

# TSOUTHERN IDINGS



**Early Childhood Education**

# God's Intention for the Education of our Children

According to the cherished volume, *Education*, written by Ellen G. White, true education is defined as the harmonious development of all the faculties — a full and adequate preparation for this life and the future eternal life. It is in the early years in the home and in the formal schoolwork that the mind develops, a pattern of living is established, and character is formed. [*Education*, 7.3]

The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime. As an illustration of its principles, a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the school-room, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students. [*Education*, 20.1]

True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. [*Education*, 13.1]

The world has had its great teachers, men of giant intellect and extensive research, men whose utterances have stimulated thought and opened to view vast fields of knowledge; and these men have been honored as guides and benefactors of their race; but there is One who stands higher than they. We can trace the line of the world's teachers as far back as human records extend; but the light was before them. [*Education*, 13.3]

The Garden of Eden was a representation of what God desired the whole earth to become, and it was His purpose that as the human family increased in numbers, they should establish other homes and schools like the one He had given. Thus, in course of time, the whole earth might be occupied with homes and schools where the words and the works of God should be studied, and where the students should thus be fitted more and more fully to reflect, throughout the endless ages, the light of the knowledge of His glory. [*Education*, 22:2]

The true teacher is not satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest, which it is possible for them to attain. He cannot be content with imparting to them only technical knowledge... It is his ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity — principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life's great lesson of unselfish service. [*Education*, 29.2]

The Southern Union operates scores of early childhood education centers, elementary schools, junior academies, secondary schools, and higher education facilities. Our mission is inclusive of academic excellence, but most importantly, fosters true education according to God's specification.



**Ron C. Smith,**  
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*President of the  
Southern Union  
Conference*

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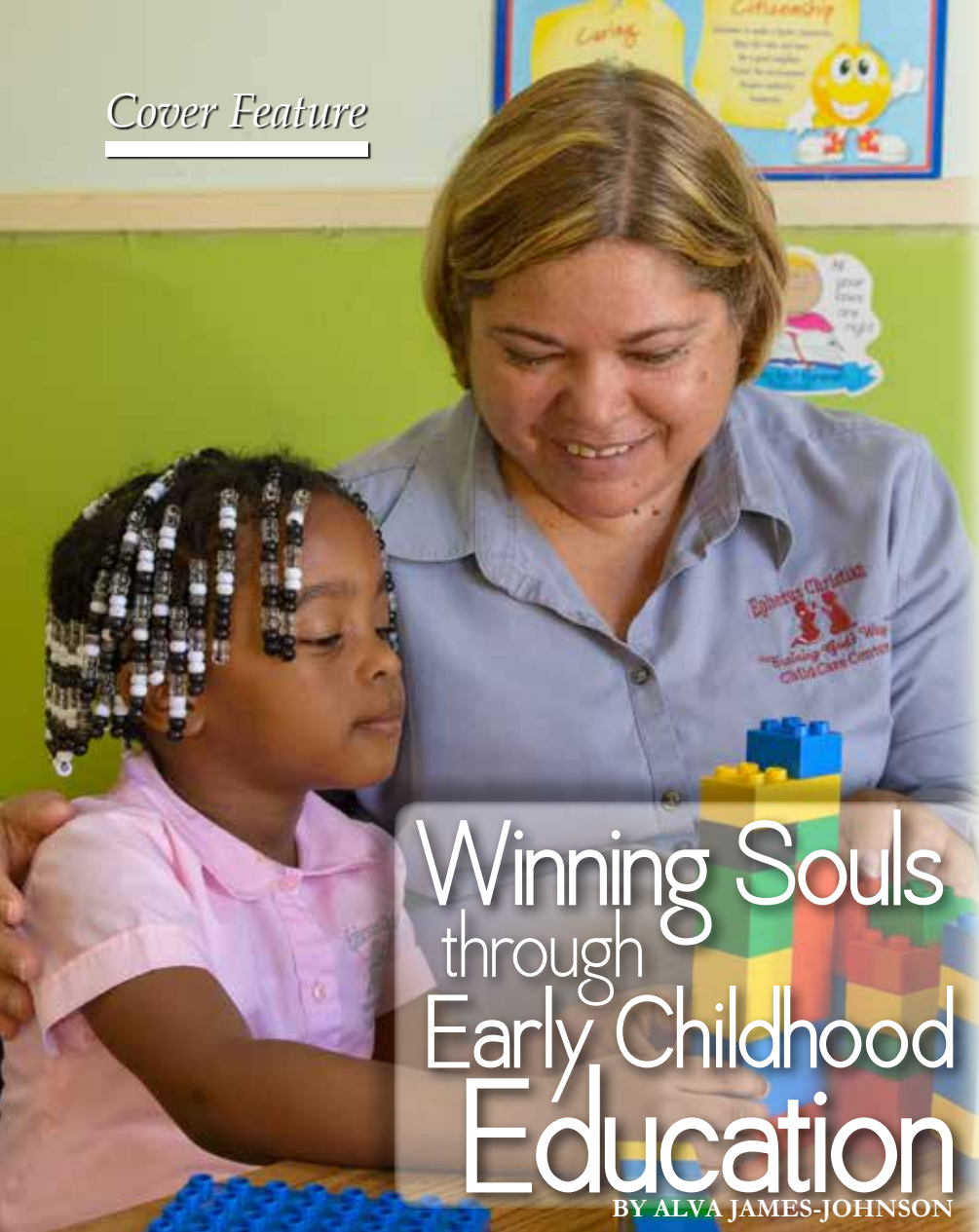


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COVER: *Maggy Martell, teacher at Greater Miami Adventist Academy Early Childhood Education Center in Miami, Florida, oversees Briana Amestoy as she slides down the sliding board.*



# Winning Souls through Early Childhood Education

BY ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

*Fressia Medina-Greenbaum watches four-year-old Randianna Dawson work with Lego blocks at the Ephesus Early Childhood Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. In the 18 months that Randianna has been a student, her parents have begun to attend the church, and her father has rededicated his life to Christ.*

When Sharon Benjamin-Lawrence needed a safe haven for her three-year-old son, she searched all over her south Florida community for the right child care center. She wanted a clean, Christian environment where teachers were warm and friendly. So, she enrolled him at the Maranatha Child Development Center in Miami Gardens.

The Center is affiliated with Maranatha Church. And Benjamin-Lawrence, then a non-Adventist, was so pleased with the results that she eventually enrolled her other three children. From there, she sent them to William A. Kirlew Junior Academy,

the church's K-8 program. Now, Benjamin-Lawrence and her children are not only satisfied former customers of the Center, but they're also baptized members of Maranatha Church. Her youngest child is currently a third-grader at the junior academy.

"I was pregnant with my last daughter, Tiffanie, and because my kids went to the day care, and then from there to William A. Kirlew Junior Academy, it was like I was consistently hearing the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist religion more and more each day," said Benjamin-Lawrence, a virtual facilitator at Miami-Dade County Public

Schools. "The kids would come home singing their songs, praying, and stuff like that. And I was like, 'You know what? I think it's time to be baptized, not only for me, but for my kids so they can see this is the life I want to live.'"

Benjamin-Lawrence's experience is not unique. Early childhood programs across the Southern Union Conference are not only reaping great rewards when it comes to laying the foundation for academic development, but they are giving a boost to elementary schools and evangelism programs, too. At a time when many Seventh-day Adventist congregations are struggling to keep their school doors open and grow church membership, centers like Maranatha Child Development Center could provide a model for future success.

Tamara Lopez Libonati, associate director of early childhood education for the Southern Union, said about 41 percent of kindergarten students at elementary schools in the Union come from early childhood programs affiliated with the denomination. And, many of their families join the Church.

"Our centers provide an avenue for the local church to do additional outreach in the community," Libonati said. "With each child in the center comes access to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and neighbors at a level of familiarity and interest that is not seen nearly as much in elementary and secondary levels.

"Many centers are evangelistic series that operate 52 weeks a year, and some 10 months a year as the center operates on the campus of a school and is only open when school is in session."

Early childhood programs serve children from birth through four years olds, which are crucial years for spiritual development, according to Ellen White. In her book *"The Ministry of Healing,"* she wrote,

"Too much importance cannot be placed upon the early training of children. The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the

character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years," *The Ministry of Healing*, page 380.

Yet, Libonati said some church members have been reluctant to support early childhood education programs because of the traditional Adventist emphasis on parents as their children's first teachers, as recommended in many of White's writings. While that may be ideal, Libonati said, educators in the Adventist church have had to adapt to the changing society — first with more and more children entering school at kindergarten and, now, even earlier.

"Quality child care is an urgent need in today's society," she said. "Parents are working. They are afraid their children are going to be behind if they don't get that early start. There are all kinds of things going on that have changed our society. And that's where we are now with pre-K."

By opening their doors to the community, Libonati said, Adventist early childhood programs are following Jesus' example, providing a mechanism by which parents can bring their children to the Savior beginning at birth.

"In 1904, the church was counseled and strongly encouraged to provide for the training of younger children in situations where parents work out of the home and/or find themselves lacking in parental skills," Libonati said. "The Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' early childhood program strives to follow that counsel in offering healthy, safe, Christ-centered environments to parents of the church and its community for their young children."

Libonati said her office developed a biblically-based preschool curriculum called *Pebbles: A Faith-based Early Childhood Curriculum* that has been implemented union-wide during the past three years. It was recently voted by the Southern Union Board of Education to be the adopted curriculum for all Southern Union birth through pre-kindergarten programs.

"This curriculum is unique from

the thematic unit curriculum that's typical for children because it uses a concept of character growth as the essential focus each month, integrates age-appropriate learning experiences from all developmental domains (spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social), addresses nationally recognized teaching and learning standards that are developmentally appropriate for young children, and is aligned with the Seventh-day Adventist kindergarten curriculum to provide seamlessness in the multi-grade pre-K/kindergarten classrooms in our church schools."

The Southern Union Conference currently has 85 early childhood programs, according to 2014 statistics provided by Libonati. Forty-three are stand-alone centers and 42 are school-based pre-kindergarten programs in Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools. Florida Conference has the highest number of programs, with 28. South Atlantic has 15, Georgia-Cumberland has 12, Southeastern has 11, South Central has seven, Carolina has five, Kentucky-Tennessee has four, and Gulf States has three. Of the 325 adult personnel who work in the programs, only 50 of them work in school-based pre-K classrooms. The other 275 work in centers.

The Maranatha Child Development Center is in the Florida Conference. Theslyn Brown, the executive director, said the Center started in 1979 and she arrived in December of 1980. Members of the church, led by then-pastor William A. Kirlaw, had noticed a need for child care services within the growing congregation.

"It started out as a need for somewhere for parents to have their children in a Christian environment while they worked," Brown said. "And, it wasn't really based on academics. It was like introducing them to Jesus, and making sure they stayed safe until their parents returned."

But as the years went by, the Center began to also focus on developmental activities for the children, taking into consideration the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and emotional domains. It is now licensed by



*Sharon Benjamin-Lawrence listens as her daughter Tiffanie reads. She was not a Seventh-day Adventist when she sent her children to Maranatha Child Development Center and later to William A. Kirlaw Junior Academy. Now she and her four children have joined the Maranatha Church.*

the state of Florida, which required improving the physical plant and the curriculum over the years. Brown said the Southern Union Conference has also played an integral role in fine-tuning the program, which is currently based on the *Pebbles* curriculum.

She said the program became so successful that the church had to open the William A. Kirlaw Junior Academy in 1993. "When the children had to leave here and go on to kindergarten, we had nothing," she said. "And so there was a need. Parents came and asked, 'What is going to happen to my child after they leave the child care center?'"

The junior academy started with 16 students, and today it has 176. The child care center has 76 children. Brown said she manages a staff of about 12 people, working both part-time and full-time. "We're a feeder program for our elementary school," she said. "Some of these parents, they are not Seventh-day Adventists. There's a scholarship that is offered. We introduce them to the scholarship, and year after year, so many of these students go on to the elementary school, so much so that when they have Week of Prayer (at the elementary school), not only do some of these students get baptized, but some parents have also joined the church because of our influence."

Brown said evangelism begins the moment parents walk through



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*These 23 students have all been baptized through the joint ministry of the Maranatha Child Development Center and the William A. Kirlew Junior Academy in Miami Gardens, Florida, and many of their parents are now strong supporters of Adventist education. Standing with them are Theslyn Brown (left, second row), director of the Child Development Center, and Hermine Thompson (left, third row), principal of William A. Kirlew Junior Academy. On the far right are Newton King, senior pastor, and Guibert Etienne (right, third row), associate pastor.*

the door. Parents are asked if their children have already been blessed, and if not, the church offers those services. “Parents are also invited to evangelistic meetings and other church programs. Some are now church leaders. When one child, Shaunte Stewart, was born, her sister was already at the Center,” Brown said. “Her mother asked one of the teachers to be Shaunte’s godmother and the family eventually joined the church. Shaunte, now a young adult, is the church’s Pathfinder leader.”

“The church, the school, and the child care center — we’re a little community and we work together,” she said. “In some child care centers, they have a hard time, but we’ve had very supportive pastors and a supportive church board.”

Sharon Browne is director of the Ephesus Christian Childcare Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, which is in the Southeastern Conference. She said the Center has 57 children, ages two to five years old. It is located in a wing of the church, and

serves as a feeder for a K-9 junior academy at another location. The academy has 77 children.

“Three years ago, 17 out of 21 children graduated out of the preschool program straight into the academy,” said Browne, who has been the director for 10 years. In total, the academy pulled 42 children from that crop of students due to siblings who also transferred. Browne said 95 percent of the preschool students are not Adventist.

Browne said the evangelism that transpires has a rippling effect. “God uses us as conduits so we can spread His Word through the children,” she said. “And in doing so, those children spread the Word to their parents. I have seen parents’ lives changed. I have seen broken families healed. I would not trade where I am for anything, because God has allowed us to speak into the lives of children.”

“The beauty of it is that it’s in an unobtrusive manner,” she added. “When a child approaches you with the love of God, it’s in its purest form. There are no hidden agendas. It is just purely to share the love of God. And, parents respond because of what the Bible says: ‘It’s coming out of the mouths of babes.’”

Randy Dawson, and his wife, Vicki, have two children in the Ephesus child care program — four-year-old Randianna and two-year-old Raina. Dawson was raised Adventist, but had strayed from the faith. He decided to be rebaptized about two years ago after his oldest daughter began attending the child care center. His wife, Vicki, is now considering joining the church, and the children’s grandmother is also attending regularly.

At Greater Miami Adventist Academy (GMAA), the early childhood director, Jicell Taylor, is having a similar experience. The program, located in the Florida Conference, began in 2006 with a small pre-K program. Two years later, leaders recognized a significant need for a full-blown early childhood center. The program now has 32 children, and each year about 75 percent of those who leave pre-K

### Ten Ways to Make Early Childhood Education Evangelistic

**Provide redemptive education** – Remember that the work of education and redemption are one.

**Invite, invite, invite** – Invite parents to chapel services when their children are participating, invite to Sabbath School, invite to Vacation Bible School, invite to evangelistic meetings, invite to join Pathfinder/Adventurer clubs, invite to church, and invite to anything that can lead them to become members of the church family.

**Connect with the entire family** – Offer services to the family: notary services, counseling, emotional support. When necessary make referrals to local health and welfare assistance for family and children.

**Offer to dedicate their babies** – Encourage new parents to have their baby dedicated by the church pastor. Include a free family photo/gift package, and Bible studies with the dedication service.

**Help them remain in church** – All early childhood employees are expected to watch for and assist parents and families with any needs they may have when they attend church functions.

**Partner** – The early childhood center, elementary school, and church partner in the work of education and evangelism. It is a joint effort in every way.

**Sponsor Weeks of Prayer** – Hold a fall and spring Week of Prayer each year during which children are invited to accept Christ.

**Sponsor health fairs** – Invite parents and families to participate in yearly health fairs which include cooking vegetarian meals.

**Community outreach drive-through** – Collaborate with all departments of the church in sponsoring a drive-through where community residents are given free gas or grocery gift cards; brochures about the church, school, and child care center; and goodie bags for the children.

**Participation in church activities** – Sponsor an education day at the church, and highlight teachings, talents, and spiritual and educational achievements.

for kindergarten continue at GMAA. Last year, only two out of 13 did not return, Taylor said.

“It has been a huge blessing for me personally, as well as the school,” she said. “We are a feeder for the school. We’ve seen children go through the early childhood program and continue on throughout the elementary years.”

Taylor said both Adventist and non-Adventist parents have expressed appreciation for the quality education their children receive. She began taking a survey a couple years ago to find out why parents chose the Center. She discovered that many had left other facilities because they were looking for a Christian environment, regardless of their religious background. They also wanted strong academics.

“We are not a day care,” she said. “We are an early childhood program, and we say that with confidence and with pride. Obviously, our goal is always to have that teacher, family, church connection. And, because we deal a lot with the neighboring cities, we have a lot of people who are not Adventists or Christians, period. They are just from the neighborhood, see our school, and want to put their children there.”

Ivo Alonso, M.D., and his wife, Angelica, who live in the neighbor-

hood, are not Adventists. They were looking for a quality child care center for their son, Ivo Jr., when he turned four years old. Alonso said they learned about the Center at GMAA from another parent who had a positive experience. So they began looking into the program.

“We did research on the Internet, not only about moral and religious issues, but academics,” he said. “We read a lot of the reviews and saw that other parents gave it an A rating. So we decided to give it a try.”

Alonso said his son, now in his second year at the Center, has made significant progress in the program. “He used to be shy, but the teachers worked with him,” he said. “We are happy with the changes and his ability to talk to people, not only his age, but adults. He has developed a lot of self-confidence.”

Alonso said he and his wife are Christians who don’t belong to any



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Jicell Taylor, director of Greater Miami Adventist Academy Early Childhood Education Center, reads to Aaron Ortiz, Amaia Sanchez, and Ivo Alonso. Ivo’s father, a physician, selected GMAA Early Childhood Education Center after extensive research indicated it had the qualities he and his wife were looking for.

one day.

“The child care program is excellent,” he said, “and that’s what I want for my children.”

*Alva James-Johnson is a reporter and columnist at the Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus, Georgia.*

### Invitation to Pray for Early Childhood Education

Each month the cover feature focuses on a different ministry of the Church. Prayer is the breath of life that mobilizes ministry. Therefore, we invite you to pray for the ministries of the Church. This month we invite you take a moment each day to pray to the Lord Almighty for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Ministry in the Southern Union.

- Pray for the work of education and redemption occurring in our centers.
- Pray for those who minister in the ECE centers. Ask God to empower them with His Spirit, meet every need, and use them for the salvation of every child and parent.
- Pray for the children and their families.
- Pray that God will provide the financial and material needs of each center.
- Pray that when Jesus comes, they will hear Him say, “Well done and welcome home, children!”



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Theslyn Brown, director of Maranatha Child Development Center, is proud of sisters Monique and Antonique McKenzie, who began attending Maranatha as infants. Through the ministry of the Center, they and their stepfather and mother, Eric and Sobia (McKenzie) Allen, have been baptized. Now Monique and Antonique are in college, but serve the Center as teachers, and their mother is food coordinator for the Center. Pictured are Monique McKenzie (left), Sobia McKenzie-Allen, Theslyn Brown, and Antonique McKenzie.

particular denomination. The family recently worshiped at an Adventist church, and they want to learn more about the faith. His wife is also pregnant with another child who they plan to enroll at the GMAA child care center



# Pathfinders Help Inmates Celebrate Christmas Behind Bars

BY HUBERT SWEARINE

CLAUDE EDWARDS

'Twas not necessarily a silent night as the halls of the Florida Conference office were decked with warm smiles, cheerful singing, and busy hands of Pathfinders from central Florida. It was indeed the season of giving as club members poured love into each care package for inmates in cold cells at Orange County Correctional Facility in Orlando, Fla. This infectious outpouring of love and warmth would help many experience Christmas Behind Bars.

Fifty Pathfinders and staff met to assemble 2,825 care packages of socks, cookies, stamps, envelopes, Bibles, and copies of *Steps to Christ*, on December 17, 2014. These parcels of love were distributed to inmates on December 23 — just in time for Christmas.

This benevolent act impressed the prison's chaplain who was very appreciative that young people were so involved, as this was a first-time event for the jail. Residents, many of whom have no loved ones to show affection, expressed their gratitude. For others, it was a simple joy to know that while they were unable to enjoy some of the freedoms that others have, they were still able to experience Christmas Behind Bars.

One Pathfinder, Nathalie Gutierrez, said she was blessed to have participated in the Christmas Behind Bars ministry. "It was an experience I will never forget," said Nathalie, "as I was able to give back at least a little of all the blessings God has given me. I never thought I would



Fifty Pathfinders and staff assembled 2,825 Christmas care packages for prison inmates.

MARTIN BUTLER



MARTIN BUTLER



MARTIN BUTLER

be able to work in a ministry like this, but our God is a great God. We can take a very important lesson from Jesus who spent most of His life helping those who society called outcast. I felt a great satisfaction."

God impressed this project on the hearts of Lurlet Ashley-Gordon, Cluster 3 Pathfinder coordinator for central Florida, and Daniel Melendez, Orlando Central Church Pathfinder director. These two individuals, along with team members, searched for a way to make someone's Christmas much brighter. The result was the start of a minis-

try which garnered the support of Pathfinders, Florida Conference Youth Director Pedro

Perez, and business entities across central Florida, along with families and well-wishers from the community at large. Initial support was so overwhelming that plans are now underway to make this an annual event.

It is always a joy to know that Seventh-day Adventist Christians, and young people in particular, can find creative ways to share the love of Christ to men and women in need — even Christmas Behind Bars. ✨



# Integrating Faith and Learning

BY LUKE EVANS

At Southern, Christ is an ever-present component of the curriculum. Even computer science professors find teachable moments of eternal consequence.

Students — and parents of students (perhaps even more so) — understand and value that an education from Southern is both academic and spiritual in nature, regardless of the major pursued. However, this wholistic approach is more easily accomplished in some schools and departments than others. Is it possible, for example, in the School of Computing to speak at length about matters of faith? How does God fit into the machine?

“On the surface, concepts in computer science have absolutely no connection to either atheism or Christianity; in fact, many people consider computer science as a pure creation of man,” said Scot Anderson, professor. “However, when you take the Association for Computer Machinery’s Code of Ethics, our industry’s guiding principles for programming, and apply them to people, we can see a lot of similarities to the original code of ethics for mankind, the Ten Commandments.”

Take the sixth commandment, for example: “Thou shalt not murder” translates to the programming imperative “Avoid harm to others.” The seventh commandment has another parallel: “Thou shalt not commit adultery” correlates to the computer law of “Be honest and trustworthy.”

Even more important to Anderson

than the comparison between these laws is that students see the unique way God’s design for man is made manifest in these machines that seem so integral to modern life.

“At the core of computer science you find binary code, which is ones and zeros, or, true or false,” Anderson said. “A code that’s even a little off is unusable. This is the very system of truth stated by Jesus Himself. Either you come to God through Jesus or not at all. You either choose life or you choose death. There are no shades of gray.”

## **Biblical Foundations**

Southern’s Institute for Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, a group tasked with finding best practices for making sure Christ is in every campus classroom, holds show-and-tell seminars for faculty on methods for combining faith with curriculum. Richard Halterman, dean for the School of Computing, appreciates the insight shared at these events and always leaves inspired. One way he challenges students in his “Introduction to Programming” class is by asking them to try, even if just for a brief while, walking a mile in God’s shoes. They consider the unfathomable responsibility and complexity of divine programming.

“Students learn how software development is a purely mental endeavor, and that allows them, in a very limited sense, to play the role of creator,” Halterman said. “But, the most sophisticated and advanced software systems we design today cannot match the intricacy of a microscopic cell, much less an entire organism. When students recognize this, it helps them develop a greater appreciation of God’s work making us and everything else on Earth.”

Computer science students understand the challenges associated with integrating faith into their curriculum, and appreciate how professors work to engage them on a deeper level. Alex Brady, sophomore computer science major, had his belief in God strengthened when a teacher challenged him to consider the absence of chance in programming and what spiritual implications that might have.

“In class we would spend hours constructing code, paying attention to small details; there’s no way that our program would work unless we were careful with every line,” Brady said. “This is exactly how I believe our universe was created, with every detail in mind. I’m more confident of that now than ever.”



*Montshonae Lowe (left), Mark Reid, and Tablia Kirkland, Oakwood University students, agree they were blessed by the roundtable discussion during the 2014 Generosity Symposium.*

A Generosity Symposium attendee says, “I wasn’t lucky, I was blessed!” Tahlia Kirkland, freshman at Oakwood University (OU), Huntsville, Alabama, recounts the story.

“When I heard about the roundtable discussion, student loans, scholarships, and financing education at the 2014 Generosity Symposium, I have to admit, I was kind of skeptical. Being a freshman and adjusting to university life isn’t a little thing. It is costing way more than high school, and the money that my parents have won’t last forever. My major is undeclared right now, and I know the longer it takes me to declare one, the longer I will stay at Oakwood.

“I discovered that the discussion included a free drawing for a \$500 scholarship. And, thanks to some insightful friends, they convinced me to attend the October 7, 2014 event. ‘We have nothing to lose,’ they said. ‘Either one of us wins, or we all leave the same way we came.’ Thank God they convinced me, because

I won the \$500 scholarship. That amount helped me to cover another part of my school bill — \$500 that neither I or my parents had to worry about. I wasn’t lucky. I was blessed!

“From the discussion, I learned about websites that could help me get even more scholarships, and ways to stretch my dollars. I had already signed up for the SALT program that the school highlights, but had forgotten about it until it was mentioned in the discussion. As a result, I feel better about my chances of staying at Oakwood; the school I know God wants me to attend.”

Montshonae Lowe, another attendee of the Generosity Symposium’s roundtable discussion, states, “The scholarship I received was a great blessing to me.” Lowe is currently a sophomore at OU. Ironically, just a few months prior to this meeting, she said, “In the summer, I attended a medical program, and in that program, one of the days was entirely dedicated to a financial

seminar much like what was being presented at Oakwood. Despite the fact that I had already attended a financial seminar, this roundtable discussion was helpful in reiterating the fact that many people have student loans, but don’t have to be in debt or in as much debt. There are scholarships out there that can reduce my dollar need amount for the student loan. The scholarship I received at this roundtable was a great blessing to me. I am the first in my family to attend college with the intent of finishing and going to graduate school. I received a scholarship from Oakwood, but not enough to cover my entire tuition. I currently have federal student loans, and my grandmother pays the rest out of pocket. My grandmother is my driving force in going to school. She told me that she would continue to work until I graduate. This scholarship was such a blessing; no matter how big or small, any amount takes pressure off my grandmother, and for that, I

am so eternally grateful. Thank you, and God bless.”

Generosity Symposium scholarship recipients Tahlia Kirkland, Montshonae Lowe, and Mark Reid, were blessed with \$100 each. In addition, numerous students were blessed because they gleaned knowledge of other ways to finance their education rather than relying totally on student loans. The idea for the roundtable discussion was birthed out of a desire to send a message to students everywhere, so when they think about higher education they can learn to be wise stewards of the funds God placed in their care. They can also learn early on how to finance their education with as little use of student loans as possible. Some don't have this challenge, their parents handled it; and some, because of high GPAs, get their four-year degrees paid via academic scholarships. However, for the vast majority, real funds are needed to achieve higher education. Hopefully, with good grades, available grants and other scholarships, a job while in school, their parents, or others assisting them, the amount needed to make up the difference can be managed by a much lower loan amount, or no loans at all. Alexander Lampkin, First Church associate pastor, Huntsville, testifies that he was able to work sometimes more than one job to finance his education at Oakwood without taking out a loan. He says it was tough at times, but God blessed.

The roundtable guests included Sabrina Cotton, C.P.A., OU vice president for finance; Alton C. Conwell, OU assistant director of financial resolution; James Lewis, C.P.A., South Central Conference (SCC) stewardship ministries associate director; Larry Bailey, SCC pastor and former Northeastern Conference stewardship director; Ted Brown, Ph.D., OU associate professor of management; and Michael Harpe, SCC stewardship ministries director, trust services director, and ASI director. The South Central Stewardship Ministries Department contributed nearly \$1,000 in scholarships that evening.

Everette Roper, Ph.D., OU Church stewardship ministries director, recounted the blessings of Symposium 2014, saying, “Sabbath, October 4,

began five days of stewardship reflection for the South Central Conference constituents. More often than not, when we think of good stewardship, we think of how we manage our finances and our faithfulness in returning God's tithes and giving His offerings. However, this Generosity Symposium inspired attendees to be more aware of our practical obedience in the administration of everything — time, temple, talent, and treasure, that God has entrusted to us.”

Harpe led out on the first day of the symposium with diverse and exciting stewardship themes, from Sabbath School through personal ministries, divine worship, afternoon workshops, and then AYS. Harpe delivered an inspiring divine worship sermon, “Ease on Down the Road!” It engaged the blended congregation of youth, young adults, and senior citizens. Harpe reminded the congregation that faithful stewardship means that we fully acknowledge that we are not our own, but everyone (including belongings) belongs to Jesus Christ who gave Himself for all. The afternoon workshops and breakout sessions were held for the adults and youth. The adult presenters included Ted Brown, Ph.D., Larry Bailey, and James Lewis. After the workshops, a musical concert was held featuring the Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir, Anointed Bodies of Christ from Jackson, Mississippi, as well as other groups and soloists.

On Sunday morning, Lewis led a plenary session for church board members and church officers, “Effectively Creating a Climate for Growing People — Empowering Church Boards to Spiritual Excellence.” Lewis encouraged the board members to take the concept of stewardship seriously, and the holistic responsibility of the church to ensure the financial success of its members. During the afternoon, an estate planning workshop was held by Harpe and Jeff Wilson, Adventist World Radio and former General Conference trust director, followed by a workshop on money tips and budgeting for married couples and singles by Lewis Crayton, South Central assistant treasurer, and his wife, Sonja. The day concluded with an ASI business pro-

fessional's luncheon with Java Mattison, South Central publishing director, as the keynote speaker.

On Tuesday morning, a workshop was held for senior citizens by Connie Glass, certified elder law attorney. Glass addressed issues that affect the elderly, such as estate planning, Medicaid, disability, guardianship, conservatorship and commitment, fiduciary administration, wills, trusts, protection against elder abuse, neglect, fraud, end-of-life planning, retirement planning, and Social Security benefits.

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting brought the Symposium to a close with a powerful sermon by Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of Oakwood University Church. He reminded the attendees that the word “stewardship” simply means to manage someone else's property. For the Christian, as Scripture proclaims everything belongs to God, everyone manages the property of the Lord. “The Earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it,” Psalm 24:1.

The mission of the South Central Conference stewardship ministries is to facilitate to the members of the Conference, the biblical principles of holistic development that result from experiencing the lordship of Jesus Christ in their daily lives. Those who attended the Generosity Symposium can say, “Mission Accomplished!” — Everette Roper, Ph.D.

Yes, we were blessed by God's presence and His people! This same idea of being blessed will be the objective for the 2015 Symposium in Jackson, Mississippi, October 17-21, hosted by the South Central and Gulf States conferences. Some worthy students there will also receive scholarships to assist with education. All are invited, and the Adventist churches in the area will take part. Proposed speakers include John Matthews, North American Division stewardship director; David Long, Southern Union stewardship director; Stephen P. Ruff, South Atlantic Conference executive secretary and former South Central stewardship director; Brian Denise, Gulf States stewardship director; James Lewis; and others. ❄



# From Homeless Refugee to Healer

BY MEGHAN BRESCHER

The room was filled with students and faculty eager to be inspired by the words of Deogratias Niyizonkiza, M.D., a man featured in *The New York Times* bestseller, *Strength in What Remains*. Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) invited Niyizonkiza to be a guest speaker at this year's Colloquium centered on the theme of resilience. More than 300 ADU students and faculty came together to hear his story and learn from his empowering words.

"It is not just his incredible story but what he has done since that is remarkable, and why we invited him to speak," explained Don Williams, ADU's senior vice president of academics.

Niyizonkiza is a man who speaks to the heart of resilience, having been on an inspiring journey of survival from civil war in Burundi to homelessness in Central Park, and how, after enrolling in Columbia University's Medical School, he devoted his life to healing.

The night began with Niyizonkiza stating that everyone in the room had a story to share, that he was just one of the lucky ones who had his written. He said, "My story is not just my story. It is an expression of life in Burundi, where I grew up, and it needed to be shared."

Like he said, Niyizonkiza was one of the lucky ones. He had survived civil war with the intention to share his story and create positive change. He explained, "I would often wonder what I could do to help others if I could make it out alive, and those

thoughts led me to one thing: health-care."

Burundi is a small country in Africa that was in the midst of civil war for more than a decade, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. The country was war torn, and only had one doctor per 50,000 people, leaving citizens with little to no health care.

That is where Niyizonkiza stepped in. After he survived the civil war and became a doctor within the United States, he returned to Burundi with the idea of opening a free health care clinic. This idea later became reality with the opening of Village Health Works, which is the only modern health center in the region, providing services where there were none, and saving hundreds of lives.

"Health was my number one priority. We must first get people healthy, and then give them the education needed to live a healthy life," Niyizonkiza explained to the ADU audience. He went on to state that it is not about making miracles happen, but rather providing individuals with the basic needs necessary for survival.

The room fell silent when he shared photographs of a child who was "thrown away" by his parents because he was sick. Starved and malnourished, barely clinging to life, he was brought to Village Health Works, and eventually nursed back to health. Niyizonkiza went on to state, "Sometimes it takes someone with compassion to say that they aren't going to give

up on you, to save a life — even when one's very own parents turn a blind eye."

The importance of being a compassionate health care worker was evident in Niyizonkiza's story. He stressed the value of treating patients as a whole person — mind, body, and spirit — a philosophy practiced every single day at ADU.

ADU student Jessica Perez said, "Working in health care can be tough. We are going to see tragic things, and we are going to have to learn to cope. I will need to be there for my patients on all levels to help them through tough times."

Niyizonkiza ended his speech with words of advice for everyone in the room. He touched on the need for everyone to be themselves, to be kind, and on the significance of working together to create real change.

"We need to focus on saving lives and empowering communities. It's about working together to make our world a healthy world," Niyizonkiza shared.

Through his journey of resilience, Niyizonkiza remained strong and learned that where there is health, there is hope.

ADU students and faculty were blessed to have heard his inspiring story, and were left with the knowledge that what they do really does make a difference. ✨

*Meghan Brescher is the communications manager, marketing, and public relations specialist at Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando, Florida.*

## IT Department Supports Local Teachers at “A Gift For Teaching”



*The ADU IT Department volunteered 27 hours at “A Gift For Teaching,” providing local teachers and students with school supplies.*

Children are the future. They are the ones who will soon be filling the classrooms at Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU), and making a difference in the community. That is exactly why ADU’s IT Department visited “A Gift For Teaching” on January 13, 2015, to provide local students with the school supplies needed to succeed.

On average, teachers spend \$500 out of their pockets each year to provide basic supplies for their students. That’s where “A Gift For Teaching” comes in. The non-profit organization serves more than 60 percent (180,000) of local students, ensuring that every child has the tools to succeed in school and life.

“Every child deserves a

great education, and some schools in central Florida don’t have the resources to buy the necessary school supplies,” explained Sarah Carroll, ADU software developer. ‘A Gift For Teaching’ helps fill that gap, and, by volunteering, it made me realize how important these supplies are to teachers and students.”

Led by the passion to serve others, ADU’s entire IT Department shut down for the day and came together to volunteer a total of 27 hours. It was a day to focus on something bigger; to take a step back from the typical day spent on a computer, and to create change for those who need it the most.

“It was nice to be able to spend some time helping an organization that works

so hard to improve the lives of needy kids, right here around us,” explained Travis Wooley, ADU IT director.

The team did not know what to expect when they first arrived, but were welcomed into a brightly colored store filled with donations for local students. Their job for the day was to organize, bundle, and merchandize donations to be easily accessible to local teachers.

“We boxed all of the school supplies and placed them in bags for teachers to conveniently pick up on the go,” said Sarah Ferreira, ADU IT employee.

That is not all they did. Before arriving at “A Gift For Teaching,” the department collected their own school supplies to donate to the organization, giving even more to local teachers and students.

“Once you provide students with the materials and a chance to follow their dreams, even a simple pencil can serve as a reminder that anything is possible — that there are people, like us, who are willing to help them on their journey,” stated Ferreira.

The generosity and

spirit of the IT Department will be felt by hundreds of local students who will now have a pencil to write with, books to read, and the supplies necessary to make their dreams a reality.

It was a day that the employees will never forget. It has inspired them to continue to volunteer within the community, and they plan to continue to do multiple projects each year.

Ferreira proclaims, “It was so fulfilling. It makes me feel like this is what we



*School supplies were organized into convenient bags for local teachers to pick up on the go.*

were called on to do, to go out there and do what Jesus did.”

It was truly Adventist University of Health Sciences’ mission in action, with each IT team member practicing “Healthcare as Ministry,” and doing their part to inspire future generations to stay in school and achieve their goals.

—BY MEGHAN BRESCHER

## Local Students Spread Love Through Art Exhibit at Florida Hospital for Children

How do children share their love? For students at the Park Maitland School in Maitland, Fla., love was

up their markers, paint, and glitter, and created a special art exhibit — “From the heART.”



demonstrated with a handmade glitter heart, a “paint the world with joy” drawing, and hundreds of other unique and creative pieces of art.

Students at the Park Maitland School wanted to spread love this February to the patients, visitors, and staff at Florida Hospital for Children. They picked

On Tuesday, February 10, the students and Park Maitland teachers unveiled their exhibit in the Florida Hospital for Children lobby.

“Whether you are five or 95, giving and receiving love is one of the most rewarding and beautiful experiences that we experience as human beings,”

said Maggie Flavhan, Park Maitland art teacher. “I think it is a valuable lesson to teach children the art of being selfless and learning to care for others. If we can create happiness, and people can walk away smiling and feeling better, then we have accomplished our goal.”

“From the HeART,” a collection of creations made by students in second through fifth grade, will be on display at Florida Hospital for Children throughout February. The pieces of art depict unique scenes of love — from hearts and smiling faces to get-well-soon messages.

“Art, we feel, is a universal language,” said Cynthia Moon, head of school for Park Maitland. “This is just one way our children can express their love and hope toward patients.”

Melody Vehzadi, one

of the Park Maitland students whose work is on display, said she hopes the art cheers up the patients. “I hope it [makes them] feel better ... so they can be happy for Valentine’s Day.”

“We are so appreciative of the Park Maitland students for using their creativity to help brighten the days of our patients and visitors,” said Marla Silliman, administrator of Florida Hospital for Children. “The effects of the arts are far-reaching, and we know these colorful creations will help lift spirits for those who visit our hospital. It is wonderful that Park Maitland students are so engaged in their community at an early age, and we are honored they are sharing their talents with Florida Hospital for Children.”

—BY AMY PAVUK-GENTRY

## New Ministry at Takoma Fills Waiting Areas with Encouraging Television Programming

A new ministry at Takoma Regional Hospital, Greeneville, Tenn., is educating patients about the eight principles of CREATION Health, while also sharing encouraging words from Scripture and uplifting music.

Takoma had more than 125,000 outpatient visits in its various clinics last year. So this year, they decided to turn off cable television and

provide their own programming in waiting areas at



Takoma Medical Associates’ medical office building, which houses nearly 30 providers in nine specialties.

Special playlists were created featuring around 50 hours of programming to run nine hours a day, six days a week.

“Programming includes videos from CREATION Health, Edgemont, Life & Health TV, Adventist Health System, and The

Joint Commission, as well as health tips from Takoma providers,” said Lyndon Gallimore, the hospital’s assistant vice president of physician services and business development.

The idea originally came from Ginger Johnson, director of operations at Takoma Medical Associates, who suggested replacing

the current programming with something “more uplifting,” he explained.

On January 9, 2015, the new programming went live. “So far, response has been wonderful,” Gallimore said. “Patients and staff have gone out of their way to say how much they have been blessed by the short, informative videos, as well

as the Bible-based programming. We see this as a significant new outreach in fulfilling our mission of “Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ” to our patients. We hope this new ministry has a positive impact on the lives and health of our patients and staff for years to come.”

Plans call for expand-

ing the special programming to hospital waiting rooms and the Medical Office Building North later this year.

A CREATION Health grant from Adventist Health System covered the costs of programming and technical support.

—BY TINA CHUDINA

## Park Ridge Health to Expand Affordable Care with Help of Duke Endowment Grant

The Park Ridge Health Foundation, Hendersonville, N.C., has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$350,000 from The Duke Endowment to assist The Free Clinics in maintaining, expanding, and enhancing their collaborative network of care serving Henderson and Polk Counties.

In 2006, The Duke Endowment adopted a comprehensive approach to health care for North Carolina’s low-income, uninsured residents. In consultation with statewide health care leaders, the endowment focuses on establishing collaborative networks for low-income, uninsured people. Instead of reacting to patient needs when patients are already sick, this model integrates health services on the front end. Helping low-income, uninsured persons have access to primary care and preventative care helps them stay healthier in the long-run.

The new funding will strengthen The Free Clinics’

network of care for Henderson and Polk counties, which currently includes 104 health care partners. The grant will also enable The Free Clinics to maintain and expand case management and care coordination services, including endocrinology services in Polk County, cancer screenings, wellness clinics, and women’s health screenings. Expanded clinical screening services in the Henderson County and Polk County communities will specifically benefit the medically indigent, who struggle with access to such services.

“The evolution of The Free Clinic’s care from only treating those who are ill to include an explicit focus on clinical screening, prevention, and wellness education is a critical one for this patient population,” said Judy Long, executive director of The Free Clinics. “Health care in the United States is shifting to include more focus upon wellness,



rather than simply treatment of illness.”

“Research is demonstrating that only 20 percent of health is affected by the clinical office visit and interventions, whereas 80 percent of health is directly impacted by a person’s life, environment, and opportunities,” Long said. “For this reason, almost all insurance providers — public or private — are intentionally focusing on wellness. However, those without insurance are left behind. And those without insurance are statistically the sickest among us — often with significant and often

untreated chronic health issues. If any portion of our state population needs an enhanced focus on health and prevention, it is the medically indigent, low-income, uninsured population. The Free Clinics seeks to be the vehicle for health prevention and wellness among this population in the Henderson and Polk County communities. Enhanced and proactive focus on prevention, wellness, and clinical screening is a natural evolution of care — from reactive to proactive, from treating illness to maintaining health.”

—BY JODI GRABOWSKI

## 2015 Generous Living Summit Held



A little more than two years ago the Carolina Conference adopted a new way of thinking about stewardship. “All of Me, in Response to All of Him” was the philosophy, and Generous Living was chosen as the name of the new initiative. The idea is that if members are truly living generously, they can’t help but be good stewards, not only of their finances, but of time and other resources.

At the recent Generous Living Summit, January 11, 2015, at Nosoca Pines Ranch, pastors and lay leaders from around the Carolina Conference convened for training and enrichment, with the “all of me” approach in mind. Ed Reid, president for planned giving at Adventist World Radio and former director of stewardship for the North American Division, lent his considerable

expertise in personal finance to the roster, and shared practical ways to make generosity a way of life.

During the event, a panel discussion took place between Rick Russell,



vice-president for finance; Gary Moyer, vice-president for administration; and Jason Belyeu, pastor of the Hilton Head and Beaufort churches in South Carolina. Two of

these three had recently returned from Nashville, Tenn., where they attended Dave Ramsey’s stewardship conference. The panel discussed what they had learned at this event, and opened a dialogue about ways to encourage others in their journey to financial security, as well as in their giving.

The Generous Living Team followed this event by hosting Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey at the Carolina Conference office.

—BY REBECCA CARPENTER





## Adventist Professors Recognized at USC Upstate

During the half time of a University of South Carolina (USC) Upstate basketball game on the Spartanburg campus, student athletes participated in a special annual event on December 1, 2014. Twelve of their best athletes recognized the professor who had been the strongest positive influence on them during their time at the University, including the only

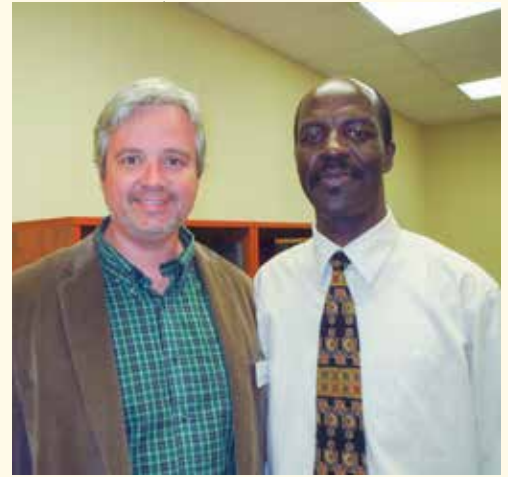
two Seventh-day Adventist professors on the campus.

These two, of the 280 total professors on campus, were Calvin Odhiambo, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, and Gary Bradley, Ph.D., assistant professor of education, who were both honored and humbled to be recognized.

The two professors are very involved in their home churches — Odhi-

ambo in Spartanburg, S.C., and Bradley at Mount Pisgah Academy Church in Candler, N.C.

—BY STELLA BRADLEY



## New Approach for Elders' Retreat Planned

A fresh, expanded approach is being inaugurated at the Carolina Elders' Retreat this March 27-29.

"Elders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church carry a huge responsibility — leading in worship, preaching, visitation... We need to do all we

can to support and equip them for the challenging duties they fulfill," said Glen Altermatt, new associate ministerial director at the Carolina Conference.

Previous programs for elders have focused on either inspiration or training. According to Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial director, "This combined approach targets the whole

person."

A trident approach will aim to provide encour-

agement through the powerful proclamation of God's Word, provide inspiration through music that ministers to the soul, and provide

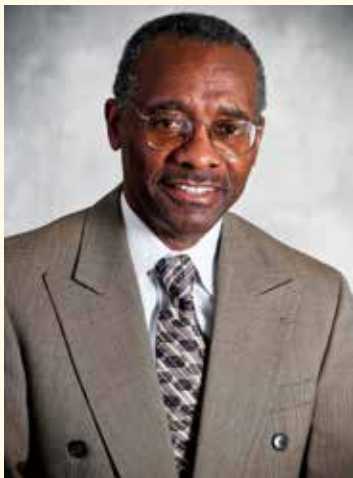
throughout the weekend to uplift and encourage busy, burdened elders.

There will be a double track for the instruction component. Track One will help elders reach their goal of attaining certification. Ralph Ringer, Southern Union evangelism/church growth director, and the ministerial staff will present another component of the series — "Preaching." This will be open to all elders, even individuals who are not seeking certification. An additional course will

follow simultaneously for those who have completed (or are not pursuing) the certification course. Track Two will provide seminars to equip elders in their varied responsibilities with information and discussion on the theme — "Be Encouraged, Be Empowered, Be Equipped."

Reservation can be made online or via phone.

—ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED



information through instructional seminars.

Dennis Ross, well-known throughout the North American Division, will share messages



## Yosts Impacts Lives Together for 70 Years

Stephen Yost Jr. from Rochester, N.Y., was serving in WWII and stationed at Fort Lewis Army Base near Tacoma, Wash. Ruby Blatt was living with her family in Bremerton, Wash., when friends encouraged each of them to visit Seattle Central Church one Sabbath.

Three months later, on December 2, 1944, Stephen and Ruby dedicated their lives to each other in marriage at the John Blatt family home. The war was rapidly heating up, and within a few weeks Stephen was shipping out to the South Pacific. While stationed in the Far East, he received a short telegram stating, "It's a boy. All is well. Ruby."

After being discharged, Stephen applied to Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Mich., from which he graduated in May 1950 with top grades, training to be a teacher/preacher. Later, he



Stephen and Ruby Yost

would complete a master of business administration (MBA) degree from Seattle Pacific College, Wash.

His first assignment was upper-grades teacher and principal at the Adventist school in Onaway, Mich. He then served at Bethel Junior Academy in Arpin, Wis.; Lewis County Junior Academy in Centralia, Wash.; Tacoma Junior Academy, Wash.; Seattle Ju-

nior Academy, Wash.; Wisconsin Academy, Columbus, Wis., where he was ordained; and Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla.

In 1974, Stephen retired from active school administration and became pastor at Naples, Fla., followed by Boyton Beach and Cocoa districts. After positively impacting thousands of students and church members, Stephen

retired in 1983 at age 65.

Ruby spent her time being a helpmate to her husband, a mother to her children, and a manager of their home. While living in the Northwest, she worked as librarian at Seattle Junior Academy. During the time they served in Naples, she trained and worked as a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

Today, Stephen and Ruby reside at Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka, where they are active in the on-site church. Stephen serves as occasional preacher, regular Sabbath School teacher, board member, and elder. Ruby serves as a greeter.

Their family includes one son, Stephen (Stephanie) Yost III; one daughter, Sheryl Yost; two grandchildren, Syndee Yost and Stephen (Sy) Yost IV; and two great-grandchildren, Stella Rose Yost and Wyatt Yost.

—BY STEPHEN YOST III

121st Annual  
**Florida Camp Meeting**  
April 9-12, 2015

*Arise, Shine*



**Elizabeth Talbot**  
Speaker/Director,  
Jesus 101 Biblical Institute

[floridaconference.com/campmeeting](http://floridaconference.com/campmeeting)  
Register online for meals and accommodations including the new Woodland Lodges



**Featured Musicians Include**

 Larry Ford	 Kelly Mowrer
 Jaclynn Huse	 Moses Brown

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Arise, shine;  
For your light has come!  
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.  
For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,  
And deep darkness the people;  
But the Lord will arise over you,  
And His glory will be seen upon you.  
The Gentiles shall come to your light,  
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

## Melbourne Church Hosts Handel's *Messiah*

A standing-room-only audience greeted performers on December 6, 2014, for the 22nd annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* sponsored by Melbourne, Fla., Church. Singers from 17 area churches were accompanied by an orchestra of strings, timpani, trumpets, and harpsichord.

The chorus rehearses five Sabbath afternoons beginning in September. Over the years, strong relationships have developed with many of the returning choral members. Melbourne Church and a few sponsors provide this program each year at no charge to at-



Conductor Jack Templeton led the chorus and four guest soloists in Melbourne Church's 22nd annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah*.

tendees, approximately 80 percent of whom are not Adventist.

The professional con-

ductor hired for this performance was Jack Templeton, and the soloists were Roxann Moran, soprano; Esther

Fraser, contralto; Frederick Kilgallin, tenor; and David Peterson, baritone.

—BY CAROL HEARN

## Mildred (Em) Crosby Turns 101

Mildred (Em) Crosby was born November 28, 1913, and celebrated her 101st birthday on November 28, 2014. The seventh of eight siblings, she has outlived all of them.

Crosby has been a faithful Adventist since the early 1940s when she and her husband, Guy (Ted) Crosby, were baptized in Flint, Mich. She served as Kindergarten Department leader at Flint Church and Michigan Camp Meeting. She has held positions in her church as deaconess, Sabbath School secretary, fellowship lunch coordinator, health class teacher, and baptismal robes maker.

Crosby's many talents include sewing, hat making, crocheting, cooking, and baking, which she continues to do. She still works



Three of Em Crosby's family joined her at the It Is Written Partnership Meeting in Orlando, Fla.: granddaughter Laura Peterson Hasty (left); Mildred (Em) Crosby; daughter Carol Crosby; and great-granddaughter Annalyse Hasty.

in her yard, and is a master of the Weed Eater®!

When asked about her secret to life, her answer is, "Keep working! If there is something that needs to be done, do it! Don't wait for someone else!"

She has lived in Bradenton, Fla., for 46 years after leaving the cold Michigan winters, and their Crosby Realty business where "Christian Service Is Our Motto" was known and respected in the com-

munity. In Bradenton, she and her husband owned and operated a candy store, known as The Korn Krib, for several years.

After her husband passed away in 1984, Crosby continued working until the age of 95, five days a week, eight hours a day, first in a sandwich shop and then in two grocery stores. She is an inspiration to her family, and is adored by her daughter, Carol, who lives with her; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Three of her children, Betty Ashlock, Bonnie, and Johnny, and her husband of 53 years are awaiting the resurrection morning.

—BY CAROL CROSBY

## CA Senior Wins George Washington Honor Medal



SUBMITTED BY COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY

*Megan Thompson, Collegedale Academy senior, receives the George Washington Honor Medal.*

Collegedale Academy senior Megan Thompson received the George Washington Honor Medal because of her entry into the Freedoms Foundation essay contest on November 9, 2014.

During her junior year, Thompson entered the essay contest and was one of 11 students chosen out of nearly 100 from the Chattanooga area to attend the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program at Valley Forge, Pa., where she furthered her knowledge of American history and the Freedoms Foundation.

The Spirit of America Youth Leadership program consists of a three-day conference for high school students, where students learn from experts on democracy, citizenship, the free enterprise system, the American political process, and the

judicial system.

Thompson's essay, "The Girl Who Couldn't Be Moved," was in response to the prompt: "If you could be an observer of any event in U. S. History, which would it be and why?"

"I wanted to enter this contest because it was something different, something to challenge myself, and something to go for," Thompson said. "The process was strenuous. It was difficult at first to figure out how I was going to bring a personal side to the essay and correlate that to Rosa Parks' life. At times meeting deadlines led to frantic writing. Writing the essay was fun though. I learned a lot of facts about Rosa Parks that I wouldn't have known if I hadn't researched her like I did."

Following the Spirit of America Youth Leader-

ship Program, Thompson attended a banquet for essay contest winners and was awarded, along with the other contest winners, a Good Citizenship Award for upholding great values.

Thompson's character continued to propel her success as a national committee chose her to receive the George Washington Honor Medal.

She is the second Collegedale Academy student to win the essay contest and George Washington Honor Medal. Alumna Joelle Kanyana won the same essay contest and award in 2013.

"Both girls set high standards for themselves, and worked hard to achieve their goals," English teacher Brooke Holland said. "After Thompson saw how much Kanyana enjoyed the experience at

Valley Forge, she wanted to enter the essay contest. She frequently came to me asking when the prompt would be announced so that she could start writing. Now, Megan is back in my classroom asking when she'll be able to talk to this year's juniors about her experience."

Ester Taj, the former president of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, has invited Thompson to speak to students throughout the south in the coming months regarding her time spent at Valley Forge.

"I am really excited that I'm going to have the chance to share my experience with other students, because going to Valley Forge opened up many doors for me, and I'm excited to see how it could open up doors for them too," Thompson said.

The Freedoms Foundation was founded in 1949 by E. F. Hutton, Don Belding, Kenneth Wells, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Located on 85-acres in the heart of Valley Forge, it is a national non-profit educational facility with nearly 30 chapters, and more than 3,000 volunteers.

Since 1949, 1.9 million students have been impacted with the Freedom Fighters, and more than 75 percent of the students volunteer in community service projects or programs.

—BY COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY  
ECHOLIER STAFF AND TAMARA  
WOLCOTT FISHER

## Newport Youth Lead Out in Church Service

An air of expectancy permeated the sanctuary on Sabbath, January 17, as seven Newport, Tenn.,

who welcomed the waiting congregation which filled the church with more than 100 members and guests.

preached by 10-year-old Daniel Lynch. The sermon was a vibrant and articulate account of Noah and the

and praise expressions. Offering was called for, and, following the closing hymn, the benediction was given by Josh Relente.

Under the leadership of Jason and Amber Morgan, the Pathfinders and Adventurers have experienced church leadership roles which were a blessing to them personally and to the many who came to experience worship by the children and youth of Newport Church.

The responses indicate that the youth should lead more often, with invitation to the general public to be blessed as well.

—BY LARRY COLBURN AND JIM O'LEAR



SUBMITTED BY NEWPORT CHURCH, TN

*Ten-year-old Daniel Lynch presented the sermon on Noah to the Newport, Tenn., Church on Sabbath, January 17. He and many other children and youth provided the church service.*

Church Pathfinders and five Adventurers reached the platform or front row seats. In the worship chair was 16-year-old Marc Butler,

Prayer, Scripture reading, and special music by the young people prepared the hearts of the congregation for the spoken word

flood, which led to his appeal to each one, young and mature, to now accept the invitation extended to all by Jesus Himself: "Do not delay! Get on board now!"

Eric Haggins presented the personal ministries appeal, followed by Adaline Morgan telling the children's story to a dozen eager small children. The intercessory prayer was offered by nine-year-old Riley Morgan, who spoke with the Lord regarding the many requests

## Wernicks Celebrate 72 Years of Marriage

Francis and Sue Wernick celebrated 72 years of married life on May 24, 2014, with family.

They met at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and began dating the fall of their senior year. They were married six months later in the Collegeview Church, the evening of their graduation day. Francis took theology and began his ministry that summer in Rugby, N.D. He went on to pastor several churches in the midwest and east. He was also president of the west Pennsylv-



SUBMITTED BY BEVERLY WERNICK COLBURN

nia, Ohio, Oregon, and Lake Union conferences, and then was called to the General Conference to be

a general vice president under Robert Pierson and Neal Wilson.

Sue was always a home-

maker and mother, as Francis had to travel often with his work. Together they have enjoyed traveling, reading, and gardening. They retired in 1985, and continued living in Maryland until 2012 when they moved to Collegedale, Tenn., to live with their son, Bob, and his wife, Laura.

They also have two daughters, Brenda (Ken) Flemmer and Carolyn (Dave) Jimenez. They have been blessed with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

—BY BEVERLY WERNICK COLBURN

## Panama City Church School Sign a Witness to New Believers



At the beginning of this school year, a grandmother took her granddaughter to register in kindergarten. While she was at the public school watching the process, she found out about the ratio of one teacher to 30 students. There was so

much confusion that she walked out with her granddaughter, not knowing where to go. As she was driving down the road and asking God to tell her what to do, she stopped at a red light, turned her head to the right, and saw a small

sign that said "Free VPK."

She turned into the church driveway, and a church elder was walking by. She asked, "Is this a school?" "Yes, it is." "Do you offer K4?" "Yes, we do. Would you like to meet one of the teachers?" "Yes."

She was escorted in, met the teachers, was shown the program, and found out it was connected to the church next door. As she was registering her granddaughter, she was asked if she would like to know what the church believes. She said, "Yes," and was signed up for Bible studies with the elder she had met earlier.

A few weeks after school started, she was

standing in the hallway at school, and stated in front of Larry Owens, pastor, "Sure am looking forward to finishing my Bible studies so I can start coming to the church." "What? Oh no, you can start coming each Sabbath." "Really!" "Yes, I'll see you this Sabbath morning."

She was so excited to bring her granddaughter to her Sabbath School class, to be in her class also, and to be finishing up her Bible studies. They are so happy, and what a blessing the two of them are at the Panama City Church. It's a privilege to watch them grow. God is working in amazing ways.

—BY LARRY OWENS

## Fort Walton Beach Evangelistic Crusade Yields 27 Baptisms

Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary, and Dave Livermore, Gulf States Conference executive secretary, joined forces to hold an evangelistic series in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., from January 16 to February 7, 2015. The meetings were held from Fridays through Sunday evenings — two sessions per night, and Sabbath mornings starting the second weekend.

The church members worked together to make this one of the best events in the history of the church. Eighty-five percent of the local members

came together, worked together, and helped make this series a success. From the children's programs to the refreshments served between prophecy lectures, everyone came together to make the guests' experience "out-of-this-world!"

Twenty-seven individuals were baptized, two of whom were re-baptisms. Three sets of brothers and sisters were baptized as well.

A lot of follow-up sessions have been planned — from cooking schools, Bible study classes, pastor's classes, Prayer Meeting series, and "How to

Share Your Faith" classes. The members are pulling together to welcome each new member, and help them find a place to serve within the body of Christ.

Timothy Lee, Bible worker, worked with the crusade for four months; that was a blessing. He held health classes and, on average, visited with 100 individuals each day, usually holding about 450 interests — most took Bible studies. He was kept busy. He preached a powerful sermon on Christ as our ultimate valentine, his last Sabbath (February 14) with

the crusade. The last four individuals were baptized before his sermon. The church gave him a going-away gift in thanks for his hard work.

Special thanks go to Nilton Garcia, Gulf States communication director and Hispanic ministerial director, for coming and working with several Spanish interests, and helping to make the series a success! There were truly many hands working together for the kingdom of God.

—BY MARTIN FANCHER

## Mountainside Church Members Celebrate 15th Anniversary



TONY DOUCE

*Decatur Adventist Junior Academy in Stone Mountain, Ga., was the first church home for the Mountainside mission.*

The month was July, the year was 1999, when the official commission from Decatur, Ga., Church. The South Atlantic Conference made a formal decision to start a church family in the Stone Mountain area. Thirty-eight members answered the call to form a mission, advance the Gospel, and start a new church.

The Decatur Adventist Junior Academy on Young Road in Stone Mountain, Ga., was the first home of the mission. Soon after Theodore Smith, retired associate publishing director at the Southern Union Conference, was officially installed as the first pastor of the mission. Smith is a man of great vision and faith. William Winston, South Atlantic

president, pastor of Decatur Church at the time, declared, “It’s shouting time,” on the first official day of the opening of the mission.

The first officers were elected, and the work continued to move forward. The decision had to be made

on what name should be given to the new congregation. Thirty-two suggestions were given, and then the list was narrowed down to

five. The votes were cast and the name that was voted for the new mission was Mountainside.

A new facility was purchased on Rainbow Drive in March 2006 to house the growing congregation. Drake Barber, pastor, opened the doors

Smith laid down his mantle, and Sherwin Jack took the torch and held it high. In 2008, the Caring Touch group began and later formed under the Mountainside Church. The prison ministry, “You’ve Got Mail,” as part of the Personal Ministries Department, spread the Good News of the Gospel. In 2012, Gregory Saunders was assigned to Mountainside as the senior pastor. He is spreading the Gospel in the community to let everyone know that Jesus is coming soon.

Hearts are fully aglow. The pioneers worked long and hard, sparing no efforts to do their best, and to



TONY DOUCE

*The Mountainside Church current location is on Rainbow Drive in Decatur, Ga.*

wide with the Word of God. The “Faith Capsule” planted on the mountain was retrieved and is on display at the church’s new home.

make their dream a reality in spreading the Gospel and growing the church.

—BY JANICE REID

## Winchester Members Dedicate New Fellowship Hall



*Tom Kyser, pastor; his wife, Ami; and their daughters, Michelle and Amber*

The Winchester, Ky., Church began in 1958, meeting in a back room of the Kentucky Utilities Company with two in attendance. By 1967, they moved to the basement of the Winchester Bank. Unfortunately, in 1968, attendance had dropped and the group decided to temporarily meet with the Lexington, Ky., Church.

On Sabbath, April 3,

1976, the Winchester group began meeting in the Mormon Church with 29 attending. Sixteen days later, the 10 acres of land where the church is today were purchased for cash.

Later that same year, the group was organized as a church. On Sabbath, May 19, 1979, the Winchester Church family met for the first time in their newly built church home.

More recently realizing the inadequacy of their fellowship, the members, now totaling 74, began saving funds for an expansion. On January 10, 2015, Steve Haley, Conference president, joined the members as they celebrated the debt-free dedication of their

new fellowship hall. Now they have enough space for church potlucks, social events, seminars, cooking schools, and other events

Tom Kyser, pastor, and the commitment of dedicated members, the Winchester members have a promising future in serving the com-



*The Winchester Church members utilize the new fellowship hall.*

that they can invite the community to attend.

Under the leadership of

munity and building the kingdom of God.

—BY DENISE POPE

## Murfreesboro Members to Present CREATION Health Series



*Participants at the CREATION Health seminar*

It is very important to make good choices concerning your body, mind, and heart. CREATION Health is being used for this purpose at the Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church.

and as a bridging event to an evangelistic series that will be held in March by Ariel and Matthew Warren.

In preparing for the event, the Warrens had three large banners printed and

displayed around town. The devil was working hard to thwart the efforts. One of the banners was taken the day after it was displayed. But, that didn't dampen the spirits of the local Pathfinders, who handed out 400 fliers in the surrounding area.

The first class had 22 attendees. There was great support from the church members, who composed 19 of the 22 attendees. Having only three visitors might seem disappointing, but it wasn't. If only one soul was introduced to Christ by the efforts, it was worth every dollar and every ounce of labor.

One of the visitors, Diana, is a Discover Bible School student who recently began attending the Murfreesboro Church. She is on fire for the Lord, and is making great changes in her life as the Lord is leading her.

"It is wonderful to see our church coming together for this event," said Ariel Warren. Please join in praying for the effectiveness of the CREATION Health seminar and for the upcoming evangelistic series.

—BY ARIEL WARREN



## Madison Academy Hosts Prayer Breakfast



*Pam Gatling's "Life Skills" class set up tables, prepared food, and served drinks.*

Madison Academy (MA) hosted its first annual prayer breakfast for area pastors and leadership in the Kentucky-Tennessee and South Central conferences. Student chefs in the

"Life Skills" class, taught by Pam Gatling, prepared a delicious meal of fresh fruit, hash brown casserole, egg soufflé, and sweet rolls, all baked from scratch on campus in the kitchen

of the home arts lab. The Madisonians, under the direction of Waldemar Wensell, provided beautiful choral music.

The morning's program focused on two questions:

tion herself and for her two children, were the sense of community, belonging, and continuity it achieves. Julie Estella, MA art teacher, expressed her "one thing" was the reality of Madison's distinctive history of service, which inspired missionary service at home and abroad. Jerry Rimer, Hendersonville Church pastor, spoke about the need to establish roots for the children, create patterns for their lives, plant seeds, even though they may not be harvested for years to come. He also mentioned the blessing of building friendships that last a lifetime. He, too, mentioned Ellen White's visions that Madison "would become a spectacle to the world., the



*The guests listened to the Madisonians under the direction of Waldemar Wensell.*



Why Adventist Education? Why Madison Academy? Four individuals shared their unique perspectives as student, parent, teacher, and pastor. Kelvin Del Valle, an MA senior, talked about the family-like atmosphere, the activities, and the teachers' level of engagement both during and outside school hours. Marsha Bardo, a parent, shared that her reasons for valuing Adventist educa-

Madison School, 1908.

The morning concluded with a prayer dedicating the students, parents, teachers, and pastors to "humility, servanthood, tolerance, and peace." MA faculty hope to expand the breakfast to include Madison community leaders and pastors of all faiths.

—BY KRIS FUENTES

## Trinity Church Ministers to Athens Community

The city of Athens, Ala., was treated to an historic performance by the world renowned Aeolians of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., on October 18, 2014. The Trinity Church congregation, led by Willie L. Taylor, pastor, and Audley Chambers, Ph.D., minister of music, invited the Aeolians to participate in the “Spirit of Athens,” a Main Street Alabama organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the city’s historic downtown — where the choir sang on the courthouse steps.

The *News Courier* of Athens published a full page article advertising the Aeolians’ participation in the “Spirit of Athens.” The city of Athens, along with Oak-



Wayne Bucknor (left), D.M.A.; Sabrina Cotton, Oakwood University (OU) vice president for financial affairs; Howard Weems, Ph.D., OU special assistant to the president for spiritual life; Audley C. Chambers, Ph.D.; Ronnie Marks, Huntsville mayor; Willie Taylor, pastor of Trinity Church in Athens, Ala.; Jason Max Ferdinand, M.M.; David Knight, OU vice president for student services; Cheryl A. Galley, Ph.D.; and Clifton R. Jessup, OU board member, stand with the Aeolians.



The Aeolians perform before Athens Mayor Ronnie Marks and the Athens community.

wood University’s administrators and board representatives, supported the event. Accompanied on piano by Wayne Bucknor, D.M.A., the Aeolians performed superbly for the Athens community. With several anthems,

spirituals, and gospel pieces, the Aeolians served spiritual food in songs to the citizens of Athens that evening. Rich voices filled the courthouse square by young people full of the Holy Spirit.

The Aeolians were

organized in 1946 under the late Eva B. Dykes, Ph.D. Since then, the choir has traveled widely, touching the hearts of both young and old with their inspirational singing. Subsequent conductors include Joni Pierre-Louis; Harold Anthony; Jon Robertson, D.M.A.; Alma M. Blackmon, D.M.; John Denison, D.M.A.; Ricky Little, D.M.A. (former Aeolian); Eurydice Osterman, D.M.A.; Michele Cleveland; Lloyd Mallory, D.M.A.; Julie Moore, D.M.A.; Norman Crarey; Wayne Bucknor, D.M.A. (former Aeolian); and Jason Max Ferdinand, M.M., current director (former Aeolian). The Aeolians have performed the world over, receiving numerous awards

and distinctions, including an award in 2014 — the Best HBCU Choir in the United States for the fourth year in a row. Their renditions of Baroque era music and old Negro spirituals both delight and uplift their audiences.

The Aeolians were praised and appreciated by Ronnie Marks, Athens mayor. Marks invited the Aeolians to return and to make this an annual event.

Trinity Church is a vital part of the Athens community. Taylor and the members have devised many programs for reaching out to the community in service and Christian fellowship.

—BY SELINA GADLIN

## Faith Temple Holds Youth Lock-in



Mark Hyde (right), pastor of Faith Temple Church, his wife, Angela, and the young people who came to the lock-in

Five, four, three, two, one .... Happy New Year! On December 31, 2014, a group of young people from around the community gathered at Faith Temple Church in Batesville, Miss., to celebrate the New Year. This wasn't a typical New Year's party. It was a sunset-sunrise event — a lock-in. To get things started, there was a lively worship service with songs, testimonies, and a short devotional thought. Some of the youth didn't know the songs, but it was okay because it was a time of learning. Mark Hyde, Faith

Temple Church pastor, talked to the youth about manners, and how important it is for them to look someone in the eye when they are talking to them. They also learned how to combat peer pressure in school. Mrs. Hyde taught them about nutrition and how to keep their bodies healthy.

The party wasn't just a learning session, there were also fun and games. The youth enjoyed playing games, watching wholesome movies, and eating. The experience was great, but it all came to an end when it was

lights out and time to go to sleep. In the morning, there was another time to go to the Lord again in worship, and then they indulged in a great breakfast put together by the women of Faith Temple Church. When the parents came to get their children, nobody wanted to leave. They had such a good time!

On January 3, the members began to see more fruit from their labors when the parent of one of the boys walked through the doors of the church. She said that she wanted to surprise her

son since he'd been coming for a while. Another mom, who had been coming with her children, also came that day. These two women responded to an appeal by Dana Edmond, South Central Conference president, to become members, and they are now in the baptismal class. The next Sabbath, the first mother brought a friend who has promised to come again.

Faith Temple members are working hard to reach out to the youth in their community.

—BY MARK HYDE

## Pastor Dion Henry Speaks at NAACP Prayer Breakfast

Dion Henry, D.Min., pastor of Salem Church in Pompano Beach, Fla., and North Lauderdale, Fla., Church, told the audience at the Highlands County NAACP's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast in Avon Park, Fla., "We have come a long way, but our work is not done."

Henry, the keynote speaker during the January 19, 2015 breakfast at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, talked about the history of African Americans from the days of Harriet Tubman with the Underground Railroad, to being the chairman of successful companies like Microsoft: "... We have come a long way."

"We understand that the freedom we enjoy didn't come to us by accident," Henry said. He added it wasn't given by the mere signing of a pen or a simple handshake and smile. It took work to get freedom.

"We must instill this work ethic in our young people in our march to social justice," he said. "We must get up from the seat of complacency and work."

The pastor said that the population of the prison system in this country is 40 percent black, according to one scholar. And, when the push for opportunity for high school students is restricted to professional sports and the military, said Henry, "our work is not done."

Henry related a story about a visit he made to the school of one of his parishioners to discuss some behavioral issues. He spoke with the principal, who commented, "Well, you know what? I think he can do well in life. I think there is a chance for him to play football."

"In my mind I said, 'Well, how about being a teacher? How about being a law enforcement officer?'"

Henry said. "In my mind I said, 'Our work is not done.'"

The pastor encouraged everyone to "be a dreamer" for social justice and racial equality.

"In order for us to be successful at our march toward racial equality, we must overcome the mental slavery of being chained by society's tendencies to be silent," he said. "In order for us to be successful, we can not keep silent."

"Let me remind you that everybody can do something," he said. "In order to keep the cycle of



Dion Henry (left), D.Min., and his wife, Dilyn, were invited to the annual NAACP Prayer Breakfast on January 19, 2015.

opportunity ... it is our duty as a person, in whatever influence that you have, to be a drummer for social justice and racial equality."

Henry, who previously pastored the Ridge Area International Church in Avon Park, received a standing ovation from the approximately 200 people attending the event in the Grogan Center.

—BY BILL ROGERS

## Mt. Gilead Members "Feed the Hungry"



Volunteers of Mt. Gilead's "Feed the Hungry" program are busy serving meals to individuals during its annual Thanksgiving Day meal.

The Lord commands to clothe the naked, visit those who are in prison...

and feed those who are hungry.

Five years ago, while Claudia Henry was distributing canned goods from the Mt. Gilead Church in Bradenton, Fla., community service center, she was told by a homeless

person that canned foods were fine, but he had nowhere to cook because he

was living under a bridge.

Sensing the need to reach out to the needy and indigent in and around the enclaves of the surrounding communities, Henry encouraged the youth to become involved in a community project called "Feeding the Homeless." The idea was welcomed by both the youth and the general church body, and they began distributing food items each third Sunday.

"Since the inception of this ministry, we have received overwhelming support from the business community. Publix, Walmart, Sam's Club, BJ's, Acapulco, and Winn Dixie have given donations in checks, gift cards, turkeys, and other food items," said Henry. "Individuals from the community have also donated significantly with their time and resources."

The highpoint of the

ministry is the annual Thanksgiving event. During last year's Thanksgiving holiday, in conjunction with the community services department, the members served hot meals

to almost 1,000 citizens. Meal boxes were also taken to shelters and other places where the homeless are located. In 2010, the first year of the project, they fed more than 250 individuals.

"The members are excited about this ministry, and look forward each year as they join forces to cook, erect tents, provide music, and serve our communities from the church's park-

ing lot on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, not only with a hot meal, but also with warm blankets," added Henry.

—BY HENRICKA HAMILTON

## Mt. Sinai's Robotics Team Persevere at Adventist Robotics League Competition

Robot Royalty, the robotics team of Mt. Sinai Junior Academy in Orlando, Fla., got off to a difficult start while competing in the 2015 Adventist Robotics League FIRST® Tech Challenge held January 25, 2015, in Sacramento, Calif. During the first two rounds of the competition, Robot Royalty's robot failed to move, resulting in the accumulation of no points.

Disappointed but not discouraged, the students rallied together and began to troubleshoot the robot.

Zaid Thomas, one of the team's engineers, encouraged the team by stating, "We are not going to give up guys." Team Captain Stephanie McKenzie went aside to pray and encouraged everyone else to do the same thing.

After examining the robot, the students realized that a wire had been damaged while they were making adjustments to the robot to clear hardware inspection. After replacing the wire, Robot Royalty rallied in the final four rounds to finish with a final score of 360 points, 181 points out of first place. Averaging 90 points per round, project-

ing that average score over six rounds, Robot Royalty would have competed for second place had the robot not malfunctioned.

"I am extremely proud of our students," said Betty Nugent, Ph.D., principal of Mt. Sinai. "The students displayed resilience as they worked together to overcome the adversity that they faced."

Competing in the competition is part of Mt. Sinai's STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) initiative which has transformed Mt. Sinai into a STEAM School of Excellence. The mission of the program is to develop within each participating student STEAM resilience and STEAM identity, and the technical foundation needed to successfully pursue an academic career in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields at the post-secondary level.

The competition required the students to design, build, and program an autonomous robot that was capable of completing a series of tasks in two minutes and 30 seconds.

To prepare the students for the competition, Mt.



ROBERT HENLEY

*Members of the Mt. Sinai Robotic Team shortly after the final round of the Adventist Robotics League FIRST Tech Challenge: Lathral James (left), Zaid James, Cushman Robinson, Charles Devarice, Eden Scott, Stephanie McKenzie, and Xavier Drake-Cambridge.*

Sinai implemented a robotics course that integrated the C programming using the RobotC® programming environment, Computer Aided Design using PTC® Creo Parametric, and project management using Microsoft Project. During the process the students took on the roles of robot engineers, design engineers, computer programmers, and project managers as they prepared the robot for the competition.

In addition to the junior high school robotics program, three years ago Mt. Sinai implemented a middle school robots program and competes in the ARL FIRST Lego League Southern Challenge. The school also offers

a summer four-week STEAM Summer Camp.

"Before taking the robotics course, I was not interested in engineering," said Zaid. "Halfway through the course, I look at everything from an engineering perspective now."

According to Debra Fryson, director of education for the Southern Union, Mt. Sinai is one of only two junior academies in the Southern Union that has seen significant growth this year. Nugent credits the school's STEAM Vision, which she crafted, as one of the reasons for the school's unexpected growth.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

## Oakwood Expands Partnership with Kettering Health Network



Administrators from the Kettering Health Network (KHN) visited Oakwood University (OU) on January 29 to share KHN's mission and ministry, and explore ways to match Oakwood's mission and impact.

The Kettering team included George Lewis, Oakwood alumnus and

president of Kettering Physician Network; David Gordon, recruitment manager, KHN; Keith Jenkins, human resource director, Grandview and Southview Medical Centers; and William Ragland, leadership partner, Grandview and Southview Medical Centers. The day began with a

breakfast discussion with OU administrators and academic department heads. Lewis stated that the goal is to "expand our partnership with Oakwood University with intentional efforts on recruiting students for internships and full-time positions."

Organized by Sonia

Paul, career services director, the KHN administrators presented the weekly chapel program, conducted student interviews and an information session, and hosted dinner with a small group of students representing various academic departments.

Gordon expressed gratitude for the "excellent hospitality," and said that the Kettering team "felt a strong connection with the Oakwood administration, department heads, and students. We anticipate follow-up visits that will strengthen our partnership, and we look forward to engaging the students for internships and full-time positions. We are excited for where this will take us, and look forward to connecting again, soon!"

—BY CHERI WILSON

## Naturally 7 Headlines 2015 UNCF Gala

Globally-acclaimed vocal group Naturally 7 will be the special guest performers at the 37th Annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Gala on Thursday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m. The Gala will be held in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center, and will feature a special presentation by Rey Almodovar, chair of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation.

UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective

minority education organization. The 37-member organization provides operating funds for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), scholarships and internships for students at about 900 institutions, and faculty and administrative professional training. For more than 70 years, UNCF has raised more than \$3.6 billion to help more than 400,000 students attend college and graduate from college.

"We thank the community for continuing to partner with us," said Cheri Wilson,

director of development at Oakwood University, north Alabama's only UNCF member institution. "Oakwood University's motto is 'Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve.' Support of the UNCF helps us equip our students to graduate and become national and global servant leaders."

As the north Alabama UNCF member institution, Oakwood University is grateful and proud to contribute to the concerted effort for the mission of the UNCF. Each year, Oakwood hosts the UNCF

North Alabama Campaign, culminating with the Annual UNCF Gala held on the Thursday evening of its alumni weekend.

In its on-going celebration of diversity, this year's Gala will feature a Latin theme. Oakwood University has more than 80 students of Hispanic descent currently enrolled. Most are U.S. residents, but others are from Cuba, the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Bermuda, and Gambia.

—BY DAVID PERSON

## Students Create “Street Store” for Homeless During Community Service Day

Southern Adventist University took approximately 1,000 students and staff off campus for its 22nd annual Community Service Day on January 19, 2015, and several of those volunteers set up shop on sidewalks in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn., building a temporary “Street Store” for the homeless. Clothing donated by the campus community hung neatly from cardboard hangers on fences as students rushed back and forth helping customers find exactly what they needed — shirts and shoes, dignity and hope.

With origins in South Africa, Street Store is a project designed to provide clothing for the homeless while giving them the chance to decide for themselves what they want and need instead of blindly accepting hand-

outs. More than 120 groups have participated in hosting their own Street Store worldwide since January 2014 when the project launched in Cape Town.



More than 200 “shoppers” came through Southern’s Street Store in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Students were excited about participating in the project, and the experience exceeded expectations.

“It was rewarding to see people’s faces when they found exactly what they were looking for,” said Carolita Claus, junior social work major, “especially when it

came to winter clothes!”

For Street Store, Southern partnered with the Salvation Army and made use of space in front of its building to host the pop-up event.



Loren Hall, senior biology major, smiles while helping a customer.

The location was ideal since the homeless population was already accustomed to visiting the nonprofit, and the Salvation Army had inside space for the event should it rain. However, a dry, cool morning greeted the 200-300 shoppers who came through that morning.

“If they couldn’t find what they were looking for, we had sorters on the other side of the fence who were restocking and were looking for different items,” said

Andrew Anobile, senior social work major. “When they were finished, we offered them a free meal we had prepared as well.”

Street Store was just one of the projects available for students to select from as they chose to embrace the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., and volunteer in the community on the national holiday created in his honor.

“The homeless were so grateful,” said Dora Desamour, Christian service program director at Southern. “They really appreciated the individual attention.”

—BY JULIA BONNEY

## Free Lecture Series Provides Business Insight for Students, Public

The sun has set on another winter semester afternoon; however, for some students there is still one more class to attend. “Seminar in Business Administration” is a required course for all business majors. Students must attend 10 nightly seminars scheduled throughout the winter semester that are collectively called the E. A. Anderson Lecture Series.

First started in 1971, the series was founded

through the generosity of E. A. Anderson, a successful entrepreneur from Atlanta, Ga., whose children attended Southern. Guest speakers come from a variety of fields. The first presenter this year was David Beckworth, a 1994 Southern graduate and economist best known for his book *Boom and Bust Banking*, which discusses why the Great Recession happened, and the ways that

helped the country regain economic stability.

“This series provides an opportunity for students to hear real-world stories from people working in business,” said Stephanie Sheehan, director for Southern’s Institute of Ethical Leadership.

Students who attend are exposed to a variety of career opportunities within business, as speakers share their diverse backgrounds. Presenters this semester

represent a wide range of occupations, including portfolio managers, CEOs, and hospital administrators.

The E. A. Anderson Lecture Series is open to the community, and continuing education credit is offered for no additional charge. A schedule and archive of previous presentations is available by visiting [www.southern.edu/business/lectures](http://www.southern.edu/business/lectures).

—BY STEVEN COLLINS

# Mack's favorite part of being a maintenance man?

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– Mack Ruff, 2014 **SALT** Graduate



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### SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

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### FLORIDA LIVING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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### LAND FOR SALE IN THE COLLEGEDALE AREA:

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**3 MILES TO SAU!** 2 bed, 1 bath ranch with bonus room off 2-car garage, on 1 acre of wooded land. \$110,000. Call Sue Vosen, Crye-Leike Realtors, 423-238-5447 or cell 423-774-1029. [3]

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**ARE YOU LOOKING** for that perfect place in the country? Look no more. Beautiful building lots on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Views, water, hardwoods, pond and end of the road privacy. Go to [www.kismetkennel.com/](http://www.kismetkennel.com/) countryland for pictures, plat, and prices, or call Jeff at 301-992-7472. [3-6]

**CALHOUN, GA HOME FOR SALE** – 1 mile from GCA, secluded 3.2 acres, brick ranch, basement, 3 bed, 3.5 bath, large kitchen, new carpet throughout, fenced yard, large windows, overlooking woods beyond. Energy efficient HVAC, 3 garages, 1 carport, amazing sunroom. \$262,000. Call 706-483-5554. [3, 4]

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**THE KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT** at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time **physical education professor** to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817-202-6684 or [vnaukkar@swau.edu](mailto:vnaukkar@swau.edu). [3]

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time qualified **psychology professor** beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at [sargeant@swau.edu](mailto:sargeant@swau.edu). Position is open until filled. [3]

**THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT** at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in **Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV** to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at [magee@swau.edu](mailto:magee@swau.edu). [3]

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks full-time nurse educator to serve as **Nursing Department Chair** beginning fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at [arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu). [3]

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks full time **nurse educator** to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred, focus areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at [arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu). [3, 4]

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department** seeks faculty to begin fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing or accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at [mosesa@swau.edu](mailto:mosesa@swau.edu). [3, 4]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a **School of Education Dean**, responsible to the provost for the administration of that particular school. He/she is the agent of the school for the application of its educational policies. Qualified person should have a terminal

# Advertisements

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**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a **Department of Nursing Chair**, responsible for faculty, staff and activities within the department. Qualified person should have a Doctorate degree in Nursing or a doctorate degree in a health related field with a Master's degree in Nursing. For more information and to apply, visit [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_8](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_8). [3]

**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE** is seeking a full-time **carpentry foreperson** to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making, and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>. [3, 4]

**ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM** is seeking a **Summer Associate** to work in their Corporate Legal department for eight weeks in 2015. Candidate must be in top 25% of class. Interest/experience in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal research and other projects, totaling 40 hours per week. Pay is \$20 - \$25 per hour; reasonable relocation expenses will be reimbursed. Please send transcript and resume to [Manuela.asaftei@ahss.org](mailto:Manuela.asaftei@ahss.org). [3]

**OUACHITA HILLS COLLEGE** is accepting applications for the following positions: Chemistry Instructor, English Instructor, Business Administration Instructor, and Construction Manager. Our website is [www.ohc.org](http://www.ohc.org). Contact Magda Rodriguez at [info@ohc.org](mailto:info@ohc.org) or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information. [3, 4]

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**AdventistSingles.org FREE 14-DAY TRIAL!** Join thousands of Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, profiles, match

notifications! Adventist owners since 1993. Visit [www.elliotdylan.com](http://www.elliotdylan.com) for the Undercover Angels series of novels for Christian teens that build on Biblical principles and encourage integrity. Great Sabbath reading and gifts! [3]

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist). [3-12]

**RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER?** The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 15 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at 800-248-8313 or contact us at [www.stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda). [3-8]

**BUTLER CREEK HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER** – Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. April 5-17, 2015 & May 10-22, 2015. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: \$975. Register online or call 931-213-1329. [www.butlercreekhealth.org](http://www.butlercreekhealth.org). [3]

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**PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR?** Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit [www.hopesource.com](http://www.hopesource.com). You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Hamblin's HOPE delivers on time! [3-6]

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more

information, call 423.236.2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies). [3-5]

**CONVENIENT ON-CAMPUS GUEST LODGING** at Southern Adventist University. Lovely 2 bed, 1 bath apartments, some equipped with kitchens. Available year round. Call 423-236-7000 or email [guestlodging@southern.edu](mailto:guestlodging@southern.edu). [3-5]

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**ADVENTIST RODDERS CLUB GC Meet-N-Greet.** Members and those interested in joining/starting a local chapter, join us for refreshments and car talk Sunday, July 5, 2015, 10am - 1pm at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio. For more info email [nomadder55@gmail.com](mailto:nomadder55@gmail.com). Bring your specialty car. [3]



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Adventist Health

# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Pathfinder Work Bee** – March 13-15. NPR.

**ALIVE Youth Rally** – March 20, 21. Spartanburg Church.

**Elders' Retreat** – March 27-29. NPR. Be encouraged, be empowered and be equipped. All elders welcome. See website for details. The topic of "Lay Preaching" Session #3 will be presented at the retreat.

**Adventurer Fun Day** – April 5. NPR.

**Pathfinder Drum & Drill Competition** – April 11. Raleigh Church.

**Church Planting Rally** – April 11. Spartanburg Church.

**MPA Alumni Weekend** – April 17-19. MPA.

**Academy Days** – April 24-26. MPA.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** – May 1-3. NPR.

**Elders' Certification** – May 8, 9. Kernersville Church. The lesson discussed for this session will be "Personal Evangelism" Session #4.

**MPA Graduation Weekend** – May 15-17. MPA.

## Florida

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

**Youth/Pathfinder/Adventurer Events** – Visit us online or call 407-644-5000, x2421. <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/youth/>

<http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/pathfinders/events/>

<http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/adventurers/events/>

**Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.**

Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/childrenandfamily/events/>, [esalzmnn@cfl.rr.com](mailto:esalzmnn@cfl.rr.com), 407-521-4751, or 407-721-3036.

**Retired Denominational Workers' Retreat** – March 20-22. Pine Lake Retreat, 21725 County Road 33, Groveland. Speaker: Gary Patterson. Reservation information to arrive in retiree mailboxes or call 407-331-8249 or 407-924-6486.

**Family Life and Health Fair** – March 20-22. Ambassador Church, 3245 W Oakland Park Blvd, Lauderdale Lakes. Theme: Healthier Families Building Stronger Communities. Speakers: Dolphy Cross and Ron Smith. Health fair on Sunday in collaboration with six area churches and Hope for Humanity Worldwide Inc. Details: [almgrace137@gmail.com](mailto:almgrace137@gmail.com), 954-599-2434, or 954-557-2351.

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

**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**  
 March 22. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 April 4. Marathon.  
 April 5. Key Largo, Homestead, Miami Temple.

**Forest Lake Academy Annual Alumni Golf Tournament** – March 23. RedTail Golf Club, 26026 Member Lane, Sorrento.

Registration and breakfast: 8 a.m. Shotgun start: 9 a.m. Lunch: 1 p.m. Cost: \$125, single golfer; foursome discount of \$100 if paid by March 19. Scramble tournament with four-person teams. Individual players will be assigned to a team. Registration and sponsorship information: [http://www.forestlakeacademy.org/pdf/marketing/FLA\\_Golf\\_Tournament2015.pdf](http://www.forestlakeacademy.org/pdf/marketing/FLA_Golf_Tournament2015.pdf). Questions: [rjbrownlow@aol.com](mailto:rjbrownlow@aol.com) or 407-421-9738.

**Greater Miami Adventist Academy 6th Annual Golf/Spa Event** – March 29. Bonaventure Resort and Country Club, 200 Bonaventure Blvd, Weston. Theme: Jump Start the Dream! Registration begins 11 a.m. Cost: \$200/person. Golf fee includes green fees, golf cart, goodie bag, refreshments, and award reception buffet dinner. Spa fee includes goodie bag, all day spa, one treatment, and award reception buffet dinner. Proceeds benefit GMAA's new cafeteria and Master Plan. Details: <http://gma.edu/html/events.html>, 305-220-5955, x151, or 954-254-9249.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Hispanic Women's Retreat** – March 13-15. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**Women and Teen Spring Retreat** – March 20-22. Speakers: Jan Yakush, women; and Amie Regester, teens. Final deadline to register, March 5. March 18, 19 God in Shoes in Chattanooga. Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Crandall, GA.

**Georgia-Cumberland Academy Days** – March 20, 21. Calhoun, GA.

**Mid-Term Constituency Report** – March 21. 4 p.m. Atlanta Metro Hispanic Church. Atlanta, GA.

**IMPACT Chattanooga** – March 21. 4 p.m. Training—The Winning Attitude: Evangelizing in the Real World – Bible Studies Part 2. Orchard Park, TN.

**Atlanta Adventist Academy Alumni Sabbath** – March 21. Questions, email [alumni@aaa.edu](mailto:alumni@aaa.edu). Golfers Tee is up for AAA, March 22. Marietta Church, GA.

**Atlanta Adventist Academy Days** – March 26. Register at [www.aaa.edu/academy\\_day/](http://www.aaa.edu/academy_day/) or email for details, [info@aaa.edu](mailto:info@aaa.edu). Duluth, GA.

**Disaster Response Training** – March 27, 28. Learn how to prepare for natural disasters and how to assist the church's disaster response in the community. Registration deadline March 11. Savannah, GA, Church.

**Celebration of Life Weekend** – March 27-29. A weekend retreat for cancer survivors and their families, register through March 15. Only \$50 per family of four, limited to first 125. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**South Georgia Convocation** – March 28. Speaker: Ed Reid. Macon, GA.

**Mid-Term Constituency Report** – March 28. 3 p.m. Macon, GA, Church.

**Regenerate: Youth and Young Adult Festival** – March 28. Speaker: Benjamin Lundquist. Concert artists: Unspoken, the JJ Weeks Band, and Johnny Diaz. Deadline for meals, March 18. Deadline for concerts, March 25. Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, GA.

**Day of Fasting and Prayer** – April 3.

**Georgia-Cumberland Academy Alumni Days** – April 3-5. Calhoun, GA.

**Health and Personal Ministries Leadership Training** – April 4. Greeneville, TN.

**Personal Ministries Rally** – April 11. Apison, TN.

**IMPACT Chattanooga** – March 21. 4 p.m. Training—Winning the Heart: Overcoming and Gaining Decisions for Christ. Standifer Gap, TN.

**Pathfinder Camporee** – April 16-19. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

**How to Conduct a Reversing Diabetes Seminar** – April 19. Health professional training presented by Stephen, MPA, RN, and Karen, RN, Wickham. Register by April 6, cost \$14. Chattanooga First Church, Chattanooga, TN.

To register for events go to [registration.gccsda.com](http://registration.gccsda.com).

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Elders' Retreat** – March 6-8. Indian Creek Camp.

**Highland Academy Board** – March 19. May 7. Highland Academy.

**Music Festival** – March 19-21.

## Sunset

	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Mar. 27	Apr. 3	Apr. 10
Atlanta, GA	6:38	7:44	7:49	7:54	8:00	8:05
Charleston, SC	6:21	7:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
Charlotte, NC	6:23	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:46	7:52
Collegedale, TN	6:41	7:47	7:53	7:58	8:04	8:09
Huntsville, AL	5:46	6:52	6:58	7:04	7:09	7:14
Jackson, MS	6:02	7:07	7:12	7:17	7:22	7:27
Louisville, KY	6:41	7:48	7:55	8:01	8:08	8:15
Memphis, TN	6:00	7:06	7:12	7:17	7:23	7:28
Miami, FL	6:25	7:29	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:42
Montgomery, AL	5:47	6:52	6:57	7:02	7:06	7:11
Nashville, TN	5:46	6:53	6:59	7:05	7:11	7:16
Orlando, FL	6:28	7:33	7:37	7:41	7:44	7:48
Wilmington, NC	6:12	7:18	7:23	7:29	7:34	7:39

# Events Calendar

Highland Academy.  
**Conference Executive Committee** – March 24. May 5. Conference Office.

**Louisville Festival of Faith** – March 27, 28. Pewee Valley Church.

**Prayer Conference** – April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.

**Pastors'/Elders' Retreat** – April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

**Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting** – April 24, 25. Prestonsburg United Methodist Church.

**Academy Graduations**  
May 9. Louisville Adventist Academy

May 16. Madison Academy.  
May 17. Highland Academy.

**Camp Meeting** – May 22-30. Highland Academy.

## Southern Adventist University

**Preview Southern** – March 19, 20. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Details: Call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

**Orchestra Concert** – March 22. Southern's Symphony Orchestra offers a free performance at the Collegedale Church at 7:30 p.m. To view live online, visit [www.southern.edu/streaming](http://www.southern.edu/streaming).

**Archaeology Lecture Series** – March 30. Constance E. C. Gane, Ph.D., presents "Nineveh's Halzi Gate and the Fall of an Empire" during a free lecture at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Auditorium. Details: Call 423-236-2030.

## Southern Union

**General Conference Global Youth Day** – March 21.

Details: Check with your local conference Youth Department.

**Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience** – March 28. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Division Level Pathfinder Bible Experience** – April 18. Dallas, TX.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NAD YOUTH ADVISORIES** – March 7-12. Union College, Lincoln, NB.

**SPRING 2014 MEDICAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION** – March 20-22. Butler Creek Health Center, Iron City, TN. Details or to register: [www.butlercreekhealth.org](http://www.butlercreekhealth.org) or 931-724-2443.

**UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING** – April 2-5. Honor classes: 1945, '55, '60, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, and '05. Special tribute to business and computer faculty, graduates, and Gymnairs Reunion. Details: contact the Alumni Office at 402-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

**LAURELBROOK SCHOOL/ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND** – April 3-5. Dayton, TN. Honor classes: 1950, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10. Details: 423-775-3336. [www.Laurelbrook.org](http://www.Laurelbrook.org).

**OKLAHOMA ACADEMY DAYS** – April 17-19. If you are a student who is serious about your walk

with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit [www.oklahomaacademy.org](http://www.oklahomaacademy.org)

**LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION** – April 24, 25. Friday evening reception, 7 p.m.; Sabbath worship, 10 a.m.; registration 9:30 a.m. on campus. Class reunions TBA. Honor classes: 1955, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '05. Details: [www.laacademy.org](http://www.laacademy.org)

[lsak12.com](http://lsak12.com), [JNelson@lsak12.com](mailto:JNelson@lsak12.com), or call 951-351-1445 x244.

**"Ye Olde" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** – June 5-7. For alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1935, '45, '55, '65. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181, or visit <http://www.glaa.net/>.

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