

TSOUTHERN IDINGS



Uniting Values & Mission

In Praise of Christianity

In the presence of international terrorism and global military tensions that evolve as a byproduct of these horrific events, many people around the world have reevaluated their faith in God. Those who do not believe in God speak of embracing a “higher power” or ultimate authority of some nature in this time of distress. Among the countless spiritual groups, denominations, and cults that constitute the religious frontier of Planet Earth, there seems to be a special impetus to showcase the superiority of one’s belief system, and the utter inferiority of others.

Religious researchers have identified six specific needs that believers hope their religion will fill:

- Safety
- Insight
- Guidance in life
- Inner peace
- A sense of belonging
- Spiritual intimacy

Human nature clamors for these things from the religious or worship tradition out of which the faith is based. As have many, I have tried to evaluate different faith traditions, to observe their strengths and weaknesses as I see them. My exploration has led me to examine how my faith addresses the six needs mentioned above as they play out in my spiritual journey.

As a young man reared and socialized through the inner-city community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York, I experienced a megadose of urban blight. There was a scarcity of positive role models in my surrounding, and a sense of hopelessness hung over the neighborhood like some ominous cloud. I could picture myself growing up to become the not-so-positive role model whose lot in life was the corner where they did “business.”

But then came Jesus, bringing a real working relationship that infused my teenage life with safety and security — in spite of the harsh reality of gun violence and young men dying violently all around my neighborhood. I learned to claim my security in the care of Jesus. Christianity took on new dimensions in my life because of the insights I gained through the teachings of Holy Scripture. Rather than being people-centered in conversation, I became more issue-centered. The insights gained through the teachings of Jesus prepared me to face the stages of life with increased confidence.

Christianity also provided me with the necessary guidance to avoid those who may have had intentions for my harm or failure. In the process of moving from one stage of human development to another, the turbulence of life was quieted by the peace of knowing that Jesus doesn’t “leave you hangin’,” nor does He “kick you to the curb.” Christianity teaches that Jesus will stick with you through tough times and comfortable times. I found an inner peace in this assurance that I still cannot fully comprehend.

Feeling disenfranchisement or marginalization seemed to be my plight as a young man in the inner city. I gained a sense of belonging in Christianity. I joined a body of believers who identified my struggles as a young man growing up in urbanized New York. We also shared the common solution to our loneliness in Jesus Christ. I discovered the sweetest byproduct of Christianity to be the perpetual growth in an intimate relationship with Jesus. The need for fusing one’s life with another or being one with another finds ultimate fulfillment in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Do the stresses of wars and rumors of wars prompt you to reevaluate religion? Try Christianity. It really works!



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

Volume 106, No. 11, November 2012
 The *Southern Tidings* is the Official
 Publication of the Southern Union
 Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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SOUTHERN TIDINGS Volume 106 Number 11, November 2012.
 Published monthly by the Southern Union. Free to all members.
 POSTMASTER: send changes of address to Southern Tidings,
 P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031
 idouce@southernunion.com

COVER DESIGN: JULIE KLOOSTERHUIS



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COVER CAPTION: These members have made commitments to advance the Lord's Work through Planned Giving & Trust Services. For their stories and others, visit www.susdagift.com. For a free brochure, fill in the information on the form on page 7 and mail it to the address provided.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Southern Union officers: Dennis Millburn (left), undertreasurer; Jim Davidson, executive secretary; Randy Robinson, treasurer; and Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president.

Uniting Values & Mission

Southern Union Officers Discuss Planned Giving & Trust Services

Recently, the Southern Union officers sat down with the Department of Planned Giving & Trust Services personnel. Randy Robinson, treasurer of the Southern Union, served as moderator.

RANDY: Planned giving and trust services is indeed an area where values and mission come together. Interestingly, I have been exposed to planned giving and trust services for most of my career. I see two important benefits: It benefits the Church financially as members decide they wish to remember the local conference or worldwide areas of the Church. Secondly, and I wish

our members understood this better, it provides expertise so our members can make the best plans, not just to remember the Lord's Work, but, also, to make sure family needs are taken care of. While the conferences and universities are where the primary activity takes place, the Union also provides an important part. By working together we can help provide the momentum so that our focus is not on just the present, but encourage members to plan so their values are passed on in the future, for both their family and the Lord's Work.

RANDY: Ron, [turning to Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union] I know you

have been a pastor of very large churches. How have you seen the values of the local members passed on as a result of planned giving and trust services?

RON: Yes, I have pastored large as well as tiny churches from two members to 3,000 members. And I have discovered planned giving and trust services to be a real educational gift to the members, as well as the Church. It is important to be proactive in orienting our members in this area, so that a will or other proper documents can be put in place. In a church I pastored, an educational fund was left to benefit the school and students. On one occasion,

through a philanthropic gift, we were able to set up a tent and to reach out to an area of the inner city, resulting in 367 people baptized and a new church started in an inner city area. Gifts like this help provide for individuals who would not have had a fair shot at life otherwise. A final strong, identifiable value was in creating for our churches and members an environment of being partners with God, not just for the present, but, if time lasts, for the next 1, 5, 10, 15 or 20 years.

RANDY: Jim and Dennis: [Jim Davidson is executive secretary and Dennis Millburn is undertreasurer, both of the Southern Union.] You both have served in local conferences for extended periods. Give us an example of what it means at the local level to have a vibrant planned giving and trust services program.

JIM: It is a tremendous blessing to the entire operation of the conference. It gives opportunity to get into people's homes. This may be a lost art with some, but not with the Department of Planned Giving and Trust Services. They go into homes on a daily basis, and they talk to the members about their values and financial future. They also pray with the members and form close relationships. This is a great benefit that pulls the Church and its mission together

It was not unusual in my conference to get a letter or notification that a member had passed away and left an amount of funds to the Work of God. At times, a member may have moved out of the conference, but still want to remember the conference where the trust officer had ministered to them.

JEFF: [Jeff Wilson is recently retired as director of planned giving and trust services for the General Conference/North American Division. He is currently working for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.] If I could just piggyback for a minute on what Jim is saying: There are many people who, for health or other reasons, are not attending a local church regularly. Often these members are older, have accumulated

some assets, and want to remember the Lord's Work. Helping them is so important. I have been on some roads my GPS (Global Positioning System) doesn't even know about. This makes a personal connection with the local conference.

RANDY: Dennis, what has been your experience?

DENNIS: First of all, I love my Church and I love the Southern Union. It has been my opportunity to work in the largest conference in the Union as well as the smallest. I've seen a multi-faceted Planned Giving and Trust Services Department with a number of personnel, and I've seen a department with just one person in the field. But, in both situations funds have come in to bless the Lord's Work. Planned giving and trust services may be the

dred thousand dollars a year came into the conference, besides restricted gifts. This enabled the conference to employ four or five additional pastors. In the smaller conference, less came in, but on one occasion we received a seven-figure amount for the mission of the Church. This provided endowment funds for our academy.

RANDY: Cheryl [Cheryl Hubbard is the administrative assistant for Southern Union Planned Giving & Trust Services Department], you have been primarily in the office. How do you see it from that perspective?

CHERYL: I don't see it as just paper work. The real reward involves becoming involved in the direct human touch. One individual that comes to mind is a retired phy-



Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D. (left), president; Randy Robinson, treasurer; Tom Carter, planned giving and trust services director; and Jim Davidson, executive secretary

best-kept secret in the Church. The Church helps, without charge, to obtain basic documents including a will, a power of attorney, and a healthcare power of attorney, subject to the conference's financial constraints and good professional ethics. Others with substantial assets have benefited from irrevocable charitable trusts, taking a large charitable deduction, avoiding capital gains tax, and getting an income for life, with the remainder going to the mission of the church they chose.

Planned giving and trust services has greatly benefited the Church. In my large conference, several hun-

dred thousand dollars a year came into the conference, besides restricted gifts. This enabled the conference to employ four or five additional pastors. In the smaller conference, less came in, but on one occasion we received a seven-figure amount for the mission of the Church. This provided endowment funds for our academy.

sician that I became friends with over the phone. He called, and even though he was then living in a very modest situation, he wanted to leave what he had to the Lord's Work. He wanted me to help him make the legal arrangements. I arranged to get a Charitable Gift Annuity drawn up where he received a stated amount, based on his age, for life. At his death, which occurred recently, all the remainder went to bless the Lord's Work. But, while he lived, I wrote him and encouraged him through phone calls. He was such a dear man. After his wife died, he had no close friends or loved ones.

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

It was a blessing to minister to him and help him fulfill his desires. It is amazing how many people I talk to that are so appreciative for the help we give.



Tom Carter, planned giving and trust services director, and Cheryl Hubbard, assistant to the director

RANDY: I am hearing a very interesting theme. The world is rapidly evolving into cyberspace where we live and die by iPhones, computers, iPads, etc. The young people communicate today by texting, and even relationships begin and end by texting. But, the theme I'm hearing here is that the personal touch is appreciated. It shows that the personal touch is always needed.

JIM: Cheryl reminds me of when one of our literature evangeli-

lists had gone into a home and sold some books. The individual was so thrilled with those books that he said to the literature evangelist, "I would like to make a donation to the

organization that produces them." So a planned giving and trust services representative went to visit him. The representative thought he might want to donate a \$100 or so. It was the face-to-face contact that made the difference. As a result, he made a will

leaving all he had to the Church.

RON: It is quite amazing that despite all the technological avenues we have, there is still a lot of ignorance of how to put together a viable estate plan. As a pastor/administrator I've encountered too many members who don't have a will. Many are busy professionals. They are engaged in helping others, but their own business is not in order. They have intended to get their affairs in order, but no one ever pre-

sented the urgency and how to get it done. I often find out by being a first responder to a bereaved person that there is nothing in place. What an opportunity for me, as a pastor and leader in the Church, to partner with planned giving and trust services to educate our members. This resource provides an orientation of how members can partner with God. It dovetails into the overall strategic plan of our Union in a way that can unite our values and mission.

JIM: I realize how little people may know of this program. Members will ask how much of my estate do I have to leave to the Church for the conference to help me with my plans. In reality they don't have to leave anything to the Church. It is a blessing to them and the Church if they do, but it is not a prerequisite. No pressure is brought to bear. It is simply a service the Church provides.

RANDY: The challenge is in getting people to understand this and take advantage of the service. Jeff, how do you see it?

JEFF: Statistically only about a third of people have a will, and in some nations there is only one in a 1,000. If you do not have a will, the state's arbitrary distribution seldom is satisfactory. Nothing would benefit the Lord's Work, and the surviving spouse and children are likely to

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not be adequately cared for. As we have been taught from kindergarten, everything we have is God's. If I borrow a lawnmower from you, I have a responsibility to return it and maybe even fill it up with gas. So when I am through with what God has given me, I have a responsibility to remember in gratitude the Lord Who gave me all I have. I believe one of the reasons people don't think about these things is that it is hard to recognize our own mortality, and even more difficult to plan for that mortality. We have seen this attitude all over the world as well as in the United States. But, we have been told that "death does not come one day sooner because we have made our wills." And, making our wills allows us to move our treasure from this world to the Bank of Heaven. While better than the general population, it is estimated that at least 40 percent in the Southern Union have never made an estate plan. And in addition to the Lord's Work, it is imperative that we make plans for our family, especially our spouse and minor children.

RANDY: We are blessed to have individuals in the circle such as Jeff and Tom who are rooted in trust services and helped to pioneer the program in the World Church. I have sometimes referred to Tom as the father of trust services in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have seen the statistics which show that since

1968, planned giving and trust services, through the dedication of our members, has blessed the Church in the amount of \$1.5 billion.

TOM: [Tom Carter is Southern Union planned giving and trust services director] First of all, I can't take credit for being the father of trust services. There are many others who pioneered the work well before I came on the scene 45 years ago. But the Southern Union has contributed to the starting of the worldwide program. A.C. McKee was the first full time director of trust services at the General Conference. He had served as ABC manager, conference treasurer, conference president, and union director of trust services in the Southern Union. He was the one who recommended I come to the General Conference as his associate.

The General Conference and North American Division established an excellent certification and accreditation program. It requires all personnel to go through a comprehensive course and pass a rigorous test, plus an internship and continuing education. All organizations are audited and required to comply with some 47 requirements. The preamble indicates the high standard involved as all personnel are responsible to God, the members, the Church organizations, and the governments under which we work.

I am very pleased with our planned giving and trust services

personnel as they minister to our faithful members in the Southern Union. The cover on this issue of the Southern Tidings illustrates real flesh and blood stories from all of our conferences and the two universities. We have just put out a booklet showing how 25 of our members have remembered the Lord in their estate plans. Some of these are now deceased, and some are at different stages of life. But all of them illustrate what a witness it is to unite their values and mission in their future plans.

RANDY: Are there any final thoughts as we wrap up?

RON: We have been a beneficiary of the principles of stewardship and planned giving and trust services in my family. And, because of that I came to appreciate the importance of putting a family plan in place, one that would take care of our family needs while recognizing the benefit of remembering the Lord's Work. When my father died, there was a significant part of his estate that was earmarked for the Lord. My whole family recognized this as my father's wish and what should be done. Planned giving and trust services helps us to reach up, reach across, and to reach out as we unite our values and mission together. This is a vital part of our Southern Union plan of intimacy with God, sharing Jesus, and caring for the Church.

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Miracle at Camp Meeting

BY RON QUICK

In 2011, when Isabella Pakula was 10 years old, she was struck with severe debilitating pain in her back — so severe that over a period of time she could no longer stand or walk. Her parents, Tomek and April Pakula, took her to several doctors. Isabella spent seven weeks in three different hospitals, and no one could find the source of the pain. She missed the last two months of school, and went through a summer of very painful nerve blocks. No pain medicine touched the pain. “Morphine was like giving her water,” her mother explains.



RON QUICK

Despair had set in for there seemed to be no hope. Finally, after nine months, the doctors found a small tumor near her spine. Isabella was scheduled for surgery in December of 2011.

After the surgery, the family expected the pain to be gone, but that wasn't the case. Isabella was still in severe pain. The doctors explained that the nerves around the tumor had been damaged, and so they were still sending off pain signals as if the tumor was still there. The doctors said that the nerve damage repair could take months or years, or maybe never. The family was in such despair about her future.

Family Went to God in Prayer

In the very beginning of this experience the family went to God in prayer. They prayed over and over for Isabella's healing. Twice, Isabella was anointed. Many churches here and around the world were praying for Isabella.

Why Would This Happen?

"Why would something like this happen?" The family wondered. Isabella's father, Tomek Pakula, explained it this way: "In the beginning we found out why this could've possibly happened to us, at least from our human thinking." You see, the family operates and runs The Cavalier Motel on the Outer Banks in Kill Devil Hills, N.C. When the decision was made to keep the business a Sabbath-keeping business, it was the very next day that Isabella suffered the severe pain. "Could that be the reason?" Tomek wondered.

Isabella's Wish

A few weeks before Camp Meeting in May, Isabella came to her mother in such despair. She was so hoping that she could be healed so she could go to Junior Camp at Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty, S.C.

By this time Isabella was 12 years old. "This whole ordeal had been going on for 14 months," Isabella's mother recalls. The family had made plans to attend Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska, N.C. Isa-

bella's mother, April, recalls how they felt such despair over what the future held.

At the beginning of the week at Camp Meeting, one of the pastors assigned to the Children's Junior Department, Kevin Pires, a former-nurse-now-pastor, took an interest in Isabella.

Pires was interested in the medical aspect of this young lady in the wheelchair. He made sure she was included in all the activities of the children. He spoke with Isabella's mother about having prayer for her, and so Pires mentioned to Isabella that they could have prayer for her. Instead of the entire junior class, perhaps just the pastors. "Would that be OK, Isabella?" Pires asked.

Prayers for the Girl in the Wheelchair

After the junior meeting that evening, Pires wheeled Isabella to the front. The pastors gathered around her and each one began to pray. They prayed for Isabella's healing and that she would be able to fulfill her wish of going to Junior Camp at Nosoca. During one of the prayers, there seemed to be a pause. During that pause, each of them could feel some-



RON QUICK

thing was different. Isabella shares, "I felt Jesus touch my back. It was such a warm and loving touch."

After the prayers, Pires recalls the sweet smile on Isabella's face. Isabella could feel her shoulders loosen up. She remembers rolling her shoulders and it felt so good; it was something she could not do before.

When Isabella got back to her hotel room with her parents, she was too overwhelmed to mention the experience. If she would mention anything about this, she'd have hundreds of people coming around all at the same time, so she said nothing. Isabella prayed and asked Jesus if it was wrong to keep this to herself? She felt as if He said, "It'll be our little secret for a little while."

When they returned home to the Outer Banks, her folks still didn't know what had happened. Her father explained how they were still carrying her upstairs to the bed, and she didn't tell them anything. Then, when the time was right, Isabella told her folks as she got up out of her wheelchair and walked. This was so overwhelming and powerful for her folks, they still are amazed how God healed their daughter.

"I could thank Jesus every day for the rest of my life!"

"The only way I could thank Him," Isabella shares, "is to witness for Him and to keep loving Him and trusting Him." And that's exactly what she's doing as she and her mother share her experience with area churches and organizations. ✨



RON QUICK



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Sports Story to God's Glory

BY JANE ALLEN QUEVEDO

"I played on winning teams with the Atlanta Braves and New York Mets, but now I'm on the real winning team — the team of Jesus Christ," says Félix Millán, retired Major League Baseball second baseman.

Instead of hitting fastballs at a ballpark on Saturdays, these days Millán is in church. In fact, he and his wife, Mercy, helped establish two Adventist Hispanic congregations in Florida.

In the 1980's, while working as an infield instructor for the Mets' minor league team in Port St. Lucie, Florida, Félix and Mercy started a Spanish-language Sabbath School class at Fort Pierce Church. What began as a class has since become a Spanish-language church which has also spawned a new Hispanic congregation meeting in Port St. Lucie.

The Milláns are now part of another Spanish group that meets at Clermont, Florida, Church. They look forward to helping establish a church in that city, too.

Growing up in a sugarcane valley of Puerto Rico, Félix played ball from

the time he could whittle a bat from the branch of a guava tree. He fashioned a mitt from a piece of canvas stuffed with newspaper, and the seat of his first uniform bore a Gold Medal®

logo. While plagued with extreme shyness, young Félix showed promise for the big leagues with his speed, quick hand, and reliable hitting.

Playing in the Major Leagues, 1966-1977, Millán made three All-Star teams, won two Gold

Glove Awards®, and, for four seasons, ranked as the National League's toughest batter to strike out. With the Braves, he usually hit ahead of Hank Aaron, crossing home plate many times when the home run king hit the ball out of the park.

As an athlete, Félix had to stay in good physical condition, and Mercy was health-minded, too. One summer, she attended an Adventist cooking school in New York. Returning home with two grocery bags of vegetarian products, she announced, "Félix, we need to talk."

The Milláns adopted an Adventist diet long before they joined the

Church. They also enrolled their children in an Adventist academy near their winter home in Puerto Rico. Mercy's occasional church attendance grew into frequent visits, finally leading to her decision for baptism, followed by the baptism of their three children.

"If that's what she wanted, I would not stand in her way," says Félix, "but I made it clear she could leave me out."

In his autobiography, *Tough Guy, Gentle Heart*, available at Adventist Book Centers and felixbook.com, Millán explains he had Jesus in his heart; yet, he did not see a need for baptism to prove it. However, he had not counted on the prayers of his wife, the prompting of the Holy Spirit, or his children questioning, "Daddy, why don't you go to church with us?"

After playing in the Major Leagues, the Milláns moved to Japan where, in 1979, Félix was the first foreigner to win the country's batting crown as leading hitter. Finally, the convictions of his heart led him to request being excused from games played on Sabbath. In time, the tough guy with a gentle heart publicly declared his faith through baptism — a decision that changed his sports story into a story for God's glory. ✨



RON QUICK

When Mercy and Félix Millán married 50 years ago, they shared dreams of a career in Major League Baseball. Celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in December 2012, they look back on a lifetime of unforgettable memories and blessings from God.

Félix Millán's quick reflexes and agility at second base and in the batter's box, earned him the nickname "The Cat" when he played for the Atlanta Braves and New York Mets (#17) in the 1960s and 1970s. He is remembered as one of the toughest batters to strike out in the 1970s.



Holly Martz, M.D. (left), is interviewed by Gail McKenzie during a recent recording session of HealthHope.

HealthHope Brings Healing, Hope

BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Joan Warner attends the Madison Campus Church in Madison, Tennessee. Ten years ago Joan became seriously ill and she believes that the only thing that healed her was the Adventist health message. She became convicted that the world needed to know the Adventist health message, and dreamed of producing a television program that would do just that.

During the past 10 years, Joan has been thinking about how to get the health message on the air. Recent developments on the world scene stressed to her, "It's time to do it."

"I saw a friend on public access TV, inquired about it, and found out that you had to take classes," Joan says. She also needed at least two other people to start with her. She asked Sally Morgan and Shirley Sims-Saldana. Shirley asked her husband, Ed, and together they took the classes and started producing programs. Chuck Young later became the host of a mini-series called the *Evangelistic Bible Marking Class* which covers doctrinal topics.

Joan decided to call the program *HealthHope*. "Our goal is to portray health and the spiritual dimension together — providing healthful counsel along side the doctrinal message of the Church," says Joan. She came up with a logo concept and Chuck Young, who is a graphic designer by trade, developed the logo.

Gail McKenzie is the host of *HealthHope*. "I met Joan at a church potluck," she says. "She told me about the *HealthHope* ministry and asked if I would be the host to introduce the program and do interviews." Gail was co-host of the *Prophecies Decoded* evangelistic series with Ron Clouzet, D.Min., in

has had some impact on the crew-members who are not Adventists. "It raises a level of awareness of Adventism and the love of God. I've seen crew members tear up when they hear some of the songs," she says.

Charlotte Wright, a camera operator who is not an Adventist, has been working on the program for about six months. "I needed to get experience running the cameras. I met Joan and believe in the principals of her show, and have enjoyed it ever since," she says.

Programs are recorded in the studio, edited, and submitted to the station management for airing. Joan sees the Hand of God working in the programs that are aired. She recalls that the management team kept showing programs on the state of the dead and gift of tongues over and over.

In order to produce more programs, a second show is planned which will be called *Truth and Wellness*.

Programs air on Channel 19 on the Comcast network in Nashville-Davidson County. They can also be viewed online at www.necatv/ and are aired Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Look for *HealthHope* in the online program schedule. For more information, email healthhope@live.com. ☞



Joan Warner, producer of HealthHope, directs a recording session. Camera operator Charlotte Wright is in the background.

October 2011. "I feel that God was using that to prepare me for this. I was accustomed to looking at a camera and working within time limits, but I'm learning a lot and hope I'm improving some each time."

There are 170 producers at the Nashville Education, Community, and Arts Television Network (NECAT) studios where *HealthHope* programs are recorded. Producers share crew members, so some crew members are not Adventists. Joan believes the show

New Hospital Designed to Improve Patient Safety, Comfort

A vision that began 15 years ago came to fruition on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012, when Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel in Wesley Chapel, Fla., opened its doors to the community for the first time.

During the open house, guests had the chance to tour the 83-bed facility and learn about the features and technology that are leading the way in patient care.

“Everything was created out of the vision of, ‘What would I want if I was



a patient?’” said John Harding, president and CEO of the Florida Hospital Tampa Bay Network.

Special lighting in the hallways eases the strain on patients’ eyes when they are traveling by gurney. In private rooms, high definition flat screen televisions announce staff as they enter, and give patients the opportunity to learn more about their conditions,

review their hospital history, and submit feedback. Sensors track whether or not health care providers are washing their hands as they enter and exit patient rooms.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is also the first in the region and second in Florida to have a Philips Ingenia 3.0T, a digital MRI system that produces higher quality images in less time than standard MRI systems.

To ease anxiety in this and several ER rooms, patients can choose to have

ambient lighting, sounds, and images from more than 30 themes projected on the walls.

“Building a new hospital is a wonderful but complex opportunity,” said Brian Adams, president/CEO of Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel. “Every detail of the hospital was intentionally designed to extend the healing ministry of Christ by promoting a healing environment where we can provide safe, quality care to the patients we serve.”

Florida Hospital Wesley Hospital began treating patients in October 2012.

—BY RAINEY TURLINGTON

World Record Attempt Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

More than 2,100 residents of Winter Park, Fla., literally took a stand against breast cancer in an attempt to raise awareness and break the Guinness World Record for the most number of people standing on one leg, like a flamingo, September 9, 2012.

The official results will not be in for several weeks, but the record to beat was 1,103 people, who stood on one leg in Denmark, March 2012.

The Winter Park event was a kick-off for “Pink Out,” a two-month awareness effort that turns the city pink to encourage

women to get their annual mammograms and support those in need of financial assistance for mammograms.

All along Park Avenue and Hannibal Square, participating local retailers and food and service vendors will donate proceeds from sales through the month to the Winter Park Memorial Hospital Mammography Scholarship Fund, which provides free diagnostic services to women who cannot afford their yearly

recommended screenings. Through the funds raised during last year’s Pink Out, 30 women received mammograms. One woman was diagnosed with breast cancer and went on to receive treatment.

“Pink Out encourages

everyone in the community to get involved, and serves as a powerful reminder about breast cancer awareness that will not be able to be overlooked this year,” said Ken Bradley, mayor of Winter Park and president/CEO of Winter Park Memorial Hospital, which is a Florida Hospital.

“Breast cancer can affect women unexpectedly. The scholarship fund helps to ensure that all women can receive the proper screenings at the required times.”

—BY SARA CHANNING



Sonography Chair Named Distinguished Educator

The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) recognized Charlotte Henningsen, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, with the Distinguished Educator Award in September 2012.

SDMS is a national association for ultrasound professionals which presents this honor each year to one educator who has demonstrated excellence through various authorships, publications, lectures, and awards.

According to the SDMS website, the recipient of the award should exhibit “the motivation, drive, and hard work it takes to promote life-long learning in students and sonographers using innovative teaching methods.”

Donald Haydon, CEO of SDMS, said that simply

being nominated is an accomplishment, but being selected is a remarkable achievement for Henningsen, who has been with Adventist University of

educational community,” Haydon said.

During the selection process, a committee reviewed nominees and made a recommendation to

during an awards banquet at the SDMS 2012 Annual Conference in Seattle, Wash., where Joy Guthrie, president of SDMS, presented her the award.



Joy Guthrie (left), president of SDMS, stands with Charlotte Henningsen, recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award, in Seattle, Wash., on September 21, 2012.

Henningsen currently serves SDMS as the immediate past president and the president of SDMS Foundation. She said her continued involvement with the organization made the award even more special.

“When I found out I won, I was delighted,” Henningsen said. “To be recognized by an organization that is part of my history as an educator made me feel very proud. And, I am blessed to have spent my career at a Univer-

sity that has fostered my professional development.”

—BY SARAH CROWDER

Health Sciences since its establishment in 1992.

“This professional recognition is the pinnacle of success in the sonography

the SDMS Board of Directors, which chose Henningsen as the recipient.

Henningsen was honored on September 21

Students Revamp Worship Experience

Ecclesia, a Greek word meaning church, recently gained a whole new meaning for students at Adventist University of Health Sciences.

About a year and a half ago, a group of students joined forces with Campus Ministries and created a Friday evening worship called Sonset Cafe. It has since undergone a makeover as

its name, location, and purpose recently changed.

In September, Sonset Cafe was renamed Ecclesia, and the worship now meets at Florida Hospital Church rather than on the University’s campus.

“A lot of students didn’t like the vibe of coming back to school on a Friday evening after they’ve been here all week,” said Alicia

Wright, Ecclesia student leader. “Being back at the church has been a real blessing in that area.”

The new name also came with a new purpose: to focus on God, community, and restoration. Student leaders and Campus Ministries have also worked together to implement daily prayer times, small group Bible studies, outreach, and

social activities.

All of the efforts have been part of a greater goal, to build a God-centered community of students.

“The goal is really just to meet each student’s needs spiritually, regardless of what background or denomination they come from,” Alicia said.

—BY SARAH CROWDER

Fletcher Spanish Church Cuts Ribbon on New Facility



"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD,'" Psalm 122:1.

The Fletcher, N.C., Spanish Church held its official open house on July 28, 2012, after several years of hard work. Samuel Romero, Hispanic ministries direc-

tor; Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president; and Moises Sauza, pastor of the Fletcher Spanish Church, were present at the ceremony to cut the ribbon.

The members are thrilled to say that God blessed them richly and always provided for their

needs during the construction of their new church. Most of the work was done by the members, who gathered together on Sundays. Some donated their labor, others donated materials. The women were very faithful in preparing plentiful meals to feed the workers

who labored in their mission from sun up until sun down.

The nearly 80-member congregation has been meeting since their first Sabbath in the Fletcher Academy Chapel.

Now their dream of having their own church has finally come true.

The members are ready and excited to move on to the next task God has in mind.

—BY MARY ROMERO

Arden Church Members Think Big in Evangelism

It was more than a year ago that the Arden, N.C., Church's Community Outreach Committee started working on their 2012 evangelism program. With much prayer and discussion,

they decided to do a series of short weekend meetings during a period of nine months, starting in September 2012. The theme topic chosen was "Can I Really Trust God?"

Their leap of faith



was to ask some of the most well-known and best speakers in the denomination to come and do live presentations. God was surely leading and directing this committee.



"Can I Trust God with the Mess in the World?" — Ron Halverson Jr., September 7, 8.

"Can I Trust God in Real Life?" — Dick Stenbakken, October 19, 20.

"Can I Trust God with My Happiness?" — Kelly

Mowrer, November 2, 3.

"Can I Trust God with My Mess?" — Hyveth Williams, December 7, 8.

"Can I Trust God to Show Me What He is Like?" — David Smith, January 4, 5.

"Can I Trust God to Let Me Know What Will Happen?" — Shawn Boonstra, February 1, 2.

"Can I Trust God to Change Me?" — Karl Haffner, March 1, 2.

"Can I Trust God to Listen to Me?" — Mark Finley, April 26, 27.

"Can I Trust God's Plan for My Life?" — Derek Morris, May 3, 4.

The speakers give a presentation Friday and Sabbath evening at 7 p.m.,

and Sabbath morning at 11 a.m.

These meetings are being managed on a low-cost budget with minimum market advertising. Arden Church is depending on their members to invite their friends and neighbors with personal invitations. They're praying for God's Spirit to touch the hearts of many people to attend these meetings, and to have an awesome experience with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

For details, visit www.canitrustgod.com

—BY OWEN SPENCER

Little Creek Fellowship Celebrates Grand Opening

Little Creek Adventist Fellowship celebrated its Grand Opening of phase 1 of its building program on Sabbath, September 22, 2012, at 2585 Little Creek Church Road, Clayton, N.C. It was indeed a grand day for members and guests. In January, the groups will begin making plans for phase 2, a section to house the sanctuary and other needed rooms.

Six years ago, in September of 2006, a small group from the Raleigh, N.C., Church sensed the need to plant a new church in the Clayton/Smithfield area. A group leader was selected, and Elizabeth Methodist Church graciously provided their historic facility as a meeting place

for this small group of Sabbath-keeping Christians. Thus, Little Creek Adventist Fellowship was born.

The new church was immediately blessed with a generous donation of 30 acres of land by John and Sara Massey. With the motto of “Serving with Vision and Vitality,” the young church began to grow, and the group now has an average attendance of 100 each week.

On the front of the weekly bulletin are these words: “Reaching out to Johnston County and the World

with God’s Love,” but these are more than mere words for Little Creek Fellowship — they are a way of life and living.

Some of the ministries that are part of this reaching out passion are a live stream of the worship service each Sabbath; an active women’s ministries;

vibrant youth and campus ministries; an energetic music ministry; foreign mission ministries; health ministries; and men’s ministries.

Upon entering the new facility for Little Creek Adventist Fellowship, you will be welcomed by a smiling greeter and handed a card with these words at the bottom: “When you walked in you were a visitor ... Now you are family.” They invite you to come be a part of their family anytime.

Visit them online at www.littlecreekfellowship.com.

—BY DAN JARRARD



Rockingham Member Receives Teacher of the Year Award

Lulama Rozani, member of the Rockingham Cornerstone Church, was honored and recognized as Teacher of the Year in Richmond County, N.C., on August 23, 2012. An article that appeared in the Richmond County *Daily Journal* said the following:

Educators throughout Richmond County gathered

on Thursday to recognize the 2012-13 Teachers of the Year during the annual convocation ceremony at Cole Auditorium.

Among the crowded seats were State Representatives Ken Goodman and Garland Pierce, school board members and Richmond County Superintendent



George Norris.

Lulama Rozani, a teacher at East Rockingham and Mineral Springs Elementary Schools, was honored as the system-wide Teacher of the Year for the 2012-13 school year.

Last year’s Teacher of the Year, Mark Burr, presented the award and referred to Rozani as “poised, fun, and in control of her classroom,” a woman with a “quiet, can-do attitude.”

Rozani has taught in Richmond County for seven years, and obtained a bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Pretoria in South Africa, and an M.E.D.

in special education at Elon University.

“I feel so small for this recognition,” Rozani said as she accepted her award. “I know Who my real role-model and teacher is — it’s Jesus Christ ... I want to thank all of the teachers for being such a great example, and being so good at what they do.”

Rozani also received a one-year lease on a car, courtesy of Griffin Nissan.

—BY CYNTHIA MEJIA

Florida Conference Officers Re-elected



LEE BENNETT

Florida Conference officers were re-elected at the 70th Regular Constituency Session. From left: President Mike Cauley and his wife, Dottie; Executive Secretary Carmen Rodriguez and her husband, Victor; and Treasurer Duane Rollins and his wife, Marilyn.

Mike Cauley was re-elected president of Florida Conference on October 7, 2012, at the 70th Regular Constituency Meeting held on the campus of Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla. Cauley, who has served in this position since 2003, is known for his passion for making disciples, “bringing believers to spiritual maturity.” The president’s report reflected ways in which members around the Conference are reaching out to their communities.

Part of the administrative team since 2006, Carmen Rodriguez was re-elected as executive

secretary. “Florida Conference has been intentional in growing and revitalizing its churches,” says Rodriguez. “As a result, God has expanded our territory.” There are 248 churches and companies that now comprise the Florida Conference sisterhood of churches. During the past triennium, membership has grown from

58,844 to 61,234.

Re-elected as treasurer was Duane Rollins, who has served in this capacity since 2008. “While tithe and offerings have shown some decline, both are on an upswing, which is a huge blessing to the churches,” says Rollins, “and, of course, the Conference is simply the sum of the churches.” He gives “praise to God for His leading the Florida Conference family through this yet incomplete recession.”

One of the most anticipated recommendations brought to the floor by this past triennial Constitution and Bylaws Committee was to consider moving from a triennial to a quadrennial session. Delegates voted

in favor of a quadrennial session, recognizing that it would facilitate a more prudent use of time, money, and resources.

Positioning For Vibrant Mission, the constituency session theme, was introduced this summer in a special *Florida Focus* Triennial Report given to delegates at regional meetings and mailed to Conference members. The theme was carried over into the session in the officer’s reports.

Special guests of the constituency session included North American Division President Dan Jackson who presented the devotional, and Southern Union Conference President Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., who brought the Nominating Commit-

tee report to the floor.

Special recognition was given to those individuals who retired from Florida Conference employ during the triennial period.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL



MARTIN BUTLER

“While tithes and offerings have shown some decline, both are on an upswing, which is a huge blessing to the churches,” reported Duane Rollins, treasurer.



LORE BENNETT

Pathfinders Spend Weekend on Tropical Island

Imagine 52 hours without electricity, electronics, or any other modern conveniences! Five Florida Pathfinder Clubs — Elia-



RAY SALADINO

Alex Ramirez and Jennifer White admire a large Bahamas starfish found near Molasses Key.

thah, Forest Lake, Melbourne Spanish, Palm Coast, and Tampa Spanish — survived these very conditions while taking an island excursion in July.

The Island Navigator experience began as Pathfinders and staff boarded a boat in the Florida Keys with Ray Saladino at the helm. The destination: one of the tranquil tropical islands in Molasses Key.

Calvin Brooks, state Pathfinder administrator, accompanied by his assistants, Francisco Forbes, Martha Lewis, and Alex



RAY SALADINO

Several dozen Pathfinders from five clubs participated in the Island Navigator program in the Florida Keys.

Ramirez, along with a youth staff team from the Reveille Pathfinder program, taught classes in skin diving, reef fish, marine invertebrates, marine algae, and tides. Young people were invigorated in natural surroundings outside of the traditional classroom as they studied the handiwork

of their Creator “which the waters brought forth abundantly,” Genesis 1:21 KJV.

Spiritual highlights of the weekend consisted of sermonettes, a panoramic view of God’s creation, and witnessing to the many visitors to the island.

—BY CALVIN BROOKS

Middags Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

In 1950, Barbara Popp and Norm Middag, students at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), met on the campus tennis courts. Impressed with Barbara’s athletic skills, Norm became her tennis partner in college and beyond. They were married June 22, 1952.

Norm was an educator, pastor, and youth director in a career spanning 40-plus years. He served in Michigan, Southern California, Northern California, Florida, and Potomac conferences before joining the North American Division (NAD) as Pathfinder, Adventurer, and

camp ministries director.

When Norm was with the NAD, he coordinated development of the Adventurer and Pathfinder curricula, and the Association of Adventist Camp Professionals. He was the originator of Camps For The Blind; and the 1991, 1992, and 1993 Witness Through Rose Parade, floats sponsored and decorated by Pathfinders. As chairman of the Camporee Coordinating Committee, Norm helped

launch the NAD camporee program and its first national gathering of Pathfinders in 1985 at Camp Hale near



RENEE BROWNLOW

Barbara and Norm Middag

Leadville, Colo.

In addition to supporting her husband

in ministry, Barbara taught French, music, and secretarial science subjects at Battle Creek Academy in Michigan. Taking a break from the classroom to

raise their family, Barbara returned to the workforce in the early 1970s to teach at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla. Later, she served at Potomac Conference, and as an administrative secretary in the General Conference presidential office.

Norm and Barbara were blessed with three children: David, Loren, and Renee Brownlow; and six grandchildren. The Middags are retired and make their home in Mount Dora, Fla. They are members of Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

—BY RENEE BROWNLOW

Collegedale Spanish-American Group Celebrates 30 Years

Almost 400 people gathered September 14 and 15 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Collegedale Spanish-American Church (IHC) ministry. Friday's program was held at the Collegedale Spanish-American Church, and Sabbath at the Collegedale Adventist Middle School (CAMS).

Manuel Mendizabal, pastor of the Dalton, Ga., Hispanic Church, and his wife, Graciela, represented churches that were organized for the ministry of IHC.

Also gathered were students from Southern Adventist University (SAU), a large group of brothers and sisters that were members of the church during different stages, present members, and friends.

On Friday, the consecration worship was presented by Mendizabal. On Sabbath morning, the traditional pass and review of the varying flags of each country represented took place. Representatives of each country proudly flew their respective flags while wearing their native dress. Danilo Cornejo, current IHC pastor, reviewed the Sabbath School lesson, "Promises for the Persecuted." During second service, Jim Herman, former South-



A group of original members of the Collegedale Spanish-American Church celebrates 30 years.

ern chaplain, gave encouragement to the students to gather, study, and worship God in their own language; he restated the power of the Word of God.

In the afternoon, the celebration continued with good music, the remembrance of the past 30 years through the use of slides and photos, and a message recorded from Gabriel Ruiz, a pastor from California. The festivities ended with a review of each country's flag, with their particular anthems, and the use of several artificial fireworks.

IHC began toward the end of the 1970's when a group of Hispanic students started a Sabbath School class in Spanish in a classroom at Southern Adven-

tist University. Ivan Ruiz arrived to minister to this growing small group, and in 1982 it was organized as the Spanish-American Church of Collegedale.

In 1985, the church was officially inaugurated. In January 1993, 11 years later, Gabriel Ruiz, pastor, arrived, and was used by God to initiate the Spanish work in Dalton, Calhoun, Rome, Chattanooga, Cleveland, and Knoxville. In March of 2001, Manuel Mendizabal, pastor, came to Collegedale to serve at the church until 2007. During his ministry, the churches of the Chattanooga Hispanic community and the Soddy-Daisy group were organized. In November of 2010, the church

planted a new congregation in Ooltewah, under the leadership of Danilo Cornejo, pastor.

Without a doubt, these 30 years of history are a good reason to celebrate the blessings of God, and continue the mission of the church as a missionary church — generous and loving.

As part of the 30th anniversary of the church, it was proposed to win one soul for Christ for each year of service. Until the day of the anniversary, the Lord has blessed the church with a total of 20 individuals.

—BY DANILLO CORNEJO

Knoxville Members Offer “Let’s Move Day” Options

The Health Ministries Department of the Knoxville, Tenn., First Church organized a Vegetarian Cookout/Let’s Move Day walk for September 23, 2012. They offered a plant-based meal (with recipes), and invited people to walk after the meal.

Highlights:

- About 60 people from the community came to the cookout/Let’s Move Day.
- Two people requested help in developing a personal relationship with God.
- The churches newly formed walking club spearheaded the Let’s Move Day walk. Approximately 20 people got moving and walked a combined total of 43 miles.



Knoxville, Tenn., First Church offered a vegetarian cookout and walk on September 23, 2012, for Let’s Move Day. About 60 people from the community attended and the group walked a total of 43 miles.

Children as young as four years old participated.

- A Hindu mom and daughter came to the cookout with neighbors. The husband hadn’t

wanted them to be involved, but he was recently diagnosed with high cholesterol.

- A woman who was raised Adventist hit it off

with the health ministries leader at church the day before the cookout/walking event. She helped prepare the event food, and invited a friend who wants to develop a closer walk with the Lord. A chef, he specializes in hamburgers, and had never eaten a vegetarian burger.

- One of the Knoxville Church members had not planned on going until she got a call from her co-worker. She reassured her co-worker that she would be there, and quickly called to get information. The friend and her husband watched “Forks over Knives” and hope to change their lifestyle.

—BY KIMBERLY CRIDER

Kleins Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Al and Doralee Klein celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Calhoun, Ga., Church on August 12, 2012.

The couple met while attending Andrews University in 1951. In 1952, they were married in the Old Village Church. In 1954 Al graduated with a degree in theology. Working together as a team, the Kleins served in Minnesota, Iowa, and Georgia-Cumberland

conferences. They pastored in

Marietta, Ga.; Bowman Hills, Tenn.; Cascade Road

Church, Atlanta, Ga., where they helped establish Atlanta Adventist Academy; Savannah, Ga.; and Ellijay, Ga. Al continues to assist as a chaplain at Gordon Hospital, and both are active members at Calhoun Church.

They have four children: Theresa, Eddie, Kay, and Lorinda; and six grandchildren.



At their anniversary celebration, Al Klein sang “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” to his girl of 60 years, Doralee.

DENNIS STARKEY

Hattiesburg Church “Wakes Up”

Had you visited the Hattiesburg, Miss., Church a couple of years ago you would have found a sleepy, small church filled with mostly older people and one or two children. But, that was before members Teena Armstrong, Lanora Clark, Terrell and Patricia Moore, and Jimmy Brazell attended the Gulf States Conference sponsored Church Works Program last February. “We were set on fire for the Lord at that meeting, and the fire is still going,” explains Armstrong, the Church Works coordinator.

Armstrong and Clark



Pictured is the Church Works Team that inspired their church.

felt the need for a children’s ministries, and they began praying. “Don’t pray for something you’re not ready for,” Armstrong says. Children now fill the Sab-

bath School classes, and an Adventurer Club is being organized. A youth and young adult class has also started.

They prayed for ideas for community outreach, and the ideas kept coming. They organized a free car wash and gave away free popsicles. With the popsicles and car wash people were given a card with their church information on the back and a message on the front which read, “Salvation is free just like this car wash or popsicle.”

Needed supplies for a women’s abuse center are collected each week, and

members have helped with repairs for the center.

Seven members helped with the renovation of another member’s home.

Activities in October included the start of a women’s ministry, Vespers to close the Sabbath, a garage sale to help with expenses for an evangelistic meeting planned for January, a blood drive at the church with the Red Cross, and a bike ride to raise money for multiple sclerosis that several members rode in.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Camp Alamisco Receives \$10,000 Gift from Native American Group

During the September Conference Executive Committee Meeting, the leader of the Porch Creek Indians presented a check for \$10,000 to use for improvements to Camp Alamisco. For a number of years this Native American group has brought from 70 to 80 campers plus staff to the camp each summer. They provide the campers; Camp Alamisco staff conduct the programs and provide counselors and other staff.

Several years ago, James Mangum, Gulf States youth and camp director, decided to reach out to the Native American children and staff spiritually. Since that decision, the campers have received children’s tracts, copies of *Steps to*

Christ, Desire of Ages, and at the request of the children, Bibles for their parents. The counselors have devotion with the children in their cabins every day. On Thursday evening the staff does a passion play. The literature, Bibles, passion play, and daily devotional study complemented by the nightly programs, have touched the hearts of the children and the staff. As a result, a friendship has been formed between the Porch Creek Indians and the Alamisco staff.

This year the leader of the group asked if they could help the camp with

anything. She wanted to bring the camp’s needs to the group’s next executive meeting. A list with different improvements needed and items that could benefit the camp was completed. On August 28,

2012, Mangum received this email: “I hope that you are doing well. The endowment committee has awarded Camp Alamisco \$10,000! I hope that this will be beneficial.”

—BY REBECCA GRICE



The leaders of the Porch Creek Indians gave James Mangum (second from left), Gulf States youth/camp director, a check during the Conference Executive Committee Meeting. Mel Eisele (right), president, looks on.

REBECCA GRICE

Gulf States Plans for New Office Building

Land has been purchased to build a new Gulf States Conference office. The seven-and-a-half-acre parcel is located on the east side of Montgomery, Ala., just north of Interstate 85. Prior to the purchase, the Conference Executive Committee had voted its approval of the purchase after a visit to the site.

After much research and prayer, the Executive Committee voted in September to use the Alabama Design & Construction Company for the construction of the facility. The proposed 25,000-square-foot building will include space for offices, a meeting room,

the Adventist Book Center, and a warehouse. The targeted budget is \$2.5 million for the new building without



The seven-and-a-half-acre building site is adjacent to Interstate 85. The new office will be visible from the Interstate.

the office equipment and furnishings.

When the present Conference office was built in the late 1970's, the Confer-

ence had approximately 6,000 members, compared to almost 12,000 at the present time. "The building has served the purpose for more than 30 years, but we have outgrown it," states Mel Eisele, Gulf States president. "Three rooms have already been converted to office space from their designed use. We have two secretaries sharing the same office. There are two depart-

ment directors with their office in the hallway, and five volunteer or part-time department directors do not have any space to work in

the office," he adds.

Before the purchase of the land, the Executive Committee chose a committee to review the current building. One member was a licensed contractor. It was their opinion that the cost of remodeling and expanding the existing building along with meeting current codes would match or exceed what a new building would cost.

Eisele says, "We chose teams to review buildings that were for sale, and asked a builder to give us an estimate of the cost to remodel in order to meet our needs. It was his opinion we could build for less than we could purchase one of these buildings and remodel it."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Bill Devine is New Ministerial Director

Bill Divine is the new ministerial director for the Conference. He and his wife, Renee, are native Mississippians. They met at Jones County Junior College, and have been happily married for 25 years.

They moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., in June of 1990 to enroll unsponsored in the seminary. Bill was hired by Gulf States in the spring of 1991, and graduated from the seminary in December of 1992. With a couple of brief exceptions, Divine has been working for the Conference ever since. Renee works as an accountant.

Their vision for the ministry is five-fold. First,

they believe in worshipping the Lord, and uplifting Him must always remain the focus of their existence, personally and corporately. Second, they believe evangelism in all of its forms must always be the primary mission of the churches. Evangelistic, innovative thinking should be a way of life. Third, they believe children should be a priority in every church. When the children get involved, the rest will follow. Fourth,



Bill and Renee Divine are humbled to be entrusted with the important responsibility of Gulf States ministerial director.

they desire to see the churches come alive with activities for all ages. Last, but not least, they feel very

strongly about the need to support the pastors and their wives. Just like every church member, the pastors' families need a pastor!

Having gone through some extremely difficult situations themselves, the Divines have an unyielding burden to be "in the field" with the pastors, encouraging them, and helping them in their faithful and oftentimes difficult ministries.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Conference Hires New Evangelist, Trainer

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference recently created a new ministry position that has lain dormant for more than 23 years — a Conference evangelist. Kieth Noll assumed this position on September 1, 2012. As the new Conference evangelist, Noll will have a dual role. First, he will conduct three evangelistic series per year, utilizing these series as a field school for area pastors and members to learn evangelistic methods



Kieth and Marjie Noll

while at the same time winning souls for Christ. The second role is that of trainer. Noll will coordinate a sequence of training weekends in each of the three target areas 9-12 months before the reaping

series begin. In this way, he will partner with local pastors and leaders to develop a culture (DNA) of evangelism in the local church. These training weekends will cover such topics as “Making Friends for Christ,” “Servant Evangelism,” “How to Find Interests and Give Bible Studies,” and “Guidelines for Visiting Inactive Members.” This lifestyle evangelism will make the proclamational evangelism much more effective.

Noll is uniquely qualified to fill this position.

He, and his wife, Marjie, became Adventists in 1979 after attending evangelistic meetings in St. Joseph, Missouri. Noll quickly gave up his job as a manager for a meat processing plant and became a literature evangelist for four years, followed by another five years as a publishing assistant. He was then called to be a pastor in 1988, and has served as a pastor-evangelist in four different conferences: Iowa-Missouri, Kentucky-Tennessee, Washington, and Oklahoma. In all of these places, he has conducted multiple training events, public meetings, and creative community outreaches.

—BY DAVID HARTMAN

Leach Church Members Hold VBS

Leach Church members in Cedar Grove, Tenn., held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) led by Jo Brawner, director, June 24-29, 2012. Approximately 20 children attended, with more than half of the children from non-Adventist families in the Cedar Grove community.

This year’s theme, “Bug Zone,” inspired decorations, games, and activities for the children to enjoy and learn of their amazing God and His love for all. Both adults and children enjoyed Pin the Stinger on the Bee, Flyswatter Races, and the Bucket Head game. Everyone received

Bug Zone T-shirts and name tags to wear throughout the week. Participants designed and constructed picture frames and bluebird houses in the craft house, led by Aaron Sirk, church elder.

The week of fun and learning culminated with a hot dog roast and hay ride with Jim and Sandy Gentry, who provided the tractor and hay wagon.

The week ended with family night for the chil-

about their week of VBS activities. More than 50

family members from the community participated in family night activities.

A follow-up Pizza Back-to-School Night was held in August, inviting the participants to return to sing VBS songs, have fun with leftover craft supplies, and play favorite Bug Zone games.

—BY DEBORAH BARGER



Jo Brawner, VBS director, and VBS staff Eric and Jennifer Junker, Shauna Sirk, and Charity Pierce pose with participants.

dren to invite parents and families to show and tell

Women's Ministries Grow Deeper

When the "topsoil" I ordered for our yard arrived, I was in shock. I had spent a good share of my life in Michigan where the soil is rich, dark, and easy to turn for planting. This soil didn't look anything like I had envisioned; it was orange, full of small stones, and hard as a rock! In Matthew 13, Jesus is very clear in His teaching about the "soils." It's imperative to be "good soil" or you can't bear fruit. The themes for the 2012 women's and young women's retreats were all based on learn-

ing how to have a deeper, richer, more meaningful relationship with God.

In the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, the Hispanic Women's Retreat has grown from 100 in attendance two years ago, to this year's 171 women, in-

cluding 10 non-Adventists. Guest speaker Jillien Molina, from Puerto Rico, spoke on the theme, "Do You Want to See Jesus?" Many of the women were particularly touched during a special communion service Sabbath afternoon. One woman summed it up: "I could feel



KAREN HAMBURGER

Women release their white rose petals into the lake.

the presence of God everywhere!"

The following weekend, 65 high school-age young women from across Kentucky and Tennessee met at Indian Creek Camp for the annual Young Women's Retreat. The

theme, "Climb Higher," resonated with speakers and best friends, Michelle Doucoumes and Candace Tuazon. Doucoumes and Tuazon shared personal stories and practical ways to witness for Jesus while inspiring the young women to stay connected in their relationship with God.

The first of two women's retreats was attended by 187 women. Guest speaker Tamyra Horst, women's ministries and communication director for the Pennsylvania Conference, used personal stories to make Scripture come alive! Her very real and practical presentations struck a cord in every woman's heart. On Sabbath afternoon the women went lakeside. Bowls of red-colored water and vases filled with

dozens of pure white roses framed a picturesque view of the waterfront. Confessions written on a scrap of dissolvable paper were immersed in the scarlet water, and in return each woman received a white rose as a symbol of the cleansing and purifying work of Jesus' blood. Stepping into the lake water, each woman released their white rose petals into the current symbolizing the fruit of a life washed and cleansed as it flows out to the world. One woman said, "The service by the lake was a little part of Heaven. It touched my heart!"

Jesus said, "good soil" comes from a heart that not only hears and receives the seed, but "understands" the message of the Kingdom of Heaven! The women in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference are "Growing Deeper!"

—BY GAIL MCKENZIE

Millers Recognized for Service

During the worship service on Sabbath, September 1, 2012, Bill and Ana Miller were honored for their many years of faithful service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Brian Hadley, pastor, preached on four qualities of spiritual leaders, and challenged the congregation to fulfill the call God has placed on each one to be a spiritual leader. After the sermon, the Millers were presented with a beautiful plaque to

commemorate their faithful service to God.

Ana (Mills) Miller began her service with the Alabama-Mississippi Conference as a secretary in 1964 and served there until moving to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference in 1969. She worked in the treasury department there until 2004 when she retired.

Bill Miller spent more than 36 years in continuous service in the publishing work. Starting in 1957, he



Ana and Bill Miller

worked for three-and-a-half years as a literature evangelist before being called to the Florida Conference as

an assistant publishing director. During the course of the next 33 years, he served the Kentucky-Tennessee, Alabama-Mississippi (Gulf States), Carolina, Ohio, Southern Union, Georgia-Cumberland, and Florida conferences. He retired in 1993.

The Millers continue serving the Lord in their local church in Dickson, Tenn.

—BY BRIAN HADLEY

CAA Dedicates Students, Opens School Store

A special dedication service for the returning and new students of Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) was held in Whiteville, N.C., only four days after the start of the new school term. The brainchild of Karen Taylor, principal/teacher, the event put emphasis on the spiritual impact that Christian education makes on a child, and let each child know they have a special calling from God and are accountable to Him.

Several prayers were given by representatives from the teachers, the home, and the church: Eunice Hughes, Richard Berry, M.D., and Stephan Davis, pastor, respectively. Special prayers were also spoken for

the guardians of the students, whether parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle; and many realized, once again, how solemn a child's eventual destiny is.

CAA Choir performed, led by high school student Aisha McLeary. "They did beautifully for school having only started four days before," remarked an aunt of one of the students.

To climax the evening, the inauguration of the first CAA school store was



Stephen Davis, pastor, and Charlene Berry, CAA chairperson, cut the ribbon to officially open the CAA school store.

launched, with Charlene Berry, CAA chairperson, and Stephen Davis, pastor of Praise Tabernacle Church (which houses CAA), cutting the ribbon. Healthy vegetarian snacks, homemade bread, school supplies, and

gently used uniforms and ties are available for purchase. This will be a year-long fundraiser for the school in hopes that it will help with expenses, as well as provide income to help more students attend CAA.

Continue to pray for all Adventist Christian schools, for they are more than educational institutions — they are an evangelistic field.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.

Atlanta Boulevard Celebrates Victorious Basketball Season

"Victory! Victory!" is what fans are chanting as Atlanta Boulevard Church members celebrate the end of a winning basketball season. Boulevard's Basketball League, the Boulevard Warriors, consists of four teams: Peewees, coached by Leonard Morant, Charles Trotman, and Reginald Wardell; and youth, men, and women, who are coached by Terrance Talton. Three of these teams — the men, women, and peewees — won the 2012 ES Portis Georgia Youth Federation State Championship. Following the state championship, the men and women went on to win the 2012 South

Atlantic Conference Championship.

The women, who had not had a team for several years, also completed the basketball season in grand style. With the high scoring plays of Lee Ann Watson, the women of Boulevard outplayed the women of Greensboro, N.C., East Market Street Church for the South Atlantic Conference Championship.

For their victories as first place winners of the 2012 ES Portis Georgia Youth Federation State Championship and the South Atlantic Conference Championship, trophies were presented to the teams and coaches by

Patrick Carter, South Atlantic youth ministries director.

Coach Talton attributed the teams' winning streaks to great talent, a love for the sport, continuity, and consistent participation by the players. The same players return year after year to be a part of the Boulevard team.

The benefits of playing on a church-sponsored basketball league include unparalleled opportunities for players to practice and grow in their faith. According to Talton, many of the young men in the basketball program come from the local community and are non-Adventists, giving the Adventist players an oppor-

tunity to witness for Christ, and reach out and give spiritual guidance to the players. Each practice session starts with prayer and worship. The coaches convey words of wisdom in a daily "thought for the day." While winning is a byproduct of an excellent basketball program at Boulevard, reaching out to the community through basketball to win souls for Christ is the program's mission. Several players have been baptized in the Adventist Church since becoming members of the basketball teams.

—BY BETTY J. BAILEY

Shiloh Members Host Annual Health Fair

Shiloh Church, Charleston, S.C., health ministries hosted their annual Health Fair on May 20, 2012. The theme was "Let's Move Toward Better Health." More than 200 individuals, including adults and children, attended. The objective of the Health Fair was to teach the congregation and community the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle, along with physical activities necessary for the reduction of adult and childhood obesity, and to provide a variety of healthy food choices.

The program emphasized the Eight Laws of Health: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in

God.

Various health-screening stations aimed at educating participants about their body functions were offered: exercise, blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol screenings, weight check, fasting glucose, massage therapy, aromatherapy, physician consultation, and spiritual counseling.

Many vendors from the community were on hand to help achieve the objectives.



Pictured are Eugene Hamilton (center), pastor, and members of Shiloh Church in Charleston, S.C.

Roper Saint Francis Healthcare supplied equipment and staff. Hayne's Farmers' Market supplied fresh fruits and vegetables at wholesale prices.

A drawing was held which included all partici-

pants in the fair. A bicycle, scooter, and a fruit basket were awarded to the winners.

The objectives were met in the promotion of a healthier congregation and community. The personal ministries staff was instrumental in the provision of spiritual counsel-

ing, which resulted in seven individuals who requested Bible studies. To God be the glory!

—BY CHARMAINE COHEN

Dream to Pass on Spiritual Values

FULFILLED

Gulf States members, Dewitt and Dorothy Wade, planned carefully so the Lord's work as well as their family would benefit from their estate. From the sale of valuable property, the ministry of six church organizations is being blessed. This includes their local church and school. As they rest in the blessed hope, their spiritual values continue to be fulfilled.

You too can have your values live on. Contact your local conference or university Planned Giving and Trust Services representative today to learn how.

To read more about the Wades' story, go to www.southernunion.com/PlannedGiving and click on their story.

Carolina Ken Ford 704-596-3200
Florida Phil Bond 407-644-5000
Georgia-Cumberland Mitch Hazekamp 706-629-7951
Gulf States Rick Hutchinson 334-272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee Lin Powell 615-859-1391
Oakwood University Fred Pullins 256-726-8278
South Atlantic Lawrence Hamilton 404-792-0535
South Central Michael Harpe 615-226-6500
Southeastern Brent Waldon 352-735-3142
Southern Adventist University Carolyn Liers 423-236-2818

New Covenant Church Holds Technology Service, Workshop



CAROLYN DAVIS

Many responded to the altar call as a result of the Lord using Michael Harpe, South Central Conference communication director, who preached a powerful, engaging message.

New Covenant Church in Memphis, Tenn., experienced an avant-garde transmission of the Gospel on August 25, 2012. When the church communication department invited Michael Harpe, South Central Conference communication director, to speak for a communication/technology

emphasis, they had no idea what was forthcoming.

Several weeks ahead, Harpe conversed and consulted often with David Steede II, New Covenant pastor, and church leaders in the organization of the day. The communication, media, youth, and music departments with others

were involved as the day approached. It was meticulously planned, and many were engaged for this special occasion — and special it was.

Harpe arrived on Friday with an entourage of communication experts, and immediately renovated the media sources available, rewired, ran lines, devel-

oped hot spots to set the stage for what turned out to be a truly blessed day in the Lord.

The worship experience was augmented with technical features utilizing computers, smart phones, and other technological devices. One example, the pastor's cell number was made available on the screen prior to intercessory

prayer, and the members were instructed to text in their prayer requests. The pastor prayed holding his cell phone, recognizing, and praying for requests simultaneously as they were texted to his number, a practice he now continues. Also, members were encouraged during prayer time to text a friend or family member the following, "Its prayer time at our church and we are praying for you now." They were similarly instructed to "Tweet" and use Facebook to share inspirational comments throughout the day.

During the worship service, the members were blessed with great music from Bryan Cordell, Delcy Jones, New Covenant Church Choir; and a Bible-reading dramatization by Sweet Gap Productions; Chris McNish, manager; Sandra Burton; and Bryan Cordell from Huntsville, Ala., which moved the congregation to its feet in honor and praise to God. Harpe preached a power-



CAROLYN DAVIS

Some brought laptops to be connected for the technology service.



CAROLYN DAVIS

Many were encouraged to use their devices to "text," "Tweet," and use Facebook to share inspirational comments throughout the day.

ful, engaging message, and utilized many facets of technology: media, including video and music clips, an iPad, PowerPoint, and a docking station for his laptop near the pulpit — the controls were just a click away.

Many returned for the afternoon seminars and Adventist Youth (AY) program where desired technology gifts were given away during periodic drawings.

It was an informative, fun-filled evening that included seminars from Harpe (Gadgets and the Gospel), Sandra Burton (Social Media and the Gos-



During his message, Michael Harpe, South Central Conference communication director, utilized many facets of technology.

pel), Sandra Burton (Social Media and the Gos-

discussion by sharing the benefits of his electronic Bible, *Seventh-day Adventist Commentaries*, E.G.

text message can be an effective witnessing/encouragement tool.

While this was going on Clint Davis of New Covenant, for part two of the AY program, took a youth group news team to the mall, a barbershop, and in the community to do interviews. The idea was to find out how much the community knew about Seventh-day Adventists. As a result of the interviews, the youth proceeded to share what Adventist Christians were about, and invited their

contacts to a New Covenant Church worship service. The youth used their phones to video the interviews — technology was used to witness. They brought back footage of their

interviews to share with the congregation.

The technology gifts were sponsored by the South Central Communication Department. In between each session, a member's name was drawn from the registration cards where a name and cell number was written. Instead of calling out the name, an on-the-spot call was made, and then the ringing cell phone was answered by the recipient to receive a gift.

At the end of a magnificent, Spirit-filled day, a Kindle Fire and a Nexus 7 Tablet were given away. The workshops showed how technology devices can be used for the furtherance of the Gospel. It was a technologically blessed day that the members will never forget! The entire day was an example of how gadgets can be used to augment the presentation and sharing of the Gospel and assist soul winning and kingdom building.

—BY DAVID STEEDE II



A Bible-reading dramatization by Sweet Gap Productions, Chris McNish, manager; Sandra Burton; and Bryan Cordell from Huntsville, Ala., moved the congregation to its feet in honor and praise to God.

pel), and Karen Smith (Internet Safety, PG-13 for the Whole Family). The theme for the day was “Gadgets, Social Media, and the Gospel.” The members were so engaged that several volunteered to share in the afternoon workshops and activities. It was an interactive, exciting environment. One member joined in the

White writings, and the Sabbath School lesson.

For part one of the afternoon AY program, Dominique McNish, from Huntsville, gave special music. Selita Harpe, Michael Harpe's wife, recruited several youth to send inspirational text messages to members in the audience just to show how a simple



David Steede II, pastor, and his wife, Wanda, enjoyed the day and Steede used his device, too.

Grace Fellowship Church Members Assist City Hall

Upon his arrival to the Valdosta, Ga., area, Winston Taylor, pastor, visited the City Hall to introduce himself as the new pastor of Grace Fellowship Church. Taylor offered the services

of the church to the city in any capacity needed. Mara Register, assistant to the city manager, shared with Taylor the city's goal to rehabilitate communities that were being destroyed. The city's latest

project was to fix a community's canal which would culminate in a big clean-up event on a Saturday. Taylor wondered how his church could be of assistance to the city while maintaining the integrity of the Sabbath.

Grace Fellowship's elders met for a 'think-tank' and decided that the workers would need breakfast and lunch. The Pathfinders, under the leadership of Gale Benton, volunteered to make and serve breakfast and lunch for the workers. The city accepted the members' offer, and plans were set in motion.

On the appointed Sabbath morning, Grace Fel-

lowship's Pathfinders were among the first on the scene, and they set up a table of healthy breakfast items. Eugene Hayes led the entire work force into devotional prayer.

Carla Newton and her team prepared packages of information about Grace Fellowship to be given to the workers, along with water, hand sanitizer, and a wristband with the church's name and phone number. The city workers took the leftover lunches and packages of information and shared them with the residents in the community.



Eugene Hayes and the members of Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga., offer grace for the breakfast they prepared for the city workers and community.

“Good News Gospel Explosion” Crusade Brought 52 Individuals to Christ

Lighthouse Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has a passion for soul winning. Consequently, the church organized the “Good News Gospel Explosion Crusade,” which was conducted by Claudius Morgan, evangelist from the St. Vincent Region of the Caribbean Union and author of the book, *Preaching the Good News*. The crusade was held from July 14 until August 11, 2012.

During the evangelistic series, Morgan preached 27 inspiring, soul-winning sermons which, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, motivated 52 individuals to surrender their lives to Christ. In addition, he performed a memorable wedding ceremony for

two couples who not only dedicated their lives to each other, but also to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Morgan is God's man for such a time as this. He has always been known as a very practical, humorous evangelist who calls sin by its right name,” said Curtis Powell, Lighthouse Church pastor. “He did not sugar-coat anything. As a result, everyone who listened was able to connect with the inspiring, spirit-filled experiences, and true-to-life messages that help prospective members to commit their lives to the Lord.”

“As a pastor it is a joy to see people surrender their lives to Christ, and even much more so, Heaven

rejoices over one soul that submits his life to God,”

said Morgan. He further declared that when one gives his life to Christ, he becomes a child of the King, as related by John 1:12.

Morgan also reminded the congregation that Jesus paid the price with His life; therefore, when we accept Him we are no longer a child of wrath, but one who is entitled to eternal life with the transfer from sin to righteousness.

Morgan reminds all that

Jesus wants them to have a personal relationship with



At the conclusion of the Good News Gospel Explosion, 52 individuals were baptized. Pictured are Curtis Powell (left), Lighthouse Church pastor; Claudius Morgan, Good News Gospel Explosion evangelist; Richard Lindsay, head elder; and the newly baptized members.

Him. He summons everyone to spend time in the Word of God in order to grow spiritually.

—BY JULIET DUNKLEY

William Byrd Selected Miami Urban League Board Chairman

At its 69th annual meeting, the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc., selected William Byrd, Ephesus Church pastor, as chairman of its Board of Directors.

“We are very excited by this selection. Pastor Byrd’s willingness to serve as our leader for the next two years is a blessing,”



said T. Willard Fair, president/CEO of the Urban League.

The Urban League of Greater Miami is an affiliate of the National Urban League, and a partner agency of the United Way of Miami-Dade County.

Its mission is to improve the living and working conditions of fe-

male heads of households who live in Liberty City, a community in Miami-Dade County. Its operating budget is in excess of \$25 million.

—BY R. LAUNITA GAITER

Mt. Sinai Church Trains Youth Deaconesses

At a time when the youth seem to be drifting into society’s norms, four young women — sisters Stephanie and Carlette McKenzie, Jhene Benta, and Heather King — have volunteered to be trained as junior deaconesses at Mt. Sinai Church in Orlando, Fla.



Stephanie McKenzie (left), Heather King, Jhene Benta, and Carlette McKenzie are Mt. Sinai Church’s first set of junior deaconesses.

At a communion service on October 6, the young women performed under a different kind of peer pressure. Under the watchful eyes of the entire church, they lifted the cloth uncovering the communion emblems, then in perfect unison and with precision, folded and secured the communion cloth to rousing amens from the congregation. It was also revealed

that the unleavened bread which the church partook of was prepared by the young deaconesses.

While communion service is well rooted in the fabric of Adventist beliefs and traditions, Mt. Sinai’s celebration of the event was three-fold and very special. First, it was communion. Second, it celebrated the very first set of junior deaconess. And third, there are three generations of women actively serving at the same time in

that department.

Julia Howard is the head deaconess. Her daughter, Carlotta Howard-McKenzie is the deaconess in charge of the junior deaconesses of which her two daughters, Carlette and Stephanie McKenzie, are proud to be a part. The department hopes that more young women will become inter-

ested, and volunteer to be trained for service to Jesus and Mt. Sinai.

Proverbs 22:6 plainly says to “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Mt. Sinai’s pastors are very proud of their junior deaconesses, and they say “well done” to the department!

—BY KATHLEEN WILLIAMS



Jhene Benta and Carlette McKenzie uncover the communion table during their first time officiating at a communion service.

In Memoriam: Emerson A. Cooper, Ph.D., 1924-2012

Emerson A. Cooper was born January 15, 1924, in the Republic of Panama, the last of five children born to the late Daniel Francis and Wilette Lashley Cooper. He spent his youth in the Canal Zone, where he received an American-style elementary and junior high school education. He immigrated to the United States in 1945 after reading about Oakwood College in *Message Magazine*. He chose to attend Oakwood over Tuskegee Institute, despite the presence of George Washington Carver, Ph.D., at the latter, because Oakwood offered a major in chemistry and Tuskegee did not. However, after arriving at Oakwood, he was greatly disappointed (and wept, in fact) to learn he could not enroll until he had completed high school. Through persistence and determination, Cooper completed his high school requirements in one year, graduating from Oakwood Academy in 1946, and then completed the requirements for his bachelor of arts degree in physical science at Oakwood College in two-and-one-half years, and began his teaching career at Oakwood in the fall of 1948. Although raised in the Anglican Church, Cooper received and accepted the Third Angels' *Message* while a student at Oakwood, and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1946



by C. E. Moseley.

In 1949, Cooper married his college sweetheart, the former Marjorie Stephens, also a 1948 Oakwood graduate. Their union was blessed with three children: Roslyn, a managed care nurse (RN); Stephen, a critical care nurse (RN); and Margo, a patent law professor with a previous career as a chemical engineer.

While on a study leave from Oakwood College during the academic year 1950-51, Cooper also worked as a chemist and later a consultant for the Metric Chemical Company in New York City. One of the products he developed while at this company was named "Emersite" in his honor. Cooper continued his love for learning at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, where he received a M.S. degree in chemistry in 1954. In 1959, he received a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from Michigan State University. This earned him the distinction of being the first holder of an Oakwood

undergraduate degree to earn a doctoral degree. Cooper also participated in several National Science Foundation sponsored post-doctoral professional development institutes, and was the first Oakwood faculty member to receive a federal grant. During his tenure he received approximately \$200,000 in federal grants, laying the foundation for a research program that has enhanced Oakwood's scientific image and competitiveness during the years.

Cooper's total service to Oakwood College spanned 49 years, almost half of a century. After beginning his tenure in 1948, he rose through the academic ranks, becoming a full professor in 1959, a distinction he held until his retirement in 1992. Cooper also served in a variety of administrative positions including chair of the Chemistry Department, chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, dean of academic affairs, and interim president. His academic positions at other institutions of higher education include visiting professor of chemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc.; visiting professor of chemistry, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Ky.; visiting lecturer in chemistry, Alabama A & M University, Huntsville, Ala.; and visiting lecturer in organic chemistry, University of

Alabama in Huntsville.

Primarily because of Cooper's visionary leadership and outstanding contributions across the entire educational spectrum of Oakwood College, the institution has, since the 1980's, ranked among the top 10 to 20 colleges and universities in the nation in sending black students to medical and dental school. The Oakwood University Cooper Science Complex was named in his honor in 1993.

During the course of his long, fruitful career, Cooper was blessed to receive many honors even up to this year, when the State of Alabama recognized his lifetime achievements through resolutions from the governor, State House of Representatives, and city mayor. Previously awarded honors include: the First White House Initiative Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology (1988); the TENNECO – UNCF Excellence in Teaching Award (1986); Danforth Fellow, Michigan State University (1957); Resolution from the House of Representatives, State of Alabama recognizing Cooper for his contributions and outstanding leadership to Oakwood, the state and the nation (1993); Distinguished Leadership Award, Alabama Association of College Administrators (1993); Alabama Association of College Adminis-

trators Exemplary Service Award (1987); American College Testing Program and the National Academic Advising Association Certificate of Merit for Academic Outstanding Achievement in the Academic Advising of Students (1984); Outstanding Educators of America Award; Listed in American Men and Women of Science; and election to The Society of Sigma Xi, Michigan State University (1958). Cooper also held memberships in professional organizations, including: the American Chemical Society, Alabama Academy of Sciences, Sigma Xi, Ex-

aminations Test Committee, Division of Chemical Education, American Chemical Society; and the Advisory Board, Alabama Center for Higher Education. Cooper was a prolific writer and was a great apologist for creationism. Among his published papers are scores of scientific articles, reports, and op-eds. His books include: *Why Darwin was Wrong: The Truth About Evolution*, Pleasant Word, 2009; *The Origin of the Universe: A Combined Biblical and Scientific Perspective*, Pleasant Word, 2003; *To The Unknown God: The God of Science and*

the Bible, Vantage Press, 1998; *The Core of General Chemistry*, Oakwood College Bookstore, 1991; and scores of scientific articles, manuscripts, and reports. Cooper also had a passion for imparting scientific and biblical knowledge through teaching and lecturing. He was a staunch believer in the value of Adventist Christian education, and devoted his substantial talents to improving it and promoting academic excellence for more than four decades.

Cooper passed peacefully at his home on August 14, 2012, after a prolonged

illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Marjorie; his children: Roslyn (Anthony) Fields, Stephen (Linda) Cooper, and Margo (Samuel) Bagley; six grandchildren: Marcus, Shavanna (Devon), Ashley, Deyana, Laura, and Samuel; five great-grandchildren: Kayla, Dazianna, Devon, Aiden, and Brenden; several nieces; nephews; a host of former students; and many colleagues whose lives were enriched by his service.

Oakwood Faculty Member Co-Authors Groundbreaking Textbook

Congratulations to Oakwood University Business School professor Everett Roper, Ph.D., whose manuscript will be included as one of six chapters in a new textbook,



Scriptural Foundations of Business, to be published by The Andrews University Press.

The objective of the project was to produce a book that will provide Adventist business professors and their students with structured support for

integrating Christian faith into the classroom experiences in Adventist business schools. Chapters will cover the core courses within the business curriculum and pres-

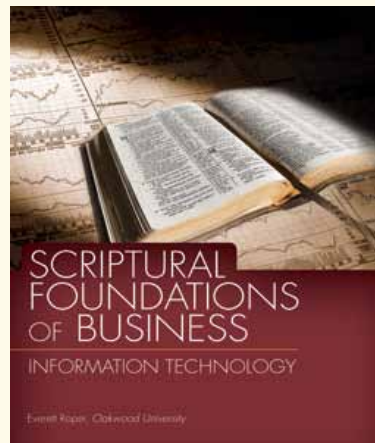
ent the biblical basis for the courses' philosophical foundations. The intent is to provide the business student a firm grounding in scripture, as understood within Seventh-day Adventist theology, as an introduction to the course material. Subsequent cover-

age of the course subjects will then be understood within the context of that scriptural foundation.

This will not be just another book on business ethics, or even Christian business ethics. It is, in fact, an attempt to establish a groundbreaking textbook

that exposes the student to what the Bible has to say about the course subject. Several business schools throughout the Adventist higher education system have already agreed to adopt this book, positioning Adventist schools as providing a distinctly

different educational experience than can be obtained from public or private institutions. This project has the potential for offering some exciting materials for students in Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities worldwide, and is being translated into other languages as well.



Southern Adventist University

hosts events for you!

JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Archaeology Exhibit, November 7

"The Battle Over King David: Excavating the Fortress of Elah" features artifacts from digs by professors and students during recent trips to Khirbet Qeiyafa, Israel. This new, temporary exhibit opens at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum.

Biology Research Seminar, November 8

Leonard Brand, Ph.D., will discuss new findings in Utah that are driving scientists to explore alternate explanations of the fossil record. The presentation takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Hulsey Wellness Center.

Shawn Boonstra, November 9-10

Join the former speaker/director of It Is Written for a series of key messages during the School of Religion's Pierson Weekend of Evangelism and Missions at various times in both the Collegedale Church and Thatcher Hall Chapel.

Christmas on the Promenade, November 27

Start the holiday season off right with musical performances, sweet treats, and a visit with Santa. The event kicks off at 6:30 p.m. in Taylor Circle near the 32-foot Christmas tree!

Shaunti Feldhahn, November 29

This bestselling author and columnist will give two presentations on personal relationships: 11 a.m. in the Iles P.E. Center, and 7:30 p.m. in Thatcher Hall Chapel.

Art Gallery Reception, December 5

Join us for opening night of an exhibit by Rick Lovell, acclaimed illustrator and faculty member with the Savannah College of Art and Design, at 6 p.m. in the John C. Williams Gallery of Art.

Visit Us

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



SOUTHERN
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Southern Enrolls Record Number for 14th Consecutive Year

Southern Adventist University is pleased to announce another year both of record enrollment and favorable position in rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

According to Joni Zier, Southern's director of records and advisement, the final registration numbers for Fall 2012 show 2,896 undergraduate students and 423 graduate students taking classes. The 3,319 total represents



an increase of 119 students from last year, and marks the 14th consecutive year of enrollment growth at the university. Sophomore and junior class retention was key to this year's growth, as freshmen enrollment was lower, as expected, due to tighter admission requirements.

"We feel it's critical to manage our growth," said Vinita Sauder, Southern vice president for strategic initiatives. "We're excited to have more students on campus each year, but as we

move forward the university wants to be very deliberate in shaping how we can provide the best education possible."

In other news, the U.S. News & World Report edition of Best Colleges recently listed Southern Adventist University in the "Top Tier" category for colleges and universities in the South. It is the 11th consecutive year the university has been honored in the publication.

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON

Technology Department Offers Community Free Vehicle Inspections

Southern's Technology Department celebrated National Car Care Month by performing free vehicle inspections in the parking lot of the Samaritan Center, a nonprofit social service agency located in Ooltewah. The inspections took place October 7, and represent the ninth consecutive year this valuable service has been offered to the community.

The vehicle inspections began as a way to give students in the automotive program an opportunity to reach out to the community using their unique skills. After the success of the first event, the inspections have turned into a department tradition.

"It is a great learning experience for both the students and the car owners," said Dale Walters, chair of the department. "The event gives them both practice troubleshooting what might be wrong with a car."

The volunteer work is conducted by Technology Department faculty and automotive service majors. Technicians follow vehicle inspection sheets that are supplied by the National Car Care Council and use professional knowledge and diagnostic scanners in the evaluation.

The service is available for both foreign and domestic vehicles.

"We inspected around 40 vehicles in three hours,"

fluids, engine lights, and issues with lights, horns, and filters."

Vehicles were inspected on site, but not

repaired. The Technology Department does, however, have the ability to further work on the cars. It maintains a full-service auto repair shop that provides basic to advanced vehicle repair. Staff includes two full-time technicians and four student workers.

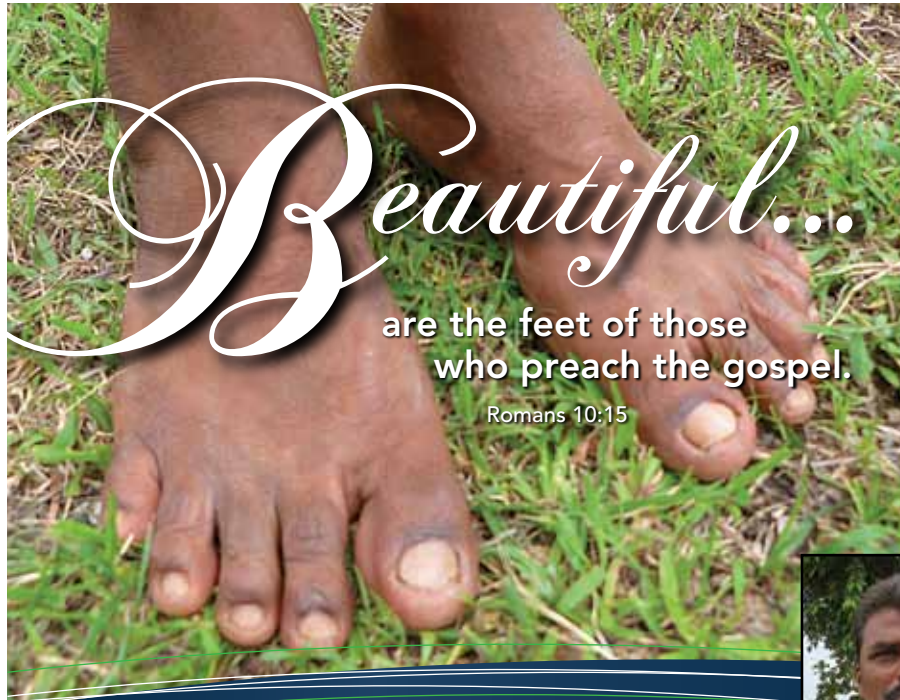
For more information, visit southern.edu/technology.

—BY LUKE EVANS



Students receive vehicle inspection training using diagnostic scanners in the Technology Department's on-campus auto shop.

Walters said. "The technicians looked for about 30 routine things like low



are the feet of those
who preach the gospel.

Romans 10:15

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SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE is a place where you can live independently in your own home. Lawn mowing and maintenance provided. Church and nursing home on grounds. Make friends with Adventist neighbors, and enjoy the low cost of living in the Oklahoma countryside. Call Bill Norman, 405-454-6538. Website: www.summit-ridge-village.org. ©

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MOUNTAIN LOT FOR SALE – 1.36 acre wooded lot near Waynesville, NC. Creek, leveled for building, septic in, deed restricted. Call for more details. 352-688-2073. [11]

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JELLICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL is looking for physicians to work in our hospital. We are currently seeking the following positions: **Family Practice, Family Practice/OB, Orthopedic, Nephrology, Internal Medicine**. Please contact Jason Dunkel @ jason.dunkel@ahss.org or 423-784-1187 for more information. [11-8]

CHIEF NURSING OFFICERS & NURSING DIRECTORS: If you are a seasoned nursing executive or nursing director, the Adventist Health System would like to know you! With 43 hospitals (and growing) in 10 states and 55,000 employees, new opportunities are on the rise. If you would like to know more, please email your CV to susan.jamerson@ahss.org. [11]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **graduate faculty** to join our mission-focused team at the **MSN and DNP levels**. Candidate must hold current family/adult NP certification. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching and advanced practice nursing experience, flexibility, and commitment to SDA education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the SDA Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [11]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as **Dean of the**

School of Education & Psychology to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. [11]

Walla Walla University seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track **faculty positions in Biology, Business and Chemistry**. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled. [11]

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE seeks **supervisor/groundskeeper** for River Oaks Campground. Supervisor/groundskeeper is responsible for maintaining grounds and buildings, supervising part-time staff and maintaining a neat and attractive appearance of grounds. Relocation to Orangeburg, SC is required. Serious applicants should submit a detailed resume to Elder Lawrence Hamilton; lhilton@sacsda.org. [11]

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is the women's sharing book for 2013. To order, call 1-800-765-6955, or shop online at AdventistBookCenter.com. [11]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES NEW YEAR'S RETREAT 2012 – Dec. 28, 2012 - Jan. 1, 2013 at Camp Kulaqua, FL. Bring in the New Year with other singles from across the nation. Music by Charles Haugabrooks. Activities: canoeing, go-karting, seminars, zip-lining, rodeo, New Year's Eve celebration, and more. Contact 386-454-1351 or www.campkulaqua.com. [11]

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WILDWOOD HEALTH RETREAT COMPREHENSIVE HYDROTHERAPY SEMINAR – Dec. 9-16. Learn to give home hydrotherapy treatments—both theory and hands-on practice. General revulsive; hot blanket pack; contrast baths; steam baths; wet sheet pack; and more. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN, Cost: \$370 (Includes room, vegan meals, materials). Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. See website for details: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [11]

WILDWOOD HEALTH RETREAT VICTORY OVER STRESS, DEPRESSION, AND ANXIETY – Dec. 16-23. God's simple, scientific, and Biblical plan for living a victorious life. Topics: Decision Making; How the Brain Works; Breaking Habits; How Drugs Affect the Mind; The Shaping Influence of Environment; etc. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN, Cost: \$370 (Includes room, vegan meals, materials). Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. See website for details: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [11]

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CHALLENGES IN YOUR LIFE TROUBLING YOU? Consider a confidential consultation from the privacy of your own home or office with a life and wellness coach. As an experienced SDA professional, I offer coaching services, both in English and Spanish, that include spirituality, career guidance, interpersonal issues, parental challenges and more. Visit

www.yourwellnesscoaching.com, call 864-756-1305, or e-mail walter.vyhmeister.phd@yourwellnesscoaching.com. [11, 12]

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LOMA LINDA VEGETARIAN CONGRESS – Researchers and experts will present the latest scientific facts about plant-based diets and health February 24-26, 2013, at Loma Linda University. Speakers include Dr. Gary Fraser, principal investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2, and Dr. Neal Barnard, author and advocate. Visit www.vegetariannutrition.org to learn more. [11]

OFF-GRID – Want to go off-grid but don't know how? We do homestead design and installation in Tennessee. Solar, water, wood stoves, cisterns & more. First consult Free. Call Scott at 931-403-0716. [11]

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Pastoral Crisis Care Seminar – Nov. 2-6. Nosoca.

Community Services Retreat – Nov. 2-4. Nosoca.

High Country Campout – Nov. 2-4.

Low Country Campout – Nov. 2-4. Kinard Campground.

Elders' Certification Training – Nov. 8. Greenville North.

Carolina Men's Retreat – Nov. 9-11. NPR. Presenters: Minner Labrador and Omar Miranda. Register at www.carolinasda.org.

Elders' Certification – Dec. 8. Greenville, NC. Registration: miglesias@carolinasda.com or 704-596-3200.

Ice Skating – Dec. 9. Greenville, SC.

Lay Advisory Retreat – Jan. 4, 5. NPR.

Florida

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

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

Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/>, djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-703-3050.

Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups such as attention deficit disorder, bereavement, brain injury, celiac disease, diabetes, sleep disorders, and more. Details are available under the "Support Groups" link in the "Patients and Visitors" box at <http://www.fhdeland.org/>

North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumniinf.org/>, oakwoodalumniinf@gmail.com, 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: national toll-free number, (877) 55-FLABC (877-

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Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Dec. 1. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Dec. 2. Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

Dec. 1. University in Orlando. Dec. 8. Spring Hill.

Spanish Discipleship and Evangelism Convention

– Dec. 7-9. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Registration begins Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. This Spanish-language convention will provide lay members with training on discipleship in small groups and church planting, as well as evangelism plans for the coming year. Cost: \$120. For local church-sponsored delegates, the attendee, the church, and Florida Conference each pay 1/3 of the registration fee (\$40). Details: luz.bedoya@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x153.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries New Year's Retreat

– Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. A New Year's celebration with singles from across the nation, camp activities, seminars, special music, and the new Tower of Faith. Cost: \$169.55-\$293.40 depending on lodging choice and 3 or 4 nights, meals included. Commuter (no lodging) prices with and without meals also available. Details: 386-454-1351.

Georgia-Cumberland

ShareHim Homeland Lay Evangelism Training – Nov. 2, 3. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

Celestial Praise Group – Nov. 10. Johnson City Church, TN.

Chattanooga First Homecoming – Nov. 10. Speaker: Obed Graham. Chattanooga, TN.

Dinner with the Doctor (health lecture) – Nov. 12. East Ridge, TN.

CHIP Summit – Nov. 15-18. Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Crandall, GA.

Sustainable Preparedness Seminar – Nov. 17, 18. Johnson City, TN.

Pathfinder Teen Challenge – Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.

Johnson City Homecoming – Dec. 1. Johnson City, TN.

Dinner with the Doctor Christmas Social – Dec. 11. East Ridge, TN.

Online registration for events available: www.registration.gccsda.com.

Gulf States

Conference Events Calendar Complete Calendar online

<http://www.gccsda.org>

Teen Invitational Rock Climbing – Nov. 2-4.

Teen Weekend – Nov. 9-11.

ShareHim Boot Camp of Evangelism – Nov. 16, 17.

Elders'/Deacons' Retreat – Dec. 7-9. Camp Alamisco.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Highland and Madison Academy Boards – Nov. 8. Jan. 24.

Conference Association Board – Dec. 4. Jan. 22.

Conference Executive Committee – Dec. 4. Jan. 22.

Southern Adventist University

Archaeology Exhibit – Nov. 7. Exhibit opening for "The Battle

Over King David: Excavating the Fortress of Elah" features artifacts from digs by professors and students during recent trips to Israel. Details: 423-236-2030.

Shawn Boonstra – Nov. 9, 10. Join It Is Written's Shawn Boonstra for key messages during the Pierson Weekend of Evangelism & Missions at various times in both the Collegedale Church and Thatcher Hall Chapel. Details: 423-236-2976.

Christmas on the Promenade – Nov. 27. Start the Christmas season off right with musical performances and sweet treats. The event kicks off at 6:30 p.m. Details: 423-236-2814.

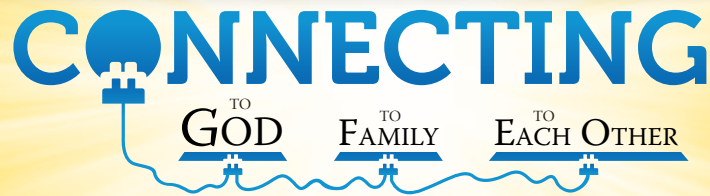
Announcements

Napoleon B. Smith Seventh-day Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – April 12-14. For details, contact Franchis Cook at nbsmithalumni@gmail.com. Visit: www.nbsmithalumni.com.

New Members' Sabbath School Resources – The New Members' Bible Study Guide has been prepared to assist in the task of making disciples. It is a valuable resource for assisting recently baptized members in understanding how to follow God's Word. All the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church are covered several times during the year, reinforcing basic doctrines. The series can be started with a new members' class at any time and is not limited to the calendar year.

Sunset						
	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7
Atlanta, GA	6:41	5:36	5:32	5:30	5:29	5:30
Charleston, SC	6:24	5:20	5:16	5:14	5:13	5:14
Charlotte, NC	6:24	5:18	5:14	5:12	5:11	5:12
Collegedale, TN	6:41	5:36	5:32	5:29	5:28	5:29
Huntsville, AL	5:48	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35	4:36
Jackson, MS	6:06	5:01	4:58	4:56	4:55	4:56
Louisville, KY	6:38	5:32	5:27	5:24	5:23	5:23
Memphis, TN	6:01	4:55	4:51	4:49	4:48	4:49
Miami, FL	6:36	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:30	5:31
Montgomery, AL	5:50	4:46	4:42	4:40	4:40	4:41
Nashville, TN	5:46	4:40	4:36	4:33	4:32	4:33
Orlando, FL	6:37	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:29	5:30
Wilmington, NC	6:14	5:09	5:05	5:03	5:02	5:03

Welcome to the
Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
MINISTERIUM
A Convention for Pastors & their Families



Featuring



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EXHIBIT BOOTH SPACES ARE AVAILABLE

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Exhibitors Register Online at www.southernunion.com/ministerial

Please contact Francine Long, Ministerial Administrative Assistant for registration and fee information.

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