly inspections of the pantry and kitchen facilities. Second Harvest officials were impressed with the cleanliness and organization, as well as seeing pictures depicting large amounts of people being serviced in an orderly manner.

Second Harvest subse-

quently decided to upgrade the food pantry to a large pantry and soup kitchen. This enables the pantry to serve hot meals with the soup kitchen designation, enabling the church to further its goal of meeting the needs of the community.

With the pantry upgrade, the north Orlando community services department is now poised to achieve greater things in the year 2012, as it seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the community.

—BY DAVE KENNEDY

## Browns Celebrate 58 Years of Marriage

Wilbert and Annie Brown recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Wilbert met Annie at the South Atlantic Campground in Hawthorne, Fla., in June 1953. “I just liked the way she looked

and the way she carried herself. I wanted to know her name, and I wanted to know more about her,” Wilbert says.

Annie was working in the campground store dipping ice cream. Wilbert came into the store multiple times to purchase ice cream cones and he only wanted Annie to sell him the cones. When he finally asked An-



*William and Annie Brown have been married for 58 years. They met each other on the South Atlantic Conference campground in June of 1953.*

nie for her name she answered tersely, “What’s it to you?” Undaunted by her answer, Wilbert responded, “Because I want to know.” A brief conversation ensued and before Wilbert left the store for the last time, he had given his name and address to

Annie.

Annie says of Wilbert, “I did like the way he looked in his black-brimmed hat, and I liked the way the hat fit the back of his head.”

For six months Wilbert and Annie corresponded by mail, and on January 15, 1954, just six months later, Wilbert and Annie were married.

Wilbert and Annie have three children: Patricia R. Walker, Edna A. Sidney, and Tony Brown. They also have three grandsons and one granddaughter. Wilbert and Annie have been members of Mt. Sinai Church for 58 years.

“My wife truly loves the Lord. She’s a humble woman who has been given the gift of hospitality. She’s been a wonderful wife and a great mother,” Wilbert says. “She’s a very loving and caring person. She’s done a tremendous job caring for me and our children. An immigrant to this country, she stuck with me. She, along with the help of God, helped to make me the man I am today.”

“My husband really does love the Lord. He’s been a wonderful husband, committed to me and

our children. He is a man of strong principles who has been given the gift of prayer,” says Annie. “He is totally unafraid of hard work. He’s been an amazing provider for our family and a great manager of our family finances. We are blessed that God brought our lives together.”

## Poinciana Starts Widowed Ministry

Early one summer morning, two Poinciana, Fla., Church members, Claudette Dionne and Aretha McDonald, decided to make a difference in the lives of the widowed members of Poinciana by hosting a special dinner for them. On Sunday, December 10, 2011, this special evening became a reality.

Sixteen guests responded to the hand-delivered invitations. John Als organized a team of deacons to chauffeur the guests to Dionne's home where the family room had been transformed into an elegant restaurant with round tables, rented chair covers, and table settings fit for a king and queen.

As guests arrived, they were seated by the waiters, Daniel Dionne, Jacqueline Hinds, and Yvonne Ramsay. Dawn Francis and her daughter, Felicia, were busy assisting Lucille McCoy with the meal preparation and service.

A "getting to know you" game was played and facilitated by William Duncan. Everyone got to know each other much better, and the guests were having a joyous time. Maxwell Berkel, Poinciana pastor, and his wife,



*Sixteen widowed members of Poinciana Church were treated to a special dinner.*

Esther, were also present.

At the end of the meal, all the guests received a small token of love. After the meal, McDonald and Dionne gave words of encouragement and thanked the guests for accepting the invitation. Maxwell Berkel also shared words of encouragement

and prayer.

Many guests expressed their gratitude for an evening that would be forever stored in their memories.

"The evening event confirmed that we can make a difference when we show love to each other. Each one of us can make an impact, just do

something," said Raphael McDonald. "We should do this more often."

—BY CLAUDETTE DIONNE AND  
ARETHA MCDONALD

## Trinity Temple Salutes Joel Melton for 30 Years of Ministry

Trinity Temple Church, Fitzgerald, Ga., celebrated more than 30 years of ministry and leadership of their former first elder, Joel A. Melton, on January 14, 2012. Preaching for this occasion was his mentor and former pastor, Ronald J. Wright, of the South Atlantic Conference. The service included many presentations and words of appreciation from lifelong friends and family; Christian pastors from the community; and the Southeastern Conference community services director, David L. Peay, former pastor of Trinity.

In 1979, Melton was

ordained as an elder and commissioned to serve as the first elder of Trinity. His tenure as first elder spanned more than 30 years. It was interrupted for three years as he was commissioned by the Conference to serve as an interim lay pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Valdosta, Ga. At the conclusion of this assignment, the church called him again to continue serving as their leader.

"Melton is something of a quiet storm, a man of very few words until he begins to discuss the Gospel truth. Then, like a mighty rushing wind, he comes to life," said one member. "Whether it's

teaching the principles of the Kingdom in Sabbath School or preaching an earnest message from the pulpit, it is obvious that his passion is to serve as a 'voice crying in the wilderness.'"

His ministry goes beyond the walls of the church. Melton is synonymous with community service, from mentoring young men, to performing automobile repairs for those less fortunate.

He is highly revered as a sincere student of the Bible and preacher of the Gospel among the Christian churches in the community. There are few Christian

churches in the southern Georgia region where he has not delivered an urgent message of repentance and diligent study. Many have visited Trinity Temple and have joined the church as a result of his ministry.

Melton's partner in ministry is his wife, Kim, who tirelessly serves as the head deaconess. At the conclusion of 2011, Melton was elected to serve as an elder, but passed the baton to Tony R. Oliver who succeeds him as first elder.

—BY PIERRE FRANÇOIS

## Record Number of Students Volunteer for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

More than 850 students, faculty, and staff from Southern Adventist University volunteered at nearly 40 locations around the greater Chattanooga area on January 16, 2012, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. This is the University's 19th year sending students into the community to offer their time and talents in service to others.

The crowd began gathering in Southern's gymnasium at 8 a.m. for breakfast and worship led by Jon

Remitera, assistant chaplain. Volunteers were organized by service location and given a bright green T-shirt printed with the day's central message, "Changing Lives: One Person at a Time." Around 9:30 a.m., the students, faculty, and staff flooded out of the building and on to their service destinations.

Romaine Smith, senior elementary education major, is

community service director for Southern's Student Association and coordinated

this record-setting turnout. The Student Association partnered with Century

Link, the President's Office, President's Circle 100, and the Collegedale Credit Union to help make this event possible.

"We had more people than anticipated," Romaine said. "A lot of people stepped forward, and together we were able to set an even bigger foundation for next year!"

—BY CHARLES CAMMACK



*Southern Adventist University senior biology major Matthew Hollie volunteered by helping prep and paint a mural at the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn. To view additional pictures of students in action, visit flickr.com/photos/southernu.*

## Campus Grocery Store Airs Healthy Living Show on Television

Kim Lett walked onto the set of Chattanooga's WDEF Channel 12 one Wednesday morning with a plate of vegetarian crab cakes. These were obviously not your typical crab cakes, but that didn't stop Chip Chapman, the morning anchor, from exclaiming how good they were.

These cakes were just one of many recipes and food items Lett presented on Eat Well! Feel Good! with Chip Chapman, a television show consisting of healthy, tasty, and simple

recipes made from products found at the Village Market, Southern Adventist University's on-campus grocery store. The program helped get the Village Market name out to a broader audience and allowed the store to better inform the public about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet.

"[This education] is

part of our mission in life as Adventists," said Perry Pratt, assistant store manager for the Village Market. "We want people to eat healthy and we want to provide them viable options."

Eat Well! Feel Good! was a first-time experience for both the Village Market and the television station. Lett, a registered dietician,

was contracted by the Village Market to represent them on the show and was also responsible for testing recipes and researching nutritional values. She feels confident the segments will have an important, lasting impact on

the public.

"We know from research that a plant-based diet is one of the healthiest ways to eat, and we focused on that with the show," Lett said. "It was a really good experience!"

Eat Well! Feel Good! aired 13 different segments between November 2011 and January 2012. Things went so well that Village Market management plans to meet with the station to discuss how they can get involved in something more permanent in the future. Previously recorded segments can be found online in various locations using keywords "Eat Well! Feel Good!" combined with "Village Market."

—BY INGRID HERNANDEZ







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# Obituaries

**ADAMS, Zyndall**, 50, born May 22, 1960 in Magoffin County Kentucky, died March 18, 2011 at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. He was a disabled printer of the Floyd County Times, and a member of the Prestonsburg, KY, Church. He was preceded in death by his parents: Aaron and Versie Mullins Adams; and one sister, Tammie Marsillett. He is survived by one daughter, Bethany Faith Adams of Prestonsburg; two sons: Kellan Lane Adams of Prestonsburg, and Brandon LeMaster of Rensselaer, IN; one grandson, Zeppelin LeMaster; and two sisters: Ethel McKenzie and Freda Watkins. Services were held at the Water of Life Church, Silver Lake, IN, on March 23, 2011.

**ALSAYBAR, Josefa**, 89, born Nov. 19, 1921 in Philippines, died Oct. 18, 2011 in Avon Park, FL. She was member of the Avon Park Church. She was a denominational teacher in the Philippines for 10 years. She is survived by two daughters: Dulce Tangunan and Cora Alsaybar of Avon Park; and three grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Burton Wright at the Avon Park Church, and interment was in Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Sebring, FL.

**AYALA, Joseph**, 75, born Jan. 12, 1936 in New York, NY, died Oct. 15, 2011 in Sebring, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. He is survived by his wife, Delinda; two daughters: Delinda Jalinda Ayala of Homestead, FL, and Ruth Soler of Avon Park; and four grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Paul Boling at the Avon Park Church, and interment was in the Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Sebring, FL.

**BENNETT, Bernice A.**, 86, born April 11, 1925 in St. Mary, Jamaica, W.I., died Oct. 16, 2011 in Ocala, FL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala for 18 years. She was also very active in the Sharon Church in Bronx, NY. She served as a deaconess, Sabbath School assistant superintendent, Sabbath School teacher, choir member, Bible worker, and sang with a quartet that performed throughout the South. She is survived by one son, Kenneth McKenzie; four step-sons: George (Beverly), Arthur (Hyacinthia), James (Olive), and David. The service was conducted by Pastor Reynold Maxwell at Silver Springs Shores Church, and interment was at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Ocala.

**BIGBIE, Judy**, 66, born June 22, 1945 in West Chicago, IL, died Sept. 28, 2011 in Tampa, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. She was a RN and worked 40 years at Florida Hospital Heartland. She is survived by her husband, Paul Bigbie; one son, Kenneth Bigbie of Avon Park; two daughters: Kimberly Goddard and Kathy Nelson of Avon Park; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. The service

was conducted by Pastor Paul Boling at Avon Park Church.

**BLANTON, Lennex Dale**, 86, born Sept. 25, 1925, died Dec. 25, 2011 in Madison, TN. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; two daughters: Linda Taylor Karch and Sue Nowich; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

**BOGAR, Goldie M.**, 85, died Sept. 13, 2011 in Chattanooga, TN. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Kenneth; two sons: Larry (Anita) of Greenbrier, TN, and Don (Sharla) of Ocala, FL; one daughter, Bonnie (Bill) Hicks of Noblesville, IN; eight grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Mike Pettengill at Valley View Chapel, Chattanooga Funeral Home. Interment was at the Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Avon Park, FL.

**BRADLEY, Ollie Mae**, 98, born Aug. 6, 1913 in Buena Vista, AL, died Nov. 12, 2011 in Pensacola, FL. She was a long time member of the Pensacola University Parkway Church. She committed her life to Christ at an early age and remained faithful to the end. She leaves a legacy of nurturing and caring for children of several families in Pensacola. Her son, Moses Belle preceded her in death. She is survived by her god-daughters: Daisy Jackson and Albertine Odom; three granddaughters: Velerie Belle Cochran, Danita Belle Bright, and JoAnne Odems; numerous other relatives; and friends.

**CLARK, Ray**, 92, born July 7, 1919 in Henry County, KY, died July 17, 2011 in Pewee Valley, KY. As a youngster during the Great Depression, he and his six siblings rode to a one-room-school near New Castle, KY, in a small wagon pulled by a pony and driven by one of the children, who was under 10 years of age. He grew up on a farm. When he was 12, he was stricken with appendicitis. The appendix ruptured and he had a lengthy stay in a Louisville hospital. After his recovery, this determined 12-year-old worked and paid the hospital bill by himself. When WWII started, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served with distinction throughout the conflict and the young Corporal was honorably discharged at the close of the war. Along the way, he met a young woman named, Anna Florence Jagers. They were married Oct. 22, 1948, and spent most of their lives in Pewee Valley. In 1952, he and his brother, Joe, opened a rock quarry near LaGrange, KY, which they continued to operate until 1997. The people in the Pewee Valley Church still talk about the construction of the new church building, and how he and his brother brought their heavy equipment and raised and put in place those large, heavy beams overhead in the sanctuary (free of charge). He also

helped in many other ways. He was a brilliant master mechanic and knew how to repair and maintain any kind of machinery — large or small. In the church and in the community, he was highly respected, which was shown by the large number of people who attended his memorial service at Pewee Valley Church. He was a kind and generous person. He loved nature and was a great gardener. He enjoyed sharing the produce he grew with people in the community and the church. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Anna; one son, Dr. Thomas J. Clark; two granddaughters: Carrie (Michael) Ciaverelli and Courtney (Bryce) Crush; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Harvey Clark.

**CLAUS, Alma W.**, 86, born Aug. 8, 1925 in S. Portland, ME, died Sept. 28, 2011 at St. Cloud, FL. She is survived by her son, Richard Whitten of Chiefland, FL; and two daughters: Diane Stiggins of Orlando, FL, and Sharon Miller of Atlanta, GA. The service was conducted by Pastors Don Riesen, Harold Howard, and Floyd Powell at Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home, Altamonte Springs, FL. Interment was at Highland Memorial Gardens, Apopka, FL. She was predeceased by her husband, Gerry.

**COLE, Roy Henry**, 54, born Nov. 23, 1957 in San Jose, Costa Rica, died Dec. 2011. He met the love of his life, Roberta Lynn Snyder at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, FL, where they both worked as counselors and life guards. Roy's father, Elder Cole, married them in Cocoa, FL, June 22, 1980. He was very involved with the Cocoa Pathfinder Club. He attended Ozark Adventist Academy in Arkansas, and then Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Collegedale, TN. He received a B.S. in arts. He worked as a layout design/graphic artist for Classic Chevy Club in Orlando, FL. He graduated from Florida Institute of Technology in 1997. He was hired by IBM in 1998, and worked for 13 years until his passing. Soon after moving to Pittsboro, NC, in 1998 he joined the Pittsboro Church where he served in many capacities including head elder, youth director, and Sabbath School teacher. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Roberta Lynn Cole; their son, Roy Benjamin Cole, both of Pittsboro; his mother, Ethel Cole-Parobek; and step-father, John Parobek of Lodi, CA; one brother, Samuel (Gayle) Cole of Portland, OR; his mother-in-law, Betty Snyder of Pittsboro; three sisters-in-law: Carol (Ed) Draper of Opelika, AL, Sue Hartzog of Newport, TN, and Debbie (Kevin) Lilly of Coram, NY; many nieces; and nephews.

**CUSTARD, Mary Florence Duncan Cleveland**, 101, born Feb. 18, 1910 in Bloomfield, KY, died Dec. 28, 2011 at Friendship Manor Nursing Home in Peewee Valley, KY. Early in life, she was surrounded with a large and loving family of several

# Obituaries

uncles, aunts, and cousins. They were reared much of their early life by their maternal grandparents, Edward and Luiza Summers. She was always attracted to spiritual things. So it was no surprise that her earnest inquiring heart responded to the Three Angels' Message in 1937 at the age of 27. The preaching and life of Elder and Mrs. Henry Miller led her to join the Magazine Street Church in Louisville, KY. She along with her sister, Elizabeth Louise, and brother, James, all practiced and loved the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She married Elder William C. Cleveland of Chattanooga, TN, in August of 1944. For almost 12 years she was a loving and kind wife to him, and provided a loving Christian atmosphere for his three sons, their wives, and children. The Cleveland's home was not just a home by the side of the road, but a house in the road where Oakwood faculty and students, literature evangelists, pastors, evangelists, and many others ate almost daily at their table. Elder Cleveland preceded her in death in May 1956. She was also a loving aunt to Izara Dollie Pettigrew Graham. In November 1958, Florence (as she was called), moved to Nashville, TN, where she joined the staff of Riverside Adventist Hospital. During this time she was a very active, hard-working member of Riverside Chapel Church. She served in many capacities as head deaconess, usher, and wherever her services were needed for more than 40 years. On Sept. 6, 1987, she married Pastor Marvin C. Custard. This Christian union lasted only 10 months and five days, as Pastor Custard departed this life on July 11, 1988. Out of this union she gained a lovely stepdaughter, Grace Custard Ware, and her two sons. This family continued to grow when both sons, Eric and Marc married two lovely brides, Michaela and Trina. Their children came along making her a step-grandmother of two, great-grandmother of 12, and great-great-grandmother of one. During the late 80s and early 90s, she kept several college students and medical college students in her home. Among these was a medical student from Chicago, who is now Dr. Michael McHenry and his lovely wife, Angela. They have two lovely children who endeared themselves to her and her to them. To Florence, Michael and Angela were considered part of her family whom she loved dearly. As years passed, it was no longer possible to live alone. In August 2007, Florence decided to return home to Louisville to live with her niece, Linda. There she enjoyed reconnecting with her church where she was first introduced to the truth – Magazine Street Church. She enjoyed the services and became a member of the Community Services Department. She made many friends, and never departed from them without telling the goodness of the Lord and of His soon coming. Her love, wisdom, and expression of faith will be greatly missed. She is survived by her niece, Linda Duncan Jackson; two nephews: James William

and Thomas (Deborah) Duncan; two great nephews: DeJuan and Daniel Jackson; two great-great nieces, Isabella and Taleah Jackson; one great-great-nephew, Xavier Jackson; the family of her first husband, W.C. Cleveland; the family of her second husband, Marvin C. Custard; her spiritual children: Michael and Angela McHenry, Brenda and Emmanuel Chester, and Carolyn Anderson; the Riverside Church family; a host of extended family; friends; and well-wishers.

**DAVIS, Carroll Ray**, 88, born Feb. 23, 1923 in Rheinlander, WS, died Oct. 11, 2011. He was a member of the Jasper, GA, Church. He was a charter member of Mountain City, TN, Church, where he was very active in church work and prison ministries for more than 30 years before moving to Jasper in 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife, Leta Davis. He is survived by one son, Don Davis; two daughters: Margaret Guptill and Carolyn Hullquist; one brother, James Davis; one sister, Geraldine Burke; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews.

**DAVIS, Ivy**, 99, born in Kingston, Jamaica, and just eight weeks before her 100th birthday, she died June 12, 2011. She was a member of the Winchester, KY, Church. She was the only one of eight daughters to be married and have children. She was preceded her in death in 1968 by her husband, Winfield Judson Davis. She and her husband embraced the Third Angels' Message and were baptized during the early 1930s. After her graduation from Purcell Music School in Kingston, she started a very successful music studio there. After migrating to the United States in the early 1950s, she worked at The Davis Music Studio in New York along with her daughter, Grace, and son, George. A committed Christian; she loved the Lord with all her heart, and spent many hours a day studying the Bible, praying, and sharing the Word of God with her family and acquaintances. Any chance encounter she had with individuals in a store or after a church service, she would draw on her fantastic memory to recite a Bible text or a poem she had memorized. She was a joy to be around with her smile, warmth, generosity, guidance, and love. In addition to her two children, Grace Anderson and George Davis, she is survived by five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; in-laws; many friends; and fellow church members who were blessed to have known her.

**EDWARDS, Icilda V.**, 85, born Oct. 22, 1925 in Seaforth, St. Thomas, Jamaica, W.I., died Sept. 28, 2011 in Chicago, IL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores Church, Ocala, FL, for 18 years. She served the Seaforth Church in Jamaica as deaconess, superintendent, treasurer, Dorcas leader, and Sabbath School teacher. She was the prayer warrior for Silver Springs

Shores Church. She is survived by three sons: Owen Creighton, Hurel Edwards, and Errol Edwards; one adopted son, Reynold Maxwell; two daughters: Sharon (Christian) Kportufe and Joycin Richards; one adopted daughter, Veronica; one daughter-in-law, Patricia Edwards; one brother, Abraham John; one adopted sister, Zelda Taylor; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Reynold Maxwell at the Silver Springs Shores Church; interment was in Chicago, IL.

**FOLLETT, Philip**, 79, born March 15, 1932 in Kansas City, MO, died Oct. 7, 2011. He served as a pastor and administrator in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 58 years, and was most recently a member of the Collegedale Church. Upon graduating from college, he entered the pastoral ministry in 1953. He later served as an administrator in Ohio, Maryland, northern California, and Massachusetts. In 1996, he became a vice president of the General Conference, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. He continued his ministry at LifeTalk Radio through August 2011. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bernardine. He is survived by his daughter, Lorraine (Scott) Ball of Ooltewah, TN; grandchildren: Jonathan and Jessica Ball; one son, David of Fitchburg, MA; one sister, Barbara Connel of Palm Desert, CA; two nieces: Kathy Lance and Elaine Hamilton; and extended family, Calvin and Kristine Follett; and their children: Nathan and Jannah. A memorial service was held Oct. 15, 2011 at the Collegedale Church, with Dr. Gordon Bietz officiating.

**GAY, Phyllis J.**, 75, born Jan. 12, 1936 in Moncton, NB, Canada, died Aug. 11, 2011 in Orlando, FL. She was a member of the Adventist Church for 55 years. Her denominational employment as a secretary for 14 years included the General Conference, Pacific Press, Idaho Conference, Southern Asia Division, and Africa-Indian Ocean Division. She is survived by her husband, David; two sons: Kirsten of Apopka, FL, and Bryan of Boise, ID; four brothers: Ronald Trites, Tillsonburg, ON; Herbert Trites, Moncton, NB; Dean Trites, Stellarton, NS; and Allen Trites, Calgary, AB; two sisters: Effie Smith, Avon Park, FL, and Freda James, Middleburg, FL; and six grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Floyd Powell at the Florida Living Church in Apopka.

**GRAY, Evelyn V.**, 102, born Oct. 12, 1908 in Waynesboro, VA, died Dec. 8, 2010 in Seminole, FL. She was a member of the Clearwater, FL, Church for 12 years. She was the first woman elder in the New York Conference. She is survived by her daughter, Marianne Mattox of Seminole; one sister, Dorothy DeGrosso, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada; and two grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Rob Erwin in Buffalo, NY.

# Obituaries

**GRIER, John Wallace**, 68, born Aug. 14, 1943 in Charlotte, NC, died Nov. 2, 2011. He was his mother's first born son and was truly the "man of the house." He was an active member in his childhood church of Berean in Charlotte. He attended Berean Jr. Academy and graduated from Second Ward Senior High School. He was a hard worker, many times working two jobs from repairing shoes to short-order cook, to jeweler — he did it all. In 1965, he married his high school sweetheart Juanita. After a few years of marriage they moved to Huntsville, AL, to attend Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). Again, while he was attending school full-time, he worked two jobs to provide for his family. After graduating from Oakwood, he began his service in South Atlantic Conference as a teacher at Ramar Jr. Academy in Savannah, GA. From Savannah, the family moved to Wilmington, NC, where he was the principal/teacher at Ephesus Jr. Academy. He went from one Ephesus to another in Winston-Salem, NC, then on to High Point, NC, where he had his longest tenure at Baldwin's Chapel Elementary School. Anyone who knew him knew that he loved his students, and was a big advocate of Christian education. He organized "What Christian Education Means to Me" speeches that he required the students to recite, as well as the school choir — he loved when the children shined. He also proudly served as pastor of New Life Church in Lexington, NC, and Ephesus Church in Salisbury, NC. He loved to cook, photography, and to give gifts. He was a small man who many said carried a big stick, and a man of few words, yet he spoke with authority. He was a provider, principal, pastor, and a phenomenal friend.

**HARRISS, Robert H.**, 84, born Oct. 29, 1926 in Springfield, OH, died Sept. 16, 2011 in Macon, GA. He is survived by his son, Robert Jr., of Kila, MT; two daughters: Jean Harriss of Mt. Dora, FL, and Patty Higgins of Orlando, FL; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Don Williams at Baldwin-Fairfield Funeral Home, West Palm Beach, FL. Interment was at Chapel Hill.

**HEMAUER, Brian Richard**, 32, born Aug. 25, 1979 in Sheboygan, WI, died Aug. 26, 2011 Chattanooga, TN. He attended Ragsdale High School and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was gifted with artistic ability, intelligence, and athleticism. He had a passion and love for music, and always enjoyed strumming his guitar and singing songs. He had a deep faith in God, read his Bible, and contemplated the complexities and curiosities of religion. He was a precious and beloved husband, son, brother, friend, and cousin. He is survived by his wife, Laiza, of Hortolandia, Sao Paulo, Brazil; his parents: Meg and Dick Hemaer of Jamestown, NC;

one brother, Kyle, of Jamestown; scores of aunts; uncles; cousins; and childhood high school/college friends. A funeral to celebrate his life was held Sept. 1, 2011 at All Saints Episcopal Church, Greensboro, NC. Interment followed in Guilford Memorial Park Cemetery.

**JANSEN, Virginia McGuffey**, 95, born May 15, 1916, died Oct. 7, 2011. She was a member of the Conyers, GA, Church. She worked for more than 20 years at the Center of Disease Control in Atlanta, GA. She was known as "the voice with a smile." She was a beloved and devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin Jansen; her parents; and two sisters. She is survived by one sister, Bertha Harvey; one daughter and son-in-law, Janyce and Robert Addison; grandchildren: Angela (Dean) Lorenz, Susan (Kevin) Pennington, Bonnie (Gary) Howe, Mark (Stephanie) Addison; eight grandchildren; special friends and caregivers, Shirley and Lewis Medley; a host of nieces; nephews; and friends.

**KENNEDY, Dr. Theresa C. (Wright)**, 83, born Nov. 10, 1927 in Sweetwater, TN, died July 16, 2011 in Collegedale, TN, from complications associated with oral cancer. She is survived by three daughters; one son; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Her children (in birth order) are Ronnie Pellington (daughter) of Collegedale; Randy Wright (son) of Benton, TN; the late Rise' Colson (daughter), Athens, TN; Rusti Sax (daughter) of Ooltewah, TN; and Rhonda Wright (daughter) of Venice, FL. She was a very loving, compassionate mother, nurse, nurse practitioner, teacher, and professor. Before she earned her nursing degrees and her doctorate in higher education administration, she played the piano professionally as a classical pianist for a radio program broadcast from New York City. During her nursing career she taught at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) on both the Orlando, FL, and Collegedale, TN, campuses. She was the chairman of the Nursing Department at both Union College in Lincoln, NE, from 1979 to 1985, and then Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, TX from 1987 to 1993. She also especially enjoyed several medical missionary trips to Nicaragua and other locations in Central and South America. The funeral service was held July 22, 2011, at the Collegedale Church where she was a long-time member. Dr. Jack Blanco officiated; interment was at Collegedale Memorial Park.

**LEWIS, Stanley B.**, 85, of Dayton, TN, died Jan. 9, 2012 in Chattanooga, TN. He was a faithful member of the Brayton Church. He was preceded in death by his son, Glen Lewis. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Lewis, of Dayton, TN; one son, Wayne

Lewis of Dayton; three daughters: Evonne Richards of Collegedale, Sharon Foister of Lacey, WA, and Dianne Haney of Milton-Freewater, OR; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**LIGHTHALL, Wallace J.**, died Nov. 27, 2011 in North Charleston, SC. He graduated from Atlantic Union College and retired as a minister for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He is survived by two sons: Laurence J. (Karen) Lighthall of North Charleston, and William D. (Susan) Lighthall of Yuma, AZ; one daughter, Gail L. Steenson of Tusculumbia, AL; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one brother, Byron Lighthall of Bemidji, MN. Services were held in Natchez, MS.

**MCMILLAN, Betty Jo**, 87, born July 22, 1924 in Atlanta, GA, died Dec. 11, 2011 in Knoxville, TN. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, for 13 years. She taught for many years in Adventist schools including: Columbus, GA, Macon, GA, Collegedale, TN, Alexandria, VA, and with the longest assignment teaching 7th and 8th grade mathematics at John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, MD. Upon retirement, she and her husband taught at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya for one year. She is survived by one son, Charles (Janet) McMillan of Los Alamos, NM; three daughters: Sally (James) Fields of Knoxville, TN, Susan (Douglas) Cross of Minneapolis, MN, and Cindy (Karl) Rhodes of Honolulu, HI; and five grandchildren. Her husband of 60 years predeceased her by a few months. The service was conducted by Ray Ricketts at Glen Haven Memorial Park, Winter Park, FL; interment was also at Glen Haven Memorial Park.

**MOORE, Carolyn J.**, 78, born Dec. 15, 1932 in Walnut Grove, IN, died Sept. 5, 2011 in Port Charlotte, FL. She was a member of Port Charlotte Church.

**PEARCY, Edward, Jr.**, 72, born Dec. 12, 1938 in Wilmington, DE, died Nov. 27, 2011 in Phenix City, AL. He served his nation proudly for 20 years in the United States Army, including two tours in Vietnam, until his retirement from the military in 1982. Ever the loving father and loyal son, he devoted the last 20 years of his life as the primary caregiver to his aging mother until illness no longer allowed him to do so. He will be most remembered for his unrelenting faith in the Lord, his easygoing affable manner, and his kind, generous spirit. He is survived by his mother, Gertrude Percy of Nashville, TN; one daughter, Debra Church of Houston, TX; two sons: Gary (Laurie) Percy of Brooklyn Park, MN, and Mike (Deanie) Percy of Phenix City, AL; two sisters: Peggy Hegi of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Charlotte Snider of

# Obituaries

Nashville; one brother, Louis (Judith) Pearcy of Charleston, WV; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward Pearcy Sr.; and one brother, Richard Pearcy.

**PERKINS, G. Wendell**, 92, born Feb. 4, 1919 in Pineville, SC, died Feb. 5, 2011 in Huntsville, AL. He was a member of First Church in Huntsville, AL. He worked with the community services department for many years. He also served in the U.S. Army, and rose to rank of supply sergeant. He was a recipient of numerous awards, including Presidential Service Award for volunteer community service from 2004 through 2009. He is survived by his devoted wife, Ruthe; one son, Gerard (Gloria); one sister, Pauline Holback; numerous nephews; nieces; and many friends.

**PETTIBONE, Carol J.**, 69, born March 23, 1942, died Nov. 27, 2011 in a Chattanooga healthcare facility. She was a resident of Collegedale, TN, and a member of the Collegedale Church, where she served on the Church Visitation Committee, was director of English as a Second Language, and served as Sabbath School superintendent. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in religion from Loma Linda University. She is survived by her husband, Dennis Pettibone of Collegedale; two children: Lori (Rob) Futcher of Cleveland, TN, and Teresa (Timothy) Strout of Collegedale; two grandchildren: Kody and Sierra Futcher of Cleveland. A memorial service was held Dec. 3, 2011 at the Collegedale Church with Pastor Jack Blanco officiating.

**PURDHAM, Glenn B.**, 90, born May 6, 1921, died Dec. 21, 2011 at his home in Ringgold, GA. He was a life-long Seventh-day Adventist and currently a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. Purdham graduated from a San Francisco, CA, dental school with top honors, and was voted their Sergeant-at-Arms. He was a veteran from World War II, serving as a non-combatative Air Force soldier. Shortly after the war, he married Jean (Van Arsdale)

Purdham. They lived in Michigan and had two children: James (deceased in 1970), and Elaine. After Jean's death in 1990, Purdham married Jimmy Joan Thurmon. He is survived by his wife, Jimmy Joan Thurmon of Ringgold; his daughter, Elaine Westra of Michigan; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one sister; and four stepchildren.

**SMITH, Cindy**, 67, born April 10, 1944 in Meridian, MS, died Dec. 1, 2011 in Meridian. She was a member of the Community Adventist Church in Meridian. She is survived by one daughter, Linda Dunn; and one son, Walton L. Smith II.

**THOMSEN, Harold Allen**, 85, born July 14, 1926 in Carroll County, TN, died Nov. 2, 2011 in Collegedale, TN. He was the youngest of five children. He was a member of Collegedale Church. He was a loving husband, Daddy, and Pa. He worked as a farmer, boat builder, cabinet installer, and was retired from McKee Foods. He enjoyed plowing numerous gardens in the Collegedale area during the years. He was preceded in death by two sons: Dennie Allen Thomsen and Otis Ray Thomsen; three granddaughters: Natasha Thomsen, Mitsy Thomsen, and Meredith Brown; and siblings: Thelma Kirby, Ardelle Mann, and Garvin Thomsen. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Cara Sue Dunn Thomsen; one daughter, Linda Thomsen (Howard) Brown of Collegedale; three grandchildren: Cameron (Julie) Thomsen of Chattanooga; Elizabeth Brown of Chattanooga; and Katherine Brown of Collegedale; one great-granddaughter, Madeline Thomsen of Chattanooga; one brother, John W. (Elizabeth) Thomsen of Huntingdon; several nieces; and nephews. The funeral service was held at Standifer Gap

Church; interment followed in Collegedale Memorial Park.

**VINCENT, Joseph E.**, D.D.S., 85, of Collegedale, TN, died Nov. 25, 2011. He was a resident of Collegedale since 1979. He was preceded in death by two brothers: Pierre Vincent and Jacques Vincent. He is survived by his wife, Christiane Vincent; three sons: Louis (Diana) Vincent of Atlanta, GA, Daniel Vincent of Atlanta, GA, and Philip (Pauline) Vincent of New Jersey; four grandchildren: Sophie, Nadia, Nicholas, and Chloe; two brothers: Jean Vincent of Canada, and Matthew Vincent, of Melbourne, FL; and one sister, Lydie Emanuel of Puerto Rico. The funeral service was held at the Collegedale Church with Pastor Sherry Smith officiating; interment followed in Collegedale Memorial Park.

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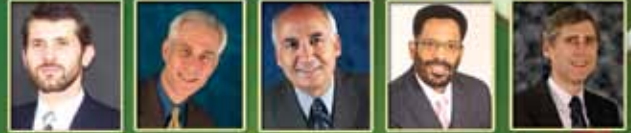
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**UNION COLLEGE** seeks **Social Work Professor** with minimum 2 years post MSW full-time practice experience to provide classroom instruction, direct field education program, participate in CSWE accreditation, mentor students, and develop relationships with social service agencies. Contact Dr. Denise White, Chair, Human Development. dewhite@ucollege.edu, 402-486-2522. [3]

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Southern Singles Ministries** – March 17. Worship and potluck at Decatur, TN, Church; then to the Schaffers for afternoon hike, Vespers, snacks, and group games. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

**Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend** – March 30, 31. All former faculty, staff, and students are invited to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Details: visit [www.vgaa.org](http://www.vgaa.org) or contact Robert Saldana: [eyeguy@live.com](mailto:eyeguy@live.com).

**Southern Singles Ministries Alumni Reunion Potluck** – March 31. Potluck at 1 p.m. and Vespers at Coolidge Park, Chattanooga, TN, at 6 p.m. For potluck location and details: [avocadofiddler@gmail.com](mailto:avocadofiddler@gmail.com) or 423-243-4001.

**Oakwood Academy Alumni Homecoming** – April 7. Details: 256-890-0513.

**Oakwood University Alumni Homecoming Weekend** – April 5-8. Alumni, friends, and supporters are invited to celebrate the 45th Alumni Weekend, which includes: Thursday and Friday morning Benefit Golf Tournaments; Thursday evening UNCF Banquet; Friday evening AYS Concert and Vespers Program; Sabbath School; Divine Worship; Alumni Honored Classes Roll Call; Sabbath afternoon Aeolians concert; 70's/80's Reunion Concert; Saturday night basketball; and Sunday morning vendors' mall and more. Details: [ouaahomecomingchair@gmail.com](mailto:ouaahomecomingchair@gmail.com), or [www.oakwoodalumni.org](http://www.oakwoodalumni.org).

**Union College Homecoming** – April 5-8. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to Homecoming 2012. Honor classes: 1942, '52, '57, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, and '02. Special Unionaires reunion—celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. Details: 402-486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

**Kingsport, TN, Church 60th Anniversary** – April 7. Address: 3025 Fort Henry Drive, Kingsport, TN. Details: 423-276-2004 or [kingsportsda@yahoo.com](mailto:kingsportsda@yahoo.com).

**Roane Community Church Homecoming and 10th Anniversary Celebration** – April 7. Harriman, TN. Details: [mikepethel@comcast.net](mailto:mikepethel@comcast.net).

**Weimar Center of Health and Education Homecoming Reunion** – April 13-15. All academy, college, and staff alumni invited. Honor Academy and College classes: '82, '87, '92, '02. Info: [alumni@weimar.edu](mailto:alumni@weimar.edu), 800-525-9192.

**Former General Conference Risk Management Employees Reunion** – April 18, 19. Silver Spring, MD. Meet at the General Conference April 18, at 5 p.m., for dinner and social time at a nearby restaurant. Tour of the General Conference on April 19. RSVP/Details: Phyllis Morgan, 301-434-7221, [gmomgdad@verizon.net](mailto:gmomgdad@verizon.net).

**La Sierra Academy 90th Birthday Celebration/Alumni Weekend** – April 27, 28. Alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend. Honor Classes 50+, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02. Friday morning golf tournament,

evening reception, Sabbath morning alumni roll call, potluck, and reunions. LSA gym. Details: 951 351-1445 x244, email [lsaalumni@lsak12.com](mailto:lsaalumni@lsak12.com), website: [www.lsak12.com/alumni](http://www.lsak12.com/alumni).

**Cohutta Homecoming** – June 2. Cohutta, GA (not Cohutta Springs). Special invitation to all former pastors, charter members, members, and friends. Details: [www.cohuttaadventistchurch.org](http://www.cohuttaadventistchurch.org) or 706-694-8625 or 706-935-4592.

**Ozark Adventist Academy Homecoming** – June 8-10. All former faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the weekend events. Plan to sing with the alumni choir, visit with classmates and friends, and enjoy the beautiful OAA campus. Details: 479-736-2221 #1109, or visit [www.ozarkacademy.org](http://www.ozarkacademy.org).

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion** – June 14-17. For alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1962 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit [www.GLAA.net](http://www.GLAA.net) for details.

**Transforming Lives Through Libraries/ Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2012 Conference** – June 19-24. Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS); Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Librarians and Information Professionals are invited to visit <http://asdal.org> for details, or contact Christy Scott at [Christy.Scott@wallawalla.edu](mailto:Christy.Scott@wallawalla.edu), 509-527-2153.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Session

Notice is hereby given that the 31st regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene on Sunday, April 22, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Cumberland Academy Gymnasium, Calhoun, GA. The purpose of this session is to receive reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2011, elect officers, departmental directors, and the Conference Executive Committee, revise or amend the constitution and bylaws, and to transact any such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

**Edward E. Wright, President**  
**Paul S. Hoover, Secretary**

### Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet on Sunday, April 22, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Cumberland Academy Gymnasium, Calhoun, GA. The purpose of this session is to transact such business as may properly come before the meeting and to revise or amend the constitution and bylaws. Delegates to the 31st regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

**Edward E. Wright, President**  
**S. Kurt Allen, Secretary/Treasurer**

## LEGAL NOTICES

### THE KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the 31st regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, April 29, 2012. The Organizing Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. The first meeting of the session is called for 10:00 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

***Steven L. Haley, President***  
***Marvin G. Lowman, Secretary***

### THE KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the 31st regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, April 29, 2012. The first meeting is called for 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

***Steven L. Haley, President***  
***Lin Powell, Secretary***

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 10th regular session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Mount Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 4902 N. 40th Street, Tampa, Florida 33610, Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Saturday night, May 19, 2011 at 8:15 p.m. (Sunset). This constituency session is called for the purpose of electing officers and for transacting any other business as may properly come before the membership. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one additional delegate for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

***Hubert J. Morel Jr., President***  
***Gregory O. Mack, Executive Secretary***  
***Gwendolyn T. Parker, Treasurer***

### REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 10th regular session of the Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at the Mount Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 4902 N. 40th Street, Tampa, Florida 33162, Sunday, May 20, 2011. The delegates to the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

***Hubert J. Morel Jr., President***  
***Gregory O. Mack, Executive Secretary***  
***Gwendolyn T. Parker, Treasurer***

# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**MPA Mission Trip** – March 1-11.  
**Pathfinders' Work Bee** – March 16-18. NPR.  
**MPA Week of Prayer** – March 19-23. MPA.  
**Elders' Retreat** – March 23, 24. NPR.  
**Young Adult Retreat** – March 30-April 1. NPR.  
**Elders' Certification Training**  
 March 31-April 1. Arden. April 7, 8. Arden  
**Adventurers' Fun Day** – April 7, 8. NPR.  
**MPA Alumni Weekend** – April 20, 21.  
**MPA Academy Days** – April 27-29.  
**Hispanic Camp Meeting** – May 11-13. NPR.  
**MPA Graduation** – May 18-20.  
**Camp Meeting** – May 27-June 2. Lake Junaluska.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/>  
**Florida Pathfinder events** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/youth/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.  
**Outdoor Education** – Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Cost: \$110 (cabin) or \$120 (mini-lodge). Details: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>, [summercamp@campkulaqua.com](mailto:summercamp@campkulaqua.com), or 386-454-1351. March 20-23. March 27-30. April 2-5.  
**Vacation Bible School Workshops** – Theme: Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity. Sponsored by Florida Conference Children's and Family Ministries. 3:00-8:00 p.m. Cost: \$30 per person, includes all materials and evening meal. Details: [rburrill@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rburrill@cfl.rr.com), [rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com](mailto:rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com), or 407-644-5000 x136. March 24. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland.  
 March 31. Sawgrass Adventist School, Plantation.  
**Forest Lake Academy Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament** – March 26. Redtail Golf Club, Sorrento. Breakfast and registration: 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start:

8:30 a.m. Cost: \$125 per golfer or \$400 for prepaid foursome, includes lunch and prizes. Company sponsorships available. Details: [lebrunc@forestlake.org](mailto:lebrunc@forestlake.org) or 407-772-3729.  
**118th Annual Florida Camp Meeting** – April 12-15. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: Transformed for His Coming. Guest speaker: Steve Riley, senior pastor of Stanmore Ave. Church, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Morning devotionals: Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for The Voice of Prophecy broadcast. Details and registration for meals and lodging: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>  
**Campestre Hispano (Spanish-language Camp Meeting)** – April 19-22. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: Transformados para Su venida. Guest speaker: Alejandro Bullón, international evangelist. Registration for meals and lodging: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>  
**Greater Miami Adventist Academy Third Annual Golf Tournament** – April 22. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. 12:00-7:00 p.m. Part of Greater Miami Adventist Academy's centennial celebration. Reception dinner included. Hotel and spa discounts available upon request. Details: <http://gma.edu/html/pta.html>, [ctrevilcock@gma.edu](mailto:ctrevilcock@gma.edu), [cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com), 305-220-5955 x151, or 954-254-9249.  
**Greater Miami Adventist Academy 100th Anniversary Alumni Weekend** – May 18, 19. Greater Miami Adventist Academy. Guest speaker: Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life speaker/director and GMAA alumni. Details: <http://gma.edu/html/alumni09.html>, [ctrevilcock@gma.edu](mailto:ctrevilcock@gma.edu), [cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com), 305-220-5955 x151, or 954-254-9249.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Health and Personal Ministries Leaders Training** – March 3. Tifton, GA.  
**"Mad About Marriage"** – March 9-10. Kingsport, TN.  
**GCA Academy Days** – March 16, 17. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

**Missional Pastor Training** – March 16-18. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.  
**Women and Teen Springs Retreat: "What's Holding Your Life Together"** – March 16-18. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Health and Personal Ministries Leaders Training** – March 17. Roan Community Church, TN.  
**GCC Nominating Committee** – March 18. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.  
**Pathfinder Drill Event** – March 18. Lee University, Cleveland, TN.  
**Hispanic Women's Retreat: Regalos de Esperanza** – March 23-25. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.  
**South Georgia Camp Meeting** – March 23, 24. Macon, GA.  
**Youth and Young Adult Festival** – March 24. The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA.  
**Health and Personal Ministries Leaders Training**  
 March 24. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.  
 March 31. Columbus, GA.  
**Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response Training** – March 31-April 1. Calhoun, GA.  
**Online registration for events available:** [www.registration.gccsda.com](http://www.registration.gccsda.com).

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online** <http://www.gccsda.org>  
**Elementary Schools/Day Academies Spring Break** – March 5-9.  
**Prayer Ministries Summit** – March 9, 10.  
**Cross Examination** – March 17. Huntsville, AL.  
**Women's Ministries Leadership Workshop** – March

16-18.  
**Conference Executive Committee** – March 27.  
**Pathfinders' Spring Fling**  
 April 6-8. Gulf Coast  
 April 13-15. North Alabama.  
**Fifth/Sixth Grade Outdoor Education School** – April 9-12. Camp Alamisco.  
**Couples Cruise** – April 15-19.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board**  
 March 13. May 15. July 17.  
**Conference Executive Committee**  
 March 13. May 15. July 17.  
**Highland/Madison Academy Boards**  
 March 15. March 22.  
**West Tennessee Festival of Faith** – March 3. Memphis, TN.  
**Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting** – March 9, 10. Prestonsburg, KY.  
**Conference Music Festival** – March 5-17. Highland Academy.  
**Family Prayer Conference** – April 13-15. Indian Creek Camp.  
**Pastors'/Elders' Conference** – April 20-22. Indian Creek Camp.

## Southern Adventist University

**Symphony Orchestra Concert** – March 18. Details: 423-236-2880.  
**Chamber Choir Concert** – March 25. I Cantori is a select chamber choir for students with advanced vocal experience. Ackerman Auditorium (Wood Hall). Details: 423-236-2880.  
**PreviewSouthern** – March 29-31. PreviewSouthern is a great way for high school students to experience life on campus. Details: [southern.edu/visit](http://southern.edu/visit).  
**Open Cave Day** – April 7. Details: 423-236-2416.

	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Apr. 9
Atlanta, GA	6:38	6:43	7:49	7:54	7:59	8:05
Charleston, SC	6:21	6:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
Charlotte, NC	6:23	6:29	7:35	7:40	7:46	7:52
Collegedale, TN	6:40	6:46	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:08
Huntsville, AL	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:03	7:09	7:14
Jackson, MS	6:02	6:07	7:12	7:17	7:22	7:27
Louisville, KY	6:41	6:48	7:54	8:01	8:07	8:14
Memphis, TN	5:59	6:05	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28
Miami, FL	6:25	6:29	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:42
Montgomery, AL	5:46	5:51	6:56	7:01	7:06	7:11
Nashville, TN	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:04	7:10	7:16
Orlando, FL	6:28	6:33	7:37	7:40	7:44	7:48
Wilmington, NC	6:12	6:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:39

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