

T Southern TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2016



MINISTRY THROUGH HEALTHCARE

**“JESUS FOR ME”
CAMPOREE**

**BLESSINGS
COME WHEN
YOU OPEN
YOUR HAND**

**STUDENT WITH
CEREBRAL PALSY
PARTICIPATES
IN MADISON
ACADEMY CROSS
COUNTRY RACE**

**HOW DO
DOCTORS FEEL
ABOUT THEIR
PATIENTS’
SPIRITUAL
NEEDS?**

**THE SILVER AND
GOLD ARE MINE,
DECLARES THE
LORD**

The Church Can Support People With Disabilities



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.
President of the Southern Union Conference

How would you minister to someone who has impaired hearing? Communication could be difficult, especially if the person you're ministering to uses sign language and you do not. The presence of a translator could help, but this interferes with confidentiality and may inhibit the person from sharing concerns that are intimate or embarrassing. Lip-reading, face-to-face contact, and visual communication may be more important than they are in other approaches to ministry — but could this hinder your style of helping? People who are hearing impaired often have problems with depression, loneliness, or relationships, but these are difficult to discuss if communication is blocked by faulty hearing. Some people encounter prejudice or misunderstanding, even from sensitive Christian helpers who mean well.

Hearing impairment is one example of a disability. The word refers to any mental, physical, or emotional condition or impairment that can hinder a person's ability to function normally. People whose disabilities interfere with optimal life adjustment usually are described as disabled. These disabilities may range from minor issues that are almost unnoticed to disabilities that are severely inhibiting. The handicaps may be physical, mental, or both. They can result from congenital impairment, injury at birth or during childhood, or loss of some capacity later in life.

It is rare to find completely disabled people. While there are things that the disabled person cannot do, there also are many things that he or she can do. Medical treatment is designed to assist the disabled person as much as possible in the physical area, and the rehabilitation task is to help the individual live with the disability and reach maximum effectiveness.

How can the Church Assist Families?

It is extremely difficult for parents to discover that their child is disabled or impaired. Parental guilt, rejection of the disabled person, overprotection, criticism of physicians or schools, impatience with other family members, unrealistic expectations, feelings of embarrassment, and anger with God are all common. Many parents of a child with a disability show increased levels of anxiety and depression, lowered self-concepts and self-esteem, feelings of frustration, and decreased marital and personal satisfaction.

Children who are born with disabilities learn to accept these as they adjust to life. If the disability comes later, however, the adjustment usually is much more difficult. When we lose a limb, go blind, or lose control over some part of the body, we suffer grief reactions. Often there is shock, denial, anger, sometimes unrealistic hope, and often depression. People wonder why, and sometimes expect that God will heal. When healing doesn't come, there may be despair, thoughts of suicide, sadness about being a burden to others, and a sense of hopelessness about the future.

The Church can assist people with disabilities to escape from this emotional trap. The process will take time, but often it comes as the disabled person is helped to express feelings and to consider possibilities for living as fulfilling a life as possible. Sometimes this involves learning to live with physical limitations, overcoming transportation barriers, learning to cope with society's stereotypes, building a positive self-concept, finding a suitable vocation, and developing a willingness to accept help with those things that can no longer be done without assistance.

In helping people cope and adjust to their losses, the church member/leader is unlikely to work alone in traditional one-to-one interaction. Helping often involves cooperative work with physical therapists, educators, physicians, and other specialists. It may involve cooperation with the friends and family of the person living with the disability.

Also, as a helper, it may involve looking at your own attitudes. If you jump to invalid conclusions about the physically disabled, are uncomfortable assisting people with disabilities, or have biases about their supposed moods or attitudes, then you are not likely to be effective in your help. Regardless of your attitudes, learn from people with disabilities, and your whole approach to ministry is likely to change.

Jesus was much concerned about people with disabilities. He accepted them completely and met their needs. The Church must do likewise. This important ministry may require creative approaches, forsaking some favorite techniques, and creating a network of helpers. This can be rewarding work, however, especially if one sees EVERY person growing in skills, psychological stability, and spiritual maturity. 🕊

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MINISTRY THROUGH *Healthcare*

*Medical, Dental, Health Professionals
Celebrate 50th Anniversary*

BY JIM DAVIDSON



David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern Adventist University, was the weekend speaker.

A lot changes in 50 years. Fifty years ago, Lyndon Johnson was President. The United States was fighting in the Vietnam War, and the price of gasoline was .32 cents per gallon. A first class stamp cost five cents, and the average price of a home was \$23,300. It was in 1966 that Medicare was instituted, and the last Studebaker rolled off the assembly line. Yes, things certainly changed in 50 years!

However, one thing has not changed, and that is the impact that physicians/dentists and health professionals have upon ministry and outreach throughout the Southern Union. The Seventh-day Adventist Church since its inception has been active in utilizing health professionals to further the Gospel commission.

One of the methods by which this Church view is kept vibrant in the Southern Union is by holding a biennial convention for health care professionals. The first of these was held 50 years ago.

It was in 1966 that the Southern Union held the very first medical/dental convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. More than

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Convention attendees enjoy the Sabbath luncheon.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Southern Adventist University's I Cantori performed during the weekend.

200 gathered to fellowship, worship, and exchange ideas of how to impact their communities for Christ. That tradition continues in the Southern Union.

October 6-9, 2016, saw more than 400 health professionals and their families gathered at the Marriott Evergreen Resort in Stone Mountain, Georgia, for the 50-year anniversary of this event. Even though hurricane Matthew was threatening the coast and prevented a number from attending, God blessed Stone Mountain with perfect fall weather.

As the attendees gathered, there were only a few who had been present 50 years earlier for the first convention. One of those was James Ray McKinney, M.D., who began practicing medicine in Greeneville, Tennessee, in 1960, and today is still practicing medicine. He remembers the work of the late Harold Roll, Southern Union executive secretary in 1966, and the late Joe Crews, M.D., as being instrumental in the beginning of this work.

That first convention took place at the Mountain View Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Though the hotel was destroyed

long ago, the memories are still fresh in the minds of those who attended. George Mills, M.D., prior to his recent death, remembered the rich fellowship that took place among the health professionals who attended. Not only did Mills attend the first convention, but soon was bringing with him his family. One of his sons, Rob Mills, M.D., remembers growing up attending these conventions, and that they were always a highlight for their family — a time to see friends whom they hadn't seen, perhaps in a long while. This family tradition continues into the third generation of physicians with Jonathan Mills, M.D., of Charleston, South Carolina, and Christina Mills Bersan, M.D., of Chattanooga, Tennessee. What a special time it was to see this family gathered to continue in the rich tradition that was begun 50 years ago.

David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, was the speaker for the weekend. He challenged each person to be balanced in their life, and to make sure that the heavy demands of their profession did not crowd out time with God and their

families. John S. Nixon Sr., D.Min., executive secretary of the South Central Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, provided a dynamic Sabbath School discussion. Inspiring music was provided by the Kings Heralds Quartet, I Cantori of Southern Adventist University, Judy and Josianne Bailey, and Jaclyn Pruehs. There was also wonderful children's programming for all ages, coordinated by Marlene and Dave Colburn.

While this was the 50th anniversary of the convention, it was not focused on the past. Future health professionals were represented by eight students from the pre-medical/pre-dental clubs of Southern Adventist University. These students were sponsored by the Southern Union, and chosen by Southern Adventist University to attend the convention. Each student was paired with a host family for the weekend. This host family was a physician or dentist who spent time with the student, and was available to them for any questions they might have.

An expanded number of continuing education classes were offered that included



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Children's programming for all ages was coordinated by Marlene and Dave Colburn.

not only physicians and dentists, but nurses, physical therapists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, and more. These classes not only keep health professionals current with the latest developments in their field, but weave into the classes how the participants can use their professions for witness and leadership for Christ. As Jonathan Mills, M.D., stated, "These are not only continuing medical education (CME) credits, but 'Christian medical education' credits as well."

Indeed, these men and women are making large impacts in their local churches and communities throughout the Southern Union. From ministering to their patients in the office and hospital settings, to conducting diabetes prevention clinics, to serving as leaders in their local churches, these dedicated professionals are making a big difference for God.

Another way a difference is made is by volunteering for medical mission trips throughout the world. The Southern Union has entered into a partnership with Florida Hospital Global Mission to provide opportunity for health professionals to share their talents through Florida Hospital's dynamic mission initiatives. Ruth Bowling of Global Mission, gave a presentation on Sabbath morning inviting the attendees to participate in one of Florida Hospital's mission trips. Florida Hospital is providing much needed medical services around the globe, including the countries of Peru, Haiti, and Ethiopia. As the different health care spe-



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

James Ray McKinney, M.D., and his wife, Phyllis, are 50-year attendees.



PHOTO BY: RICK NORSKOV

Eight Southern Adventist University pre-medical/pre-dental club students were sponsored by the Southern Union to attend the convention.

cialties that were represented at the convention, as well as others, join with these mission endeavors, it will expand the mission outreach of the Southern Union far beyond its borders. If any health care provider is interested in joining one of these mission outreaches, please contact the Medical/Dental/Health Professional Department of the Southern Union or Global Mission at Florida Hospital.

Also, an illustration was given of the difference that can be made in someone's life right here at home by Tim Pursley, M.D., a practicing physician from Orlando, Florida. He is participating in a research program called "Faith in Practice." This research project evaluates physicians' thoughts on introducing a spiritual component to the

physician/patient relationship. This research project is being done throughout the Adventist Health System network.

Each physician has agreed to ask their patients three simple questions:

1. Do you have a religious or spiritual support system in times of need?
2. Do you have any religious beliefs that might influence your medical decisions?
3. Do you have any other spiritual concerns that you would like someone to address?

The responses to these questions are then documented in the patient's chart as a "spiritual history." Pursley shared that these three simple questions have opened many doors with his patients. It has provid-



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

John S. Nixon Sr., D.Min., South Central Conference executive secretary, led in the Sabbath School discussion.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

The Mills family represents two generations of physicians: Jonathan (left), Christian, Joyce, and Rob.

ed him with many opportunities to discuss spiritual matters, and to pray with his patients.

Pursley said, “Many patients have responded with statements such as, ‘I have never had a physician pray with me before,’ and ‘I cannot thank you enough for taking the time to pray with me.’ Others just responded with simple tears in their eyes, and a look of such deep appreciation that no words were necessary for the impact of what just happened in their lives.”

In sharing his experiences with the convention, Pursley added, “One of my patients opened my eyes to the power of prayer, and to the unique opportunity that we as health care providers have to witness to our patients. This particular patient writes a blog on the Internet. After one office visit she wrote this on her blog:

My general physician is wonderful. He is young and dedicated, and cares deeply for his patients.

When I was at the very lowest point, after losing the love of my life, I went to see him. I weighed 92 pounds. I had all the classic signs of major depression, and fought anxiety minute by minute. Much to my chagrin, I burst out sobbing in his office. He wasn’t shocked in the least at seeing a 67-year-old woman crying over a broken heart.

He sat quietly and listened intently, while I poured out my heart. He prescribed short-term anti-anxiety and anti-depressant medication, but he did something

much more healing than merely providing chemical solutions. He said, “In some situations there is only one way I can really help my patients,” and he took my hand and started to pray. I am not a praying person, and I was rather shocked, but I remember the wonderfully calm feeling that came over me because someone cared enough to intercede for me. He prayed that my heart would heal, and that I would find peace and friendship. He asked for healing to come to me.

It made me think differently about religion. This was not proselytizing, or “thine is the kingdom and the glory” kind of preaching heard so often in churches and on TV. This man felt empathy and sympathy for a fellow human being who was in trouble. He cared enough to use his spiritual resources to help me through the pain and darkness I was feeling.

I can relate to this kind of religion.

Pursley added, “I look at each and every visit now as an opportunity to do more than just treat illness and manage chronic disease. I look at it as an opportunity to introduce someone to the healing power of Christ. It has invigorated my practice and makes me feel much more excited about getting up and going to work every day, wondering, ‘Which heart am I going to touch today?’”

It is this kind of experience and this kind of fervor that permeates those who attend the convention. These kinds of stories are duplicated many times over throughout the

Southern Union as physicians and dentists, nurses and physical therapists, pharmacists and nurse practitioners, and other health professionals daily go about their jobs, ever remembering that God has placed them where they are so they can represent Him.

McKinney said, “These conventions keep our focus on the healing ministry of Christ ... and that has been a blessing to me, and to many physicians and dentists.”

At the first convention, there was a quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy that was printed in their program bulletin. That same quotation was again printed in the program booklet this year, 50 years later. This quotation is instructive and still represents the position of the Southern Union. Ellen White wrote, “Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete,” *Testimonies*, volume 6, pages 240, 241.

We are so thankful for the host of medical professionals in the Southern Union who are daily representing Jesus to thousands of people. 🕊

Jim Davidson is the executive secretary and medical/dental/health professionals director at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.



PHOTO BY: NATHAN JOE

“JESUS FOR ME”

BY KEN ROGERS

CAMPOREE

Nearly 6,000 Pathfinders and staff gathered for the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee, held October 12-16, 2016, at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.

Nearly 6,000 Pathfinders and staff gathered for the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee, held October 12-16, 2016, at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida. This event brought participants from across the Southern Union territory, and highlighted the theme of “Jesus For Me.”

Great speakers shared with the young people throughout the Camporee. Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, provided the keynote address, and Stephen Arrington told his transformational story from crime to following Christ. Armando Miranda, North American Division Pathfinder leader, challenged the Camporee attendees to be faithful to Jesus. Jose Rojas, director of Movementum, called for the Pathfinders to be the church of today, and to live their lives solely for Jesus Christ. Thousands stood in commitment as a

response to the invitation to be an example to the world. Terry Johnson had the closing night message and spoke of the faithfulness of Jesus in his life, as he has served as U.S. Presidential Honor Guard for three U.S. Presidents.

The Camporee was organized by the Southern Union and Conference youth directors. The planning took place over the last couple years, and was designed to offer more activities than the Pathfinders could actually participate in during the Camporee. There were many honor classes that were offered, and a host of activities for the young people to engage in, including these: Messiah’s Mansion, with a walk-through of the Sanctuary display, and an opportunity to earn an honor patch; The Wild World of Animals Show; a quad bungee trampoline jump; the Camp Kulaqua zip line; a climbing wall and Tow-

er of Faith Jump; the Camp Kulaqua Zoo; the Teen Zone for teen Pathfinders only; numerous inflatables; go-karting; the Adventist Youth Museum, with Pathfinder memorabilia displayed; and of course the popular Camp Kulaqua Water Park, where on Thursday and Friday afternoon there were a thousand individuals enjoying the water activities.

A unique Pioneer Village coordinated by the Carolina Conference displayed pioneer activities such as crafting, Dutch oven cookery, hatchet throwing, and fire-building skills. The Pioneer Village was also home to the Blacksmithing Shoppe, where Pathfinders were able to operate an old-time authentic blacksmith set up with blower, coal, and anvil to create a couple take-home items. This activity was popular for many, and added to the aura of original Pathfinding.



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ROE



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ROE



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ROE



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ROE

Pathfinders from the Conyers, Georgia, Church

Kentucky-Tennessee Pathfinders

The Blacksmithing honor was also offered.

A large outdoor stage was erected with lighting, sound, and LED screens so that the evening program could be viewed by all in attendance. A professional production company, Innovative Minds, coordinated the outdoor venue and was instrumental in the programming philosophy and delivery of the on stage programs. Many found the evening programs to be the highlight of the day, with special features that included a talented ventriloquist, Ryan and Friends; Ben Roy with his Science Zone projects; and Rich Aquilera, also known as the Mud Guy. The programs included worshipful group singing led by Richard Hickam, and prayers offered by Pathfinders in both English and Spanish. The Pathfinders enjoyed seeing the pictures of themselves in the various activities that were shared during

the video day in review feature.

Hundreds of Pathfinders and a few staff recited two Camporee memory verses directly to Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth director, during the event, and were awarded a special pin for their memorization. Pin trading was wildly popular, and many Pathfinders were engaged in trading and purchasing pins from vendors and each other. Each registered Pathfinder and staff received a commemorative patch, pin, and backpack shoulder sling with the Camporee logo. The next Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee will be held in the year 2021, and the date and location will be announced later.

Phil Younts, Camp Kulaqua director, and the entire Camp Kulaqua staff provided a most gracious attitude and accommodation for all the Camporee participants.

Not only were all the amenities of Camp Kulaqua made available, but the entire staff was engaged in creating a positive experience for each one. All were not treated as guests, but as family.

Bill Tracy, director of the Collegedale Explorers, states, "Not only our Pathfinders, but our staff as well were encouraged and blessed especially with Pastor Jose's messages. This Camporee will have lifelong impact on each one here." And indeed, that is the desired outcome for a Union-wide Camporee, that this experience will provide an anchor point in the spiritual journey of a young person. Perhaps when a youth experiences the challenges of life and the attack of the enemy, maybe a song, a remembered sermon, a prayer, a conversation, a shared activity will remind them that Jesus is for them. 🕊



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ROE

BLESSINGS COME

When You Open Your Hand

BY KAREN WILLIAMS

Janelle Smith has a message for you. If you have a blessing, a hobby, a well-loved activity, you hold the keys to joy. But, you must open your hand.

Smith, a member of the Ooltewah Church in Ooltewah, Tennessee, has lived around horses since childhood. For most of that time she quietly kept her beloved horses to herself. Lately, however, if you drop by her house on a Thursday evening, you will likely find a cluster of young girls and their mothers talking quietly around a fire. They will have Bibles in their laps, or perhaps *The Desire of Ages*. Their study follows horseback riding and a potluck supper. The girls range from age three to 19 years, though most are somewhere closer to 10 or 12. Because of the friendship and the horses, it's every girl's dream of a well-spent afternoon. For their hostess, it is a new and pleasurable twist on a pastime she has long enjoyed.

"I felt very blessed as a child to have a horse," Smith explains. "I knew it wasn't the norm for most little girls my age. Much later, when my own little girl started having friends over who loved horses but weren't able to have their own, I decided to start a "Horsey Night" Bible study ministry.

"I was once told that if our hands are open, then God is able to take from them as well as put into them. When I realized the blessing God has given me — to still have horses 34 years later — it all made sense. Why not bless these other girls with horses and God's love all at the same time?"

Sara Danese certainly feels that blessing.



SUBMITTED BY KAREN WILLIAMS

Janelle Smith followed her passion and discovered blessings and joy. On Thursdays, Smith offers something called Horsey Night at her home for girls, ages three to 19. Horsey Night includes Bible study, horseback riding, and a potluck supper.

As a 19-year-old freshman at Southern, she misses her horse and her family back home. But, since meeting Janelle at the Ooltewah Church, she has a family away from home. She eats Sabbath dinner with the Smith family, and also attends Horsey Night. "Horsey Night is definitely a highlight of my week," she says. "It's such a

blessing to be able to interact with horses, but, even more, to fellowship, study, and pray with fellow believers. I feel so fortunate that God led me to the Horsey Night group." As the oldest "girl" in the group, Sara mentors the younger ones and acts as a positive role model.

Moms appreciate the blessing of Smith's ministry, as well.

Mom Sandy Hesler puts it like this: "What has Horsey Night meant to us? A time to make connections with friends, a time to grow stronger in overcoming fears, a time to be encouraged to turn our eyes upon Jesus and look fully in His face."

Jaime Simulis, mom to the two youngest members of the group, adds, "I look forward to our Bible study on Thursdays and make it a priority. It allows me to have a more personal connection with our Creator. I really feel like the group is an extension of my family; I feel very comfortable expressing myself, and asking others questions. We have a fun time every week. I also appreciate that we can personalize it and change it however we like, but we're still worshipping the Lord and bringing more focus on Him instead of ourselves. This group has changed my life and my heart." Then she adds, "We all need to open our lives and hearts to God. Why not start a worship group that you can make your own?"

The number of people Horsey Night reaches is not large. The time spent is what's significant. By opening her hand, by sharing what God has given her, Smith has discovered a unique ministry that fits her perfectly. 🕊

STUDENT WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Participates in Madison Academy Cross Country Race

BY DEVON BARDO



Devon surrounded by other runners

The Apostle Paul describes the Christian journey as a race. During this race you face obstacles of temptation. Thankfully, Jesus has overcome them already, and now guides through them.

Madison Academy (MA) encourages their students as they run this spiritual race in and out of the classroom. This year, out on the field the MA students have learned important lessons in how to be a contender in cross country. Running is more than pushing the pace; it is about perseverance, confidence and focus. It's these characteristics that are instilled in Madison's runners. Take it from Devon Bardo, an MA senior.

Born with cerebral palsy (CP), Devon knew that his life was going to be very different. And, he was right ... for the most part. He had no faith in himself because he felt limited by CP. Coach Raphan Ley, MA's Acro coach and science teacher, saw something in Devon that he hadn't seen in

himself. He was resilient. Ley pushed Devon to get out of his comfort zone, mostly in school and then out on the field. After many refusals, Devon hesitantly agreed to do a race with Madison's cross country team.

Instantly, regret washed over Devon, and he tried to back out. But Ley wouldn't let him break his promise. Devon realized that a man is only as good as his word, so he followed through with the race.

Race day came, and teams from five schools filled the Madison field. The heats started with the K-2 runners, then third- and fourth-graders, middle school, and finally the high school heat. The whistle blew and off went the runners, including Devon. It was a tight 5K race with two of MA's runners taking first and second place at 20:44 minutes and 21:29 minutes. Twenty minutes later, Devon was still trekking and making his way toward the finish line. His teammates and several runners from

other teams joined him on the last stretch. As Devoncrossed the finish line, he had a new sense of accomplishment. He describes his race like this: "It was very humbling for me to see all the runners from other teams come together in community, one of the goals of Madison Academy's athletic program. Everyone kept cheering me on, even when they weren't part of our school. To have so many finish the race with me ... now, THAT was powerful. I am so glad to be part of this school."

Empowering the students with confidence, compassion, and collaboration is something we strive for at Madison Academy. Devon Bardo directly experienced this, not just with his teammates, but with the other runners as well. That is what God has tasked us to do — come together as a community of believers and help one another finish the race. ●

How Do Doctors Feel About Their Patients' SPIRITUAL NEEDS?

BY MARIO ROBERTS



More than 400 physicians participated in a national study conducted by Adventist Health System that examined their experiences assessing the spiritual needs of patients.

A first-of-its-kind study of spirituality in physician practices, conducted by Adventist Health System, a faith-based health care organization, in collaboration with the Duke University School of Medicine's Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health, has reached its completion. The year-long study, called *Faith in Practice*, examines the attitudes and practices of physicians as they relate to the integration of spirituality in patient care. It was designed to introduce practical strategies for the application of spiritual care in outpatient physician care.

"What we learn from this study could in many ways positively change the way care is administered, and that is exciting," said Don Jernigan, Ph.D., president/CEO of Adventist Health System. "Our organization's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ is as much about the spiritual as it is the clinical, and it's only fitting that we are at the leading edge of a study of this nature."

The study, conducted in more than two dozen Adventist Health System facilities across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Illinois, included roughly 520 physicians and providers of varying faiths, and some with no religious affiliation at all, who volunteered to participate and ask three questions to the patients they see:

- Do you have a faith-based support system to help you in times of need?
- Do you have any religious beliefs that might influence your medical decisions?
- Do you have any other spiritual concerns that you would like someone to address?

"We want to see how physicians view spiritual assessments of patients, and if they view it as an integral part of their practice," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., vice president of medical mission for Adventist Health System. "It's really about whole-person care, and if addressing the spiritual needs of patients can help contribute to improved outcomes,

there is no reason why health care providers shouldn't view the integration of spirituality in physician practices as good medicine."

As part of the study, physicians began by taking a brief survey to assess their attitudes and practices toward addressing the spiritual issues of patients in clinical practice, which was followed by an orientation. Participating physicians then retook the survey one month after the orientation, and again after a year of experience assessing patients' spiritual needs in practice.

"The sheer number of physicians who volunteered to participate in the study seems to indicate that there is a large cohort of providers who, with patient permission and the proper training and support, will embrace spiritual assessments in their practice," said Kathy Perno, director of medical mission integration for Adventist Health System.

Other research studies have shown that nearly three-quarters of patients who enter a primary doctor's practice would welcome dialog with their physician about spirituality. The *Faith in Practice* project follows 30 years of research by Harold G. Koenig, M.D., director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health at the Duke University School of Medicine, that suggests a direct relationship between spiritual and religious involvement and human health.

"Caring for the spiritual needs of patients dealing with an ailment can be influential as it pertains to their psychological health and their ability to manage the situation at hand," said Koenig. "There is a tremendous number of patients who are at least open to discussing their spiritual needs with their physician, and we are seeking to find greater understanding of physicians' willingness and satisfaction in engaging patients on this topic."

After extensive analysis, the results from the *Faith in Practice* study are expected to be released in the mid-to-late 2017. ●

The SILVER AND GOLD

are Mine, Declares the Lord

BY **MARIEL LOMBARDI**

Nayeli and Anthony Nix attend the Collegedale Hispanic-American Church on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. This church has embarked on a project supported by the University. The number of Hispanic students have grown significantly in recent years, and Southern is the only University that has an Hispanic church on its campus. This allows the students to be active, serving in different ministries. This is the stage where there is a greater percentage of young people leaving the Adventist Church. Involving them in the leadership of the local church, and offering programs focused on spiritual growth, is part of the solution to this problem, as it affirms their sense of spiritual identity.

The attendance of young people in this church has grown remarkably. The temple is small. For this reason, they have launched a project that includes the construction of a building with a capacity for 700 people. It will have a media production center to facilitate the mission — to record and broadcast evangelism programs — of the members and students. Money is being collected via donations and the financial commitments acquired by the members.

They are praying a lot, because this is not an easy goal for a small congregation. However, since the project will take time, the members have decided not to wait until they have the new building to continue their mission. They are developing evangelistic campaigns on social networks, and these are recorded and distributed as material for evangelism. Many countries within the Hispanic world are reached this way. Nearly 60,000 people are following the campaigns, and the students and church members are enthusiastically col-



Anthony and Nayeli Nix with their three children, Denise, Anthony, and Areli.

laborating. The story of Anthony Nix and his wife, Nayeli, took place in this context.

One Saturday morning, Nayeli was helping out in an activity of the Children's Department. Her husband sat alone during worship service. Joel Barrios, pastor of the Collegedale Hispanic-American Church, preached a sermon appealing to the brotherhood to collaborate in this endeavor. He expressed that this might require sacrifices. Anthony listened very carefully, and was not pressured by the sermon, but was filled with a huge desire to devote time and money into this cause.

Whenever they make a financial decision, the Nixes do not act until they are both in agreement. This time, with a bit of fear of deciding independently, Anthony promised God to give about 90 percent of his January 2017 salary. Not having consulted with his wife, he was a little tense. In his mind, he rehearsed over and over the way he would tell her about his decision.

Nayeli is a full-time student, and ahs and her husband have three small children. Anthony is studying theology part-time and working at the University's supermarket, where his salary is earned by answering the telephone, doing accounting work, and helping with the purchasing of merchandise. Giving the news to his wife

would not be easy, he thought. As he did so, her response was, "WHAT?" Without disguising her astonishment. As if to soften the situation, Anthony proposed that they listen to the sermon the pastor had preached, and she did not object. After listening attentively, she said with certainty: "I am willing to make that sacrifice, and I am happy to help others know God." Anthony's happiness could not be described.

During that time the management of the supermarket changed. The new manager assessed Anthony's responsibilities, and realized that his salary did not cover them. Generally, the increases granted are three or four percent per year, which is equivalent to about \$500 per year. To Anthony's surprise, the increase that was granted far exceeded what he had expected and what he had donated for the project.

God does not need our money. He gave Anthony more than he had donated to the church. He only wants our trust, because He knows that we need it to walk our way in peace with the security of His care.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit," Jeremiah 17:7, 8 NKJV. 📖

Mariel Lombardi is the SURF customer service and accounts manager at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.



Central Florida's Only Free Heart Clinic for Uninsured is "a God-send"



It's all smiles as Wanda Forbes and her husband reunite with some of the Florida Hospital employees who are committed to providing free care to those who need it the most. Pictured are Adam Wamack (left), Florida Hospital Foundation; Barry Egolf, Cath Lab manager; and Wanda Forbes, Heart Care Center patient, and her husband, Robert Forbes.



Wanda Forbes describes the compassionate care she received at Florida Hospital's Heart Care Center, and how this free clinic helped save her life.

Florida Hospital's Trina Hidalgo Heart Care Center was established to provide exceptional medical treatment and compassionate care to uninsured and Medicaid heart failure and cardiology patients. Countless underserved patients have their lives back because of the care they received, and one woman credits the clinic with saving her life.

Wanda Forbes was nearly three months into a new job when she suffered a heart attack. Doctors rushed Forbes into surgery and saved her life, but she faced new setbacks: She was uninsured and — soon after — laid off.

Forbes needed vital follow-up medical care, but without insurance or income she couldn't pay for medications or office visits. She went six months without cardiac care.

That was until her husband took her to the Trina Hidalgo Heart Care Center, the only clinic of its kind in central Florida. The clinic provides free care to the uninsured suffering from cardiac conditions.

Since opening its doors in Orlando 10 years ago, more than 2,000 people have been treated at the Heart Care Center. Combined, they've

made more than 21,000 visits over the years.

"It's amazing. It's a God-send," said Forbes. "I am just so grateful."

About 45 percent of the Heart Care Center's patients have heart failure — a disabling condition with a 50 percent death rate within five years.

The Heart Care Center is a national model to ensure no heart failure or cardiology patient goes without medical treatment due to an inability to pay, while also reducing readmission rates and health care costs for all.

The team at the Heart Care Center, funded by Florida Hospital and the Florida Hospital Foundation, ensures patients are educated about their condition, linked to community resources, and receive consistent care. The clinical team also makes sure patients are supported in other ways, such as with transportation to appointments.

"We are called to extend the healing ministry of Christ, not just in our hospitals, but in our community," said Kimberly Bell, assistant vice president of operations with Florida Hospital's Cardiovascular Institute.

"The Trina Hidalgo Heart Care Center is the perfect example of what happens when our community and other organizations come together and help our neighbors with life-saving health care that they otherwise could not afford."

The Trina Hidalgo Heart Care Center has been supported by Florida Hospital and through private donations — roughly \$2 million has been provided through the Florida Hospital Foundation.

In honor of the 10-year anniversary of the Trina Hidalgo Heart Care Center, Cushman & Wakefield announced a \$125,000 donation to the Florida Hospital Foundation, earmarked for the Center.

"The Heart Care Center does so much for so many with so little, and we feel honored to support their efforts," said Jeffrey S. Sweeney, senior director at Cushman & Wakefield of Florida. "Cushman & Wakefield is pleased to be part of a continued legacy of giving to those in need." ●

BY MEGHAN HALLEY

Patient Experience Summit Underscores “Uncommon Compassion” in Caregiving



Adventist Health System’s sixth annual Patient Experience Summit was attended by more than 700 health professionals and highlighted “Uncommon Compassion” in caregiving.



Patience Carter, a survivor of the July 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla., reflects on the compassionate care she received as a patient at Florida Hospital during the 2016 Patient Experience Summit.

Adventist Health System (AHS) recently held its sixth annual Patient Experience Summit in Kissimmee, Fla. The two-day event, hosted by AHS’ corporate patient experience team, brought together more than 700 health professionals and caregivers from across the country to recognize the organization’s system-wide efforts to enhance the patient experience, and provided an expansive forum that included renowned speakers, best practice sharing, continuing education, and networking opportunities.

The theme of this year’s Summit, “Uncommon Compassion,” was on full display from the start as the summit opened with a welcome and poignant patient story that centered on the life-saving care delivered by Florida Hospital Orlando for victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. Patience Carter, a survivor of the shooting who was treated at Florida Hospital, was in attendance and took to the stage to recount the exceptional care, compassion, and support she received from the care team as a patient following the tragedy. She also had an opportunity to re-unite with the care team at the Summit.

Adventist Health System senior leaders were a fixture at the event, leading prayers, sharing stories that illustrate uncommon compassion, and outlining the organization’s vision and continuous commitment to further enhance the patient experience system-wide.

“The pioneers who started our health care

system 150 years ago were motivated by uncommon compassion,” said Don Jernigan, Ph.D., president/CEO of Adventist Health System. “I believe that uncommon compassion happens through God’s Spirit moving in a person’s life, and our mission of ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ’ through the patient experience has a very direct and positive effect on patients and caregivers alike. As we aim for the top quartile nationally in patient experience, it will take caregivers who consistently show this level of care and compassion.”

Keynotes by nationally known speakers, including Press Ganey CEO Patrick Ryan, and CNO Christy Dempsey, in addition to Michael Hubble, managing director of The Advisory Board, provided thought-provoking and insightful dialogue that focused on the latest and future health care trends, research related to patient-centered care, as well as family and employee engagement. National speaker Vicki Hess provided deeper insights into employee engagement and its strong connection to the patient experience, while national patient speaker Tiffany Christensen shared her own personal health care journey in a compelling presentation about always keeping the patient at the center of care. All keynote sessions focused on the “why,” reiterating the importance of AHS’ intentional efforts to deliver uncommon compassion to patients and families every day.

Breakout sessions throughout the summit featured top-performers who shared their best

practices and journeys, in addition to topics like leadership rounding, CREATION Health, and post-acute care, providing educational and collaboration opportunities for attendees.

The patient experience mobile application was also prominently featured during the Summit, enabling the event to go nearly paperless throughout. The app allowed attendees to access personalized agendas, view a real-time activity feed, share photos, and communicate with others at the Summit.

Additionally, numerous facilities and care teams across AHS were recognized for their achievements and patient experience efforts in areas that include inpatient, emergency department, ambulatory surgery, outpatient, and post-acute services.

“Patient experience is truly the embodiment of our mission of ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ,’ and caregivers throughout our system deliver on that mission every single day,” said Pam Guler, vice president and chief patient experience officer for Adventist Health System. “It brings us great joy to see that so many embrace treating patients with uncommon compassion, as if they were their own family members, and we believe the Patient Experience Summit will be a catalyst that only furthers those efforts.”

The 2016 Patient Experience Summit was sponsored by Adventist Health System partners Press Ganey and MyRounding. 📍

BY MARIO ROBERTS

Women’s Retreat Receives Power During Storm



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

The women of the Carolina Conference are a determined and resourceful group. Even a hurricane couldn’t dissuade them from coming to their annual Women’s Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch.

The Hispanic women spent the weekend together, September 30-October 1, 2016, sharing fellowship and sisterly love, and gaining insights from their featured speakers: Antonieta Silva, a Venezuelan who now lives in Ecuador, and Magaly Minaya, who came from the Dominican Republic. Inspirational messages were heard throughout the weekend, including Saturday evening when Silva broached the often-avoided subject of the sexual side of marriage, and how it relates to a spiritually happy home.

The following weekend, October 7-9, it was time for the English-speaking women to travel to the camp, but a storm was brewing just off the Carolina shores. Hurricane Matthew kept some from venturing out, but more than half of the original 240 who registered braved the weather to attend. The strong wind and rain knocked out the power on Sabbath, but the worship speaker, Brenda Walsh of 3ABN, just quipped, “God gave me a big voice for a reason,” and kept on talking. She shared her testimony with the women in the dark, but there was a glow of the Spirit on every face as they listened to the Word of the Lord through His servant. This was the first retreat for the new women’s ministries director, Cynthia Mercer, but she

Antonieta Silva was the guest speaker for the retreat.

came through the whirlwind with much prayer and hard work, and was happy with the results of her team’s efforts.

The theme for both retreats was “Blessed Beyond Measure.” If the response of these women was any indication, they certainly were. ●

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Carolina Holds Lay Leadership Training for Church Growth



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

More than 80 individuals with a passion for church growth and a desire for evangelism training convened at the Carolina Conference office in Charlotte, N.C., on September 17, 2016, for the second annual Lay Leader/Pas-

tor-Coach Training. This number was up from 67 attendees last year. The room was packed, which was encouraging to Brad Cauley, church planting and church growth director. He has been motivating and inspiring the Carolina churches to keep moving forward in their expansion goals, and this event was intended to offer the tools to make it happen.

Testimonies and discussions were a big part of the day, providing a chance for lay leaders to share what does and does not work in the church planting arena. Maury Gilmore and Susan Smith, certified Chris-

tian conciliators through Peacemaker Ministries, shared tips on how to respond to conflict biblically. Evangelism training for church plants was given by the Carolina Conference evangelist, Steve Vail, and Cauley presented a session on what is expected of church plant leaders.

The Conference has set high goals for church planting and church growth in the Carolinas, and is doing everything possible to meet them. Feel the call to make a difference? It's time for you to get involved, too! 📌

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Carolina, South Atlantic Hold Joint Evangelistic Crusade



PHOTO BY: DOMINGO PAULINO



PHOTO BY: DOMINGO PAULINO

Recently, several of the church members in the Raleigh and Durham, N.C., areas had the opportunity to participate in an evangelistic crusade entitled “Tenemos Vida” (We Have Life). As a school of evangelism, it provided the churches with the opportunity to learn firsthand how to prepare their members to reach others with the Gospel of salvation. Through the practical training and community work, along with the ministry of intercessory prayer, members learned by experience the method of Christ to reach souls for the Kingdom.

After participating in this school of evangelism, they decided to put what they had learned to use. Joining several other

churches from the South Atlantic Conference, they began to plan the evangelistic crusade. The preparation process began on August 29, 2015, and included instruction, community work, and a march against female violence called “End It Now.” At the heart of this process was the spiritual preparation of participating churches. Through small group meetings, prayer ministry, and 40 days of devotional conference calls at 6 a.m., the churches prepared themselves for the upcoming crusade.

The meetings were led by Roger Hernandez, ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union, along with his wife and assistant, Kathy. The meetings took place in the ARC (the multi-use facility for

the Raleigh Church), and were held from March 19-27, 2016. As a result of the crusade, 30 people were baptized! Seventeen of these new believers joined the Durham Spanish and Raleigh churches of the Carolina Conference. Along with the 30 who were baptized as a result of the crusade, 50 more have cumulatively joined these churches through baptism and profession of faith since August 2015 (the beginning of their ministry). The group continues to pray as the Lord is working on the hearts of the people in the Raleigh and Durham areas, and praises Him for those who have already accepted His call! 📌

BY DOMINGO PAULINO

Florida Conference Officers Re-elected at Constituency Session



PHOTO BY: LEE BENNETT

Florida Conference officers were re-elected at the 71st Regular Constituency Session on October 9, 2016. Victor Rodríguez (left), Executive Secretary M. Carmen Rodríguez, Dottie Cauley, President Michael F. Cauley, Marilyn Rollins, and Treasurer Duane C. Rollins.

Michael F. Cauley was re-elected president of Florida Conference on October 9, 2016, at the 71st Regular Constituency Session held on the campus of Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla. He has served in this position since 2003.

Cauley began his President's Report by saying, "Over the last four years, God has blessed Florida Conference in remarkable ways. It is really humbling to see how God continues to advance His kingdom throughout the entire state. God is at work. We give Him the praise."

M. Carmen Rodríguez, part of the administrative team since 2006, was re-elected as executive secretary. "God gave me a renewed appreciation for how He has led us during the past 122 years. In 1893, Florida Conference's membership was 139," said

Rodríguez. "We are happy to report that, as of December 31, 2015, our membership stood at 63,628. There were 206 organized churches, 56 companies, and 34 mission groups."

Re-elected as treasurer was Duane C. Rollins, who has served in this capacity since 2008. "There was a good passage in both tithe income and operating results, with a minor operating decrease in only one year of the quadrennium," said Rollins. He received accolades from Tom Evans, North American Division treasurer; Randy Robinson, Southern Union treasurer; and Michael Bond, General Conference auditor, for his fiscal responsibility and accountability.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, under the direction of Mark Buller, attorney, worked tirelessly on updating the

contents of these two documents, and the amendments were voted as presented.

The theme, "How God Has Led Us," was introduced this past summer in a special *Florida Focus* Quadrennial Report given to delegates at regional meetings and mailed to Conference members. The theme was carried into the Session in the officers' reports.

Special guests of the Constituency Session included Dan Jackson, North American Division president, who presented the devotional, and Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union Conference president, who brought the Nominating Committee report to the floor. 📌

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Full-time Health Coordinator Appointed for Jacksonville Area



PHOTO BY: JUDI FRENCH

André Van Heerden (left), pastor of Orange Cove Church; Andrea Richardson, health outreach coordinator; and Willie Lees, former executive director of Barco Newton YMCA for Clay and Baker Counties

Jacksonville, Fla., area churches recently appointed Andrea Richardson as a full-time coordinator for a city-

wide health outreach program. “It has always been my passion to extend the healing ministry of Jesus to our cities,” says Richardson, a dietitian by profession.

Eight churches in the Greater Jacksonville area have partnered to reach the city for Christ. This collaborative health initiative will precede Florida Conference’s Impact Jacksonville 2017. The contacts reached through holistic health classes and cooking schools will form a database for this area-wide evangelistic thrust and other outreach programs.

CREATION Health weekend health intensives were held at Orange Cove, Mandarin, Southpoint, and Jacksonville First churches with additional sessions planned.

These short, concentrated sessions give members an overview of the content within the CREATION Health videos and workbooks. By recruiting church members to serve as facilitators, the number of classes being held can be expanded.

Also planned this fall are training sessions for holistic health facilitators to become health coaches. They will learn skills to coach class participants in making choices to improve their overall health.

To partner in this initiative, contact Andrea Richardson at 904-502-8545, or via email at andrea.richardson16@aol.com.

BY ANDREA RICHARDSON

Forest City Spanish Church Holds Let’s Get Moving Kids Event

“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly,” *John 10:10.*

My husband, Ruben, and I had no idea that children could get arthritis just like adults until it happened to our daughter, Liz, at the age of two. Liz was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). She developed pain, swelling, and decreased range of motion in some joints. She also came down with inflammation of her left eye (uveitis).

While waiting for treatment, Liz was determined to walk. She would drag her legs to get to where she wanted to go. We could see that she had pain, yet she clung onto her God-given strength and “walked.”

In the midst of confusion, God reminded us of promises such as “Be still and know that I am God,” *Psalms 46:10.* Our family fasted and prayed to hear God’s voice regarding treatment. God led us to combine natural and conventional medicine.

Ten months later, Forest City Spanish Church held its first Let’s Get Moving Kids event at Crane’s Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. Liz was able to run the 1/8-mile! Praise God! She received her finisher medallion with a smile on her face. God is good! It was worth all the hard work. Liz inspired us to provide an event where children and families can get excited about crossing the finish line, too. Whether it is the 1/8-mile, 3K, or 5K, there is a place for everyone.

On October 2, 2016, Forest City Spanish Church members celebrated the 6th Annual Let’s Get Moving Kids event. The family-friendly event included a health fair, exhibits to promote health, and a place to run/walk a 5K, 3K, or 1/8-mile course. The church was able to show that living a healthy life is part of its members’ values.

The North American Division encouraged other congregations to start events such as these. There are now thousands of families

around the world who have joined Let’s Move Day in the last six years. More information is available at LetsGetMovingKids.org.



PHOTO BY: BELKYS BRITO

Forest City Spanish Church held its 6th annual Let’s Get Moving Kids event on October 2, 2016, at Crane’s Roost Park in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

BY SHIRLEY FLORES

Stone Mountain Church Hosts Community-Cop Talk



SUBMITTED BY JOEL HONORÉ



SUBMITTED BY JOEL HONORÉ

Joel Honoré, pastor of the Stone Mountain Church, moderates the Community-Cop Talk panel this past August. Church members hoped to open communication between the community and their local police. This event is the first of many to foster understanding.

In the wake of numerous police shootings, protests, and racial tension from this summer, Stone Mountain Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., hosted its first Community-Cop Talk on Sabbath, August 27, 2016. The church members felt that addressing issues of police violence in an open forum would serve the community's need to express its frustration over the controversial actions of law enforcement in a constructive manner. The DeKalb County Police Department (DCPD), which has jurisdiction where the church is located, is responsible for the safety of 691,893 residents in the third largest county in Georgia.

An invitation was extended to the Tucker Precinct to interact with the public at the Stone Mountain Church. The DCPD, along with other local police officers, came to engage the community in a dialogue about community policing.

During the meeting, attendees were able

to gain a better understanding on police procedures, and hear testimonies from officers who were also victims of shootings. A panel of area clergy, including Shaun Brooks, pastor of Atlanta All Nations Adventist Church; Karl Moore, pastor of Clarkston First Baptist Church; George Tatro, pastor of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church; and D. Richard Henderson, Bible instructor at Stone Mountain Adventist Church, voiced concerns on behalf of the Christian community.

Major Greg Padrick, Precinct Commander, along with various lieutenants, captains, sergeants, detectives, and patrol officers, fielded questions from the clergy panel, and responded to the public in an open mic question-and-answer session. The conversation was moderated by Joel Honoré, pastor of Stone Mountain Church.

Police officers attended the Sabbath worship service and socialized with congregants during fellowship dinner before the Community-Cop Talk program held in the afternoon.

Several officers expressed appreciation for the worship service, as well as the lunch and afternoon session. Numerous visitors, who heard the program advertised, attended the afternoon session. One person who had not attended an Adventist church in more than 18 years came that afternoon. She has since decided to worship at Stone Mountain Church regularly, and is considering rebaptism.

The August 27 event was only the beginning of an ongoing conversation. Subsequent meetings have taken place between church leaders and the police department, and another Community-Cop Talk was held in October. 📍

BY DERAEL ARMSTRONG AND JOEL HONORÉ

ACF Chapters Launches at Georgia Southern University



Leaders for the Georgia Southern University ACF Chapter: Odari Whyte, student chaplain; Dymond Cheeves, Ogeechee Tech student; Kimberly Brown, treasurer; Ashley Burrows, president; and Merlin McClendon, Odari's mother.

SUBMITTED BY MICHAELA LAWRENCE JEFFREY

they learn more about Jesus, and spread the news of His second coming to our community at Georgia Southern and in Statesboro. We would like to see the chapter double in number within the first year, and continue to grow over the upcoming years.

Q. How have you already seen God at work through your chapter?

A. Since I've been at Georgia Southern, someone asks each semester what we'll do when a particular person leaves. My answer is always that God will send someone. Thus far, He has, and I know He will provide again when a few of the officers graduate in May.

Georgia Southern's ACF chapter has a few key components: the group is connected to its campus (versus existing unto itself), it has an involved faculty/staff advisor, and it has an active relationship with a local church. Where these components exist, healthy community is fostered and the group is likely to thrive.

Chapters serve as invaluable sources of social and spiritual support to students, as well as providing opportunities for outreach. If you are a student at Georgia Southern, don't hesitate to connect to the ACF chapter there: www.acfgcc.org/georgiasouthern.

Please pray not only for this chapter, but for every chapter across the Southern Union as God reveals His love through the students on their campuses. Contact the following regional leaders for information about public campus ministry:

Carolina — Eddie Cornejo,
ecornejo@carolinasda.org

Georgia-Cumberland — Michaela Lawrence Jeffery,
mlawrence@gccsda.com

Florida — Angelo Grasso,
angelo.j.grasso@gmail.com

Kentucky-Tennessee — Nelson Silva,
nsilva@kytn.net

South Central — Lola Moore, lola.
moore@scc-adventist.org ●

It is exciting to see how students come together with local support to develop into an Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) chapter on their campus. The chapter at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., became an official student organization on August 23, 2016. Here's an interview with Ashley Burrows, ACF president.

Q. For those unfamiliar with Georgia Southern, how would you describe your campus?

A. Georgia Southern is the heart of Statesboro, a small town in southeast Georgia. The campus has something for all — scenery, school spirit, many activities, and great academic programs. Some regular events include drive-in movie nights, fitness challenges, intramural sports, professional growth seminars, and concerts.

Q. When did you start planning to become an ACF chapter?

A. I decided about a year ago (Fall 2015). A group of young adults had been meeting for a few years on Friday nights for Bible study, and as the main leader graduated, I decided to take on the role of having weekly meetings. Over time, we all expressed the desire to become an organization in order to have access to advertising, recruitment, and monetary support from the school. Major plans began Spring 2016, and in a few months we were ready to officially apply.

Q. What factors helped you develop?

A. The support of our local church here in Statesboro and the commitment of other young people that I now call friends contributed to the development of the organization. In addition, I believe God played a major role. There was a time when we did not even have enough people, according to the school's guidelines for officers and initial members, to start a club, and in no time that issue was fixed. We also got the opportunity to attend an ACF leadership conference at Cohutta Springs in 2015 that opened the door for us to network and receive advice.

Q. What was particularly challenging about the process?

A. The process was not particularly challenging. I would say that the challenge began after receiving confirmation from the school. Major concerns are recruitment and retention of members.

Q. Do you have any sense of how many Adventist students there are at Georgia Southern?

A. No. We have a handful of regular members, but we know that there are so many more. Students have expressed knowing of others who are from their home churches that they see around campus, but even then we're sure that is only a fraction of the number.

Q. What are some of your hopes for the chapter?

A. Our mission is to provide a community for students who wish to fellowship as

BY MICHAELA LAWRENCE JEFFREY

4MAT: Reaching All Types of Learners at Highland Academy

Since every student learns differently, each student at Highland Academy is tested to see what their preferred learning type is. For the last three years, Highland has embraced a new learning initiative called 4Mation (4MAT).

4MAT helps teachers engage students by incorporating innovative and engaging ways of learning with traditional instruction. Learning types fall into Quadrant 1, Q2, Q3, and Q4. Each quadrant represents a unique learning method.

Once tested, students, teachers, and parents are then informed on what the student's learning preferences are, and what strategies help them learn best. Huge differences have already been seen.

Bliss Kuntz, Highland science teacher, shared how she is now incorporating 4MAT into her classes. "I still teach traditional lectures, still use worksheets and laboratory activities which engage the Q2 and Q3 stu-



Highland students Brylee Burns (left), Sophia Cirigliano, Savannah Blanco, and Jasper Westerbeck are engaged in the new 4MAT learning initiative.

dents. However, I now include a connecting experience at the beginning of the unit that correlates to the lesson. This engages the Q1 students. When the lecture and practice is finished, the Q4 students are still in need of attention. Therefore, as we complete the unit, I also include a creative project to engage Q4. This helps Q4 students use the in-

formation from the unit to make something innovative or unique which resonates with them. Not every student enjoys each aspect of the unit, but every student's learning type is targeted in each unit."

Over the last 10 years, Highland's average ACT scores have been almost three points higher than the state of Tennessee. The data continues to support that Highland students are receiving a quality education, and are being prepared to become productive citizens in this competitive world. 4MAT continues to build on the excellent academics at Highland Academy. However, excellent academics are in vain if students are not brought closer to the Lord. Above all the academic endeavors, it is the goal at Highland for students to have as many encounters with their Savior, making disciples for Jesus Christ. ❶

BY AMY CIRIGLIANO

Taylor Mill Christian Academy Students Participate in Worship Service



PHOTO BY: MICHELLE HULIN

Byrlee Burns (left), Sophia Cirigliano, Savannah Blanco, Jasper Westerbeck

Students from Taylor Mill Christian Academy led out in the worship service on October 22, 2016, hosting guest speaker Ignacio Silverio, aka "Pastor Nacho," from the Madison Campus. Students composed, prepared for, and

delivered the platform duties and preliminaries, including announcements, children's story, song service, Scripture, special music, introduction of the speaker, and everything in between. They also planned and decorated for the fellowship meal following the service. One of the highlights of the service was a special tribute to Tom Bentley, pastor of the Taylor Mill Church in Taylor Mill, Ky. The students created a study guide to look very similar to one he would typically have for his sermons. They led the congregation to discover biblical texts that highlighted how to honor spiritual leaders. The pastor and his wife then received a card, a gift, and flowers for Julie Bentley. The majority of the program

was composed by the students themselves, and while intended to be a blessing for the congregation and a thank-you for the steady support given to the school, students couldn't help but be touched in their own hearts as well.

"Education Sabbath was extremely emotional in every way. The kids did a good job carrying out the jobs of the platform duties. We were impressed with the praise team and the other duties the kids performed. The sermon really touched me on a personal level; it felt like he was talking to you and he knew you. I have to say, this last Sabbath was one of the best." ❶

BY ELI BENTLEY, 8TH GRADE

Memphis-Raleigh Church's Simply Vegan Cooking Classes Continue

The Memphis-Raleigh, Tenn., Church's monthly Simply Vegan cooking classes have been ongoing for about 18 months. A survey from participants revealed that the number one interest was for a weight loss program. The *21-Day Weight Loss Kickstart* book by Neal Barnard, M.D., was chosen for the four-week class.

For the first session, the participants met at a local Kroger to read labels, sample food, and identify and purchase foods that fit the criteria of the program. Then, it was on to the kitchen to prepare the foods and eat. Each week they prepared food together,



Brenda and Margaret Cowen

er, ate dinner together, and then reviewed and discussed the reading assignments together. The group united quickly.

Prayer and Bible verses on health were part of each session. The beauty of the program was the emphasis on health, not just weight

loss. Barnard's book explains how to boost the metabolism; the overall benefits of a plant-based dietary for longevity, reduced risk for cancer, relief of body pains, and cardiovascular health; and why a plant-based diet is a good choice for people of all ages. Family members and work associates also benefited from the class, and the participants shared the Bible verses, foods, and their new knowledge. This event was an effective way to connect with the community, nurture interests, and get to know people from other churches in the area. 📍

BY LESLIE CAZA

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia Offers Fellowship

Founded in 1950, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA), located in Madison, Tenn., provides graduate-level education and training of nurse anesthetists in a Christian environment born of its Seventh-day Adventist heritage. MTSA is the only independent, fully accredited anesthesia institution of its kind in the nation, instilling excellence through innovative and diverse clinical experience.

Founded in 1931 and located in Park Ridge, Ill., the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) is the professional organization for more than 49,000 nurse anesthetists across the United States. As anesthesia specialists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) safely provide approximately 40 million anesthetics to patients each year for surgical, obstetrical, pain management, and trauma stabilization services. CRNAs deliver essential healthcare in thousands of communities, and are able to prevent gaps in access to anesthesia services, especially in rural, inner-city, and other medically underserved areas of the country.

MTSA and the AANA have partnered to offer a postgraduate Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship (ASPMF) through MTSA, beginning summer 2017. The objective of this new certificate program, a component of the AANA Pain Management Curriculum, is to advance the knowledge and skills of CRNAs in acute surgical pain management, and prepare them to help meet the growing need for this evidence-based approach in the United States.

"We continue to see a growing demand among nurse anesthetists for a better approach to acute surgical pain management," said Chris Hulin, DNP, MBA, CRNA, president of MTSA. "There are new technologies and advanced intervention techniques that didn't exist just a few years ago. We felt it was critical to offer a highly specialized program for our students, many of whom have extensive experience and want to stay on the cutting edge of the field. The Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship enables them to do that."

The field of pain management is continually growing. Increasing numbers of



CRNAs participate in a prerequisite workshop for MTSA's Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship.

patients will undergo surgery, and CRNAs will be responsible for managing these patients' acute pain. The AANA/MTSA Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship will equip CRNAs with the necessary knowledge and skill sets to meet this growing demand. From medical management approaches, such as multimodal therapies and opioid sparing strategies, to advanced interventional techniques, including continuous catheter utilization, CRNAs will acquire the knowledge to treat these patients with confidence and skill. 📍

BY JEFF KRINKS

Decatur Adventist Junior Academy on the Move



Addison Burdin (left) and Julia Nixon dissect a fish during science class.

Hidden down a long driveway in the heart of a busy industrial area, Decatur Adventist Junior Academy (DAJA) is experiencing a stellar school year. A lower than expected enrollment is providing the opportunity for innovative, individualized learning, with one-on-one instruction as the norm. A large entry-hall television monitor welcomes visitors and volunteers, keeps track of activities, and celebrates students' achievements. The bright bulletin boards outside classroom doors announce that something special is going on at DAJA. One of the new students was heard saying, "This is the best school ever."

On a special evening, September 23, 2016, teachers, parents, seniors, church and school board members, and excited students lined the hall outside a closed door with a yellow ribbon stretched across. Everyone, including the Conference vice president for education, Kim Gaiter, was waiting for the grand opening of the Decatur Adventist Junior Academy Science Lab. Principal Yvette Cooper arrived at the school last year with a vision for a science/STEM lab, and teachers enthusiastically embraced the vision. Students got excited. People caught the vision. The Jett Setters, Decatur Adventist Church's senior group, held their annual fundraiser and donated the funds to the science lab. The Friends of DAJA, a support group, hosted a golf tournament; and, private donors came together to help fund the science lab.

When the ribbon was cut, the first-class

science/STEM lab was opened. The lab contains the latest state-of-the-art Promethean Board (funded largely by the Jett Setters), a science touch table, a Listening Center with activities for the youngest students, large models of simple machines, and detailed models of human body systems. But that's not all. Lining the walls are iPads, coding activities, an electronic microscope, a projector with its own interactive table, and a coat rack outfitted with lab aprons, gloves, and equipment for dissecting and experiments. But, even that still is not all! On the back wall of the lab is a working fountain with live plants. Not far away is located Critter County, an innovative shelf/cage display with fish, gerbils, hermit crabs, and even a snake, all live and thriving. This lab is used daily by excited students for a variety of activities. It was just as the kindergarten class completed their first activity in the lab when several students enthusiastically declared, "Please, Mrs. Hupp, can this be our classroom?"

DAJA provides even more cutting-edge science/STEM instruction through an engineer with a love for Christian education who volunteers at the school, teaching science and STEM classes weekly to students in grades K-8. She has also established a robotics class. Students who attend this class are a part of a team that will compete this spring in the First Lego League competition, a competition sponsored by this organization to inspire future scientists and engineers by engaging children in real-world engineering and problem-solving challenges.

Emphasizing the science curriculum does not mean other curriculum areas are being ne-



Opening night of the new science lab

glected. DAJA continues to maintain School of Excellence standards. Cooper and teachers are planning a Reading Achievement Center, a room designed to encourage reading at all levels. A specialist will track the students' growth in the areas of reading and literacy. The center will also be a reading diagnostic center for students in grades K-8. Students will be assessed, and an intervention plan developed to monitor progress.

While challenging students to compete and excel in the modern world, the spiritual emphasis so critical to the school's mission is not neglected. October 27, 2016, was designated "Call to Prayer and Pastors' Appreciation Day." This is the second year that DAJA has invited pastors from around the Atlanta area, especially the pastors of the students enrolled at the school, to join students and staff for a special day of prayer. Students placed their prayer requests on the prayer wall. Pastors were assigned to each classroom to pray for God's blessing and guidance on the students and their requests. In addition, special prayers were offered for the country during this turbulent time. After prayer, pastors and students proceeded to the cafetorium where tables were beautifully decorated. Junior and senior choirs sang, and poems of appreciation were spoken. The pastors received a framed picture of the students who attend their church. All the pastors and elders expressed their appreciation as they enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast.

"True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above all information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements; character," *Education*, page. 225, Ellen G. White.

DAJA welcomes all visitors to experience an Adventist school on fire with excited students, motivated teachers, committed supporters, cutting-edge educational experiences, and individualized instruction with a strong spiritual foundation. 📍

BY ANITA CLAY

Berean Child Development Center Has “Listen, Learn, Have Fun” Motto



Berean Child Development Center

can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” is the mantra of Daria-Louise Darius, director of Berean Child Development Center (BCDC) in Atlanta, Ga., as she reflects on the growth and progress of the Center during the past few years.

On first impression, the Center is visually inviting, with a goal to provide a childcare center that values kindness and respect for each other in a nurturing and supporting setting. Darius explains, “We are very proud of our Center, and are anxious to make your child’s first learning experiences meaningful and happy. The choice to blend a Christian atmosphere with good learning materials, in a place that is fun and challenging for children, makes BCDC a special place. I am deeply involved in the children’s development in fun and learning. A recent (and ongoing) remodeling of the school had been a vision I had from God, and I’m grateful for the time, effort, and donations that have made this project possible. I had already developed a pre-conceived criterion for BCDC, which was based on God’s Word, ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens

me,’ Philippians 4:13. That bit of wisdom served as my guiding principle.

“The early years are critical in the life of a child and form the basis for character development and access in later formal education. Preschool is a great way to begin building the foundation of a child’s future. Established in 1962 as an extension of the Atlanta-Berean Church, the Center has now served the community for more than 54 years, and looks forward to many more years of service to the community. BCDC offers transitional experiences that extend the home into the school. As such, it provides a flexible program which considers the developmental stages of children, as well as their individual differences. In this environment, the children are stimulated to explore, think, discover, experiment, speak, manipulate, model, and create.

“Our Aim: To offer competent Christian child care for families of young children throughout the community.

“Our Philosophy: Cultivate the development of the proper balance with the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and practical aspects of life.

“Our Mission: Glorify God by partnering

with families in our church and community to provide quality Christian childcare, education, and development opportunities that will honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“Our Motto is Listen, Learn, and have Fun!”

The Center provides educational daycare programs designed for toddlers up to pre-kindergarten students. It offers a summer camp program designed for elementary children ages six to 12 years old. Also, the Center provides enrichment classes in music, Spanish, drama, and extra-curriculum in violin and soccer.

Visitors are welcome at BCDC. Call 404-799-7287, or email bereanchild@gmail.com. 📞



Three-year-old students in a BCDC classroom

BY DARIA-LOUISE DARIUS

Philadelphia Church Hosts “Love Your Neighbor Day”



Selita Harpe (left) cradles a baby while the mother selects free available items. Michael Harpe (center), pastor, delights in the joy of teamwork and service of the Philadelphia members, family, and friends.



A nurse administers a blood pressure test, while Linda Jones (center, white sweater), community services leader, is involved in a labor of love for the community.

Philadelphia Church in Pulaski, Tenn., is a small congregation where Michael Anthony Harpe, pastor, and his wife, Selita, serve. The church is known in the community for its blue doors, but the members of the church have been praying for the Holy Spirit’s help to live up to its name, “Philadelphia,” which means “Brotherly Love.”

The members hosted a community day for their neighbors in the Washington Heights community across the street from the church on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

They provided free blood pressure/glucose checks and chair massages. And, they gave away free socks; clothes for babies, toddlers, women, and men; and canned soup and applesauce. The children enjoyed popcorn, snacks, water, and juice drinks. Health information and truth-filled literature were distributed, and prayers were offered to many participants.

A good number of people came out and took advantage of the ministry. The mem-



The community walk through an assembly line to collect free items.

bers fellowshiped, made new friends in the community, and shared “Brotherly Love.” They thank their leaders with community services, Linda Jones, and health ministries, Bill and Louise Daniels; and the medical volunteers, members, helpers, and Washington Heights management for

partnering with the members. Please keep this ministry in prayer as they continue to allow the Holy Spirit to use them. 🙏

BY BRENDA ARMSTER, CHURCH CLERK

SOUL Impacts Souls in Jackson, Mississippi



“Fill with a Meal” is SOUL’s most famous ministry, feeding the homeless communities with a hot meal on Saturday mornings.



“Loads of Love,” pays for residents’ laundry as they arrive at random laundromats throughout the city. In addition to free laundry, the residents receive laundry detergents for their next trip to the laundromat.



Spreading Our Unconditional Love — SOUL, as it is affectionately known, is an outreach ministry of the South Jackson Church in Jackson, Miss. This ministry does exactly what its name implies, spreads Jesus’ unconditional love.

How is this accomplished? The ministry has sub-sections which work together to meet several basic human needs. First is Loads of Love, or LOL, a ministry dedicated to ensuring that community members have access to clean clothes; LOL pays for resident’s laundry as they arrive at random laundromats throughout the city. In addition to free laundry, residents receive laundry detergent for their next trip to the laundromat.

Helping Hands, affectionately known to young Adventurers as “the highest class in the club,” provides hygiene packs, also known as “blessing bags,” to homeless residents. Each bag includes toiletries, hand sanitizer, socks, washcloth, a snack, and a bottle of water.

Sole to SOUL is a sneaker ministry, providing brand name sneakers to homeless men, ensuring that they have quality shoes to wear.

Fill with a Meal is the most famous min-

istry — feeding the homeless communities with a hot meal on Saturday mornings. Meals are fed in parks where the homeless often populate.

Starting in 2017, SOUL will expand its ministries to add sections primarily focusing on women and children, in addition to those listed above. They solicit prayers as they move forward. ①



“Sole to SOUL,” is a sneaker ministry providing brand name sneakers to homeless men.

BY VEDA JOHNY, MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Southeastern Conference Elects New Leadership



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, congratulates Gregory Mack, newly elected president of Southeastern Conference, and his wife, Gean.

On a warm Memorial Day weekend, Conference constituents gathered in Hawthorne, Fla., for the 11th Quadrennial Constituency Session, May 28-29, 2016. More than 1,600 delegates registered to attend, which would mark the highest delegate count in Conference history. The air was filled with excitement and anticipation as these emissaries prepared to receive God's next steward to lead the ministry.

The Session ceremonies began on Saturday night in the newly constructed dining hall. Great effort was made to improve both registration and participation. For the

second time, a wireless voting system was employed for the event. This updated system permitted easy tallying of votes and anonymity for the participants. Also as a first, the constituents registered with photo identification and were given scannable photo ID lanyards for fluid entry and reentry into the auditorium.

Constituents applauded these measures, appreciative of the thoughtful preparation for the proceedings. They also welcomed the changes as a microcosm of even greater reforms to come.

This event would also mark the fulfillment of Hubert J. Morel's second and fi-

nal term as president of the Southeastern Conference. Under Morel's leadership, Southeastern addressed the Conference's long-term debt, planted new churches, and renovated the campgrounds. The attendees celebrated his work and, by thundering applause, demonstrated their approval for his achievements.

By early afternoon, after the votes had been tallied, the representatives welcomed their sixth president, Gregory O. Mack, with the overwhelming support of the delegation.

Mack was born and raised in Miami, Fla., where he is a product of the ministry



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, gives words of encouragement to Michael Owusu, D.Min., newly elected executive secretary of Southeastern Conference, and his wife, Brenda.

of Bethany Church. He received the call of God at age 19, and went on to attend Oakwood University. At Oakwood, he received an associate of arts degree in communication and a bachelor of arts degree in theology. He later matriculated to Andrews University where he earned a master of divinity. Mack has served the Southeastern Conference faithfully for 35 years, including as executive secretary, where he served with great distinction.

Mack is happily married to the former Jean Johnson, and God has blessed them with two sons, Clint and Darren.

Mack hopes to lead Southeastern to execute ministry with excellence, to celebrate diversity, and to plan for the long-term propagation of the Gospel.

By the close of the Constituency Meeting, delegates had addressed constitutional changes and elected new officers who will aid in the execution of the new president's vision.

The new administration and leadership for the quadrennial term, 2016-2020:

- Gregory O. Mack, president
- Michael K. Owusu, executive secretary
- Robert Patterson Jr., chief financial officer
- Emmanuel Charles, assistant treasurer
- Nicola McClymont, human resources director
- Barbara Davis, education superintendent

- Clarence Wright, ministerial director
- Prince Lewis, youth ministries director
- Maxime Pape, Sabbath School director
- David L. Peay Sr., community services director
- Bryant Taylor, communications director
- Juan Gonzales, stewardship director
- Mark Brown, family life director
- Theus Young, publishing ministries
- Nicolas Louis, Haitian ministries director
- Roger Alvarez, Spanish ministries director

BY BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

TEAM — Together Everyone Achieves More — is Focus of Mission-driven Conference for Southeastern Leadership



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

John Grys, pastoral development specialist with the North American Division Ministerial Department, shares the importance of having a mission with focus and direction.

As the new Southeastern Conference administrative officers — Gregory Mack, president; Michael Owusu, executive secretary; and Robert Patterson, chief financial officer — began their tenure, it was pertinent for the new team to review the vision, mission, core values, and priorities

of the Conference, as well as to share a high-level overview of the roles, expectations, and accountabilities that each team member would be responsible to fulfill. To this end, an orientation was held July 16-20, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Fla., under the theme, “Together Everyone Achieves More,” another way of expressing the

necessity of “TEAM” work. Participants also included the newly elected executive committee members, departmental directors, and office personnel.

The orientation was guided by Paul Brantley, Ph.D., North American Division (NAD) general vice president for strategic planning and assessment, and



Steve Williams, Southeastern executive committee member, explains his drawing from a group activity as Paul Brantley, NAD general vice president for strategic planning and assessment, intently listens.



Lenore Brantley, Ed.D., shares the Conference's working theme, TEAM.

his team: John Grys, pastoral development specialist, NAD Ministerial Department; Rohann Wellington, strategy and communication director at Greater New York Conference; and Lenore Brantley, Ed.D., Adventist University of Health Sciences psychology professor. The Conference administrators and executive committee members received invaluable, detailed, and state-of-the-art

information vital to fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities. The leaders were challenged to create a culture of excellence by reviewing the organization's strategic plans, taking action to fulfill the plans, and reviewing the results to ensure progress.

The departmental directors were oriented and committed themselves to fulfilling their roles, duties, and re-

sponsibilities to the constituency of the Conference. Additionally, Brantley led discussions with the administrators and directors on TEAM visioning for the Southeastern Conference. The leaders reviewed strategies for recognizing and correcting for "mission drift," and transforming Southeastern to a mission-driven conference of excellence.

Edith Fraser, Ph.D., former Oakwood University Social Work Department chair, guided the training of the office staff with relevant topics, including confidentiality, time management, positive attitude, personal/professional work-life balance, interpersonal communication, self-management, and how to build the best "YOU."

Mack, along with his fellow administrators, outlined the expectations for accountability and stewardship of the departmental directors and office personnel. One-on-one consultations were held to review job descriptions and other expectations.

It is the intent of the new administration, with the help of God, to transform the Conference to become a mission-driven and Spirit-led institution that will be evidenced in the culture and ministry of churches, schools, and the Conference office. Southeastern seeks to be known as a conference of excellence, integrity, accountability, unity, and stewardship, that will receive God's seal of approval.

This training was well received and appreciated as indicated by the overwhelming satisfactory remarks on the post-session surveys. The confidence of the Conference's leadership team is well placed since God has already promised victory. News from Heaven indicates that God is "...able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think....," Ephesians 3:20.

The new leadership team seeks the prayers of the wider Seventh-day Adventist Church community as it strives to reach every corner of the Southeastern Conference with the Advent message of hope and wholeness! 🕊

BY SEC ADMINISTRATION

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

Gulf States Finds Living Testimonies at Bud's Best Cookies Company



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Adding honor to the list of blessings, Albert Cason (left) was recently nominated and won entry into the American Society of Baking Hall of Fame, the most prestigious award in the baking industry. Gail and Bud Cason stands with him.

If you consider yourself a baking aficionado, then you've heard of Bud's Best Cookies. Located in Birmingham Ala., the company is the brain child of CEO Albert "Bud" Cason, and is famous for its ground breaking bite-sized mini cookies, as well as its Uncle Al's cookie brand.

The Gulf States Conference staff took

a trip to the cookie plant, and what started as a field trip quickly turned into a living testimony of the blessings of God in the life of the Cason family. Before the tour, the group was met by the matriarch of the family, Bud Cason's wife, Gail Cason. She kept the staff on the edge of their seats as she recounted tales of Cason's small

beginnings working for his aunt and uncle's cookie business, venturing out on his own, to finally selling his two companies in 1986 — which by then had amassed a staggering 23 million in revenue.

Throughout it all, Gail Cason insists it was their faith in God and his Word that kept them on the right track. However, it was the prayers of a father and mother that brought their son, Albert Cason, back to the Church and into the family business. Cason, president of the company, gives the credit of his success to the example his father set for him: "Working for my father has been one of the greatest joys of my life." He also credits his mother's unceasing prayers as what helped him return to the faith, stating, "At the house you can literally see worn out parts on the ground where mother has spent time on her knees in prayer for me and countless others."

The tour of the plant was spectacular. The Conference staff was driven around first class on the CookieLand Express throughout the building to see how the legendary snacks are made and processed. The staff at Bud's Best work very hard, and every Friday at noon they close up shop in preparation for the Sabbath. When an employee asked Cason why they don't stay open on Fridays and work more hours, he used the conversation as an opportunity to share about the faith of his family and their commitment to God's Word. Martin Fancher, Conference treasurer, summed up the experience, saying, "The family's testimony is a shining example of how prayer, faith, and parents' love together with the love of God can bring about reconciliation and change our office staff was reminded of why we do what we do." The bite-sized vanilla wafers weren't half bad either. ☪

PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS



Bud's Best Cookies Company employees

BY TYLER ROBERTS

ADU Celebrates 25th Anniversary Milestone

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU), Orlando, Fla., has been celebrating its 25th anniversary this year by committing 25,000 hours of service and 25 volunteer events to benefit the community by August 2017. There's no better time of year than now, the Christmas season, to reflect on the ways to better aid the community. Steve Roche, vice president for student services at ADU, is enthusiastic. "We're looking forward to the impact we can make as we celebrate 25 years as part of the Orlando community. The response from students, faculty, and staff has been overwhelmingly positive."

The majority of ADU's service hours are contributed by students as part of their service learning assignments incorporated into course curriculum. The remaining hours will come from student, faculty, and staff volunteerism, both on and off campus.

Service learning provides students with the opportunity to apply classroom learning to the needs of the community. In keeping with ADU's mission to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ, all service projects prepare students to gain an understanding of populations in the community, those who will one day become their patients. Students have already completed several service learning projects, with a minimum of 82 course sections implementing a project for the fall and spring semesters. During ADU's annual Pulse Week, ADU shut down for the day, and more than 250 faculty and staff members from the University volunteered their time at Quest Inc.'s Camp Thunderbird, a recreational program designed for both children and adults with developmental disabilities. Here, attendees learned skills while making new friends and fond memories.

Another highly successful volunteer event teamed ADU with Blessings for Ba-



Alex Gallimore, an enrollment counselor at Adventist University of Health Sciences, helps to paint Forest City Spanish Church's new life management facility.

bies, a charitable organization that collects donations and assembles care packages for families of premature babies. Donated items were brought to ADU, and then packaged and delivered to parents at Florida Hospital for children. Members from the University also gathered to assist the Forest City Spanish Church, Forest City, Fla., with cleaning and renovating buildings intended for a life management facility and food pantry.

During this past Veteran's Day, volunteers completed the Military Care Package project, and a similar project took place at ADU's Denver satellite location on November 16, to mark Denver's first site-wide volunteer project.

ADU will host a University-wide service project during their annual Thanks-

giving meal. "It is important for ADU to acknowledge the blessings God's given us over the year. One way we show our gratitude is through service. At Thanksgiving, we choose to feed those in need because sharing a meal is an authentic, beautiful way to help others," said Kendra Van Houten, director of Community Engagement. In the past, volunteers packaged meals to distribute to those in need, and ADU plans to make a similar impact this year.

As the holidays approach, it's more important than ever to serve the community. In the spirit of the season, the ADU family strives to live the healing values of Christ. 🕊

BY LISA ESSER

Oakwood Live! Brings More Than 600 Potential Students to Campus



PHOTO BY: ANTHONY CHORNES II

Visitors for Oakwood Live! surround Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University, for the annual group photo at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Every year as the leaves begin to fall, and the weather begins to change, Oakwood University (OU) hosts a conglomerate of high school seniors, all wide-eyed and excited to learn everything they can about the beloved institution. These prospective students come from all over the globe to experience *Oakwood Live!*

Formerly known as College Days, *Oakwood Live!* was extended two additional days this year, for a total of five days of being immersed in the academic culture and day-to-day life of the Oakwood student. Activities included visiting academic departments, attending the highly anticipated concert featuring Oak-

wood University's choirs, dramatic presentations, and individual musical talent.

"I believe *Oakwood Live!* was a great chance to get a glimpse of what it's like to be a student here," commented Oakwood University senior, Joshua Southwell. "All of the activities they were a part of, including the various worship experiences, provided a preview of what they can expect when they arrive next fall. I hope each student realizes that not only do you receive a quality education at Oakwood, but you forge lifelong friendships while finding yourself in Christ on this campus! If you ask me, nothing tops such an experience."

During their time here, potential stu-

dents also received a foretaste of dorm life, as they shared rooms with current students who volunteered to share their space in an effort to help give soon-to-be students the full OU experience.

Saturday night's activity was a block party, which offered guests one last chance to mingle with student-led organizations. Several activities happened simultaneously: a basketball game, inflatables, an "escape room" tent, a video gaming truck, and bubble soccer; and local guest food trucks provided a variety of delicious foods. 🍷

BY JEFFREY WILDER, STUDENT WRITER

Oakwood Receives Retool Your School Grant Funds



Representatives from Home Depot presented a \$20,000 check to Oakwood University administrators Kisha Norris, executive director for advancement and development, and David Knight, vice president for student services.

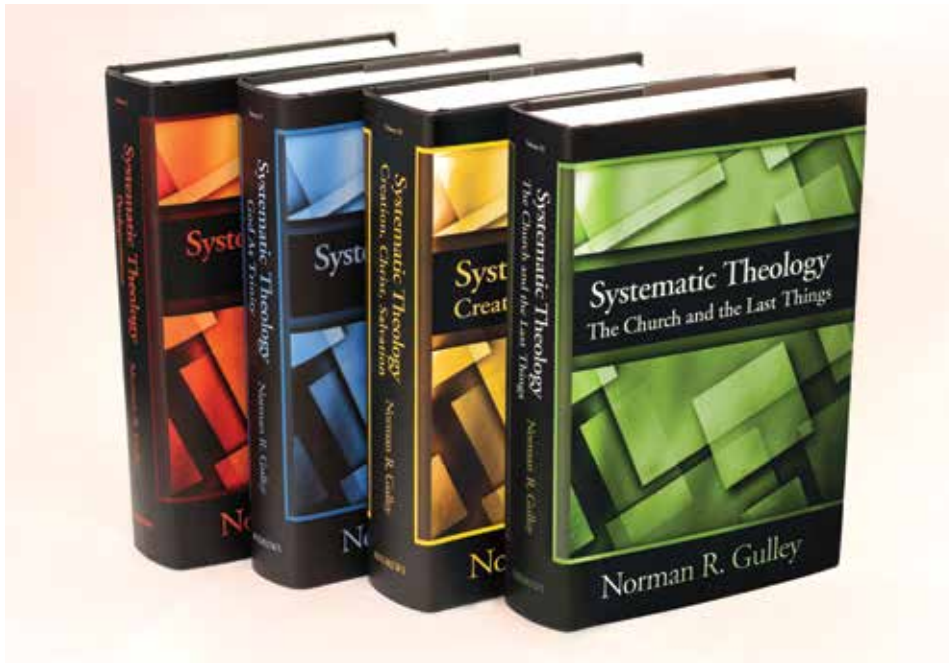


Staff and student volunteers worked with Home Depot craftsmen to construct bleachers at the soccer field.

More than 25 volunteer students and employees gathered on the sidewalk near the Lawrence & Sadie Jacobs Memorial Silos Plaza on October 11, 2016, to help the team from Home Depot assemble bleachers for the soccer field. During the assembly process, everyone took a moment for a photo opportunity as Home Depot presented Oakwood University with a check for \$20,000, representing Oakwood's winning the Tier II 2016 Home Depot's Retool Your School campus improvement grant. Representatives from ASPIRE Television were on hand to film the day's activities, and the segment will be aired at a future date. 📺

BY STAFF WRITER

Southern Professor Completes Final Volume in Systematic Theology Series



This fall, Andrews University Press published *Systematic Theology: The Church and the Last Things*, by Norman Gulley, Ph.D., research professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University. This is the fourth and final volume in Gulley’s biblical research series. In this 800-page book, Gulley expounds on last-day events from a scriptural and historic perspective. Gulley explained, “Volume 4 will be of interest to all who want to be informed and ready for the days just ahead.”

Gulley graduated from Southern (then Southern Missionary College) in 1955 and received his Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

The idea for Gulley’s research series came while he was studying in Scotland. He became convicted that the Seventh-day Adventist Church needed a theological system unlike other systems — based on

Scripture alone. He sensed that God was calling him to write a systematic theology for Adventists and promised God he would try. However, Gulley had no idea what this would involve, and that it would take more than 30 years to complete.

Systematic theology is the idea of studying about God in an orderly way. The first volume of the series explains how to study and interpret biblical truths about God, followed by volumes covering the Trinity, Creation, Christ, salvation, and last-day events. These four volumes are intended for students of the Bible and theology, but also are available as a biblical resource for anyone.

“This is a groundbreaking work,” said Greg King, chair of Southern’s School of Religion. “It is the first multivolume systematic theology from an Adventist perspective.”

Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press, agreed. “It is the largest

theological work ever written by an Adventist author. Now complete, these volumes will have a lasting impact on general understanding of Adventist theology for years to come.”

Gulley’s work has received broad engagement from scholars outside the Adventist world. David Dockery, president of Trinity International University, commended Gulley’s work in Volume 4 as “thoughtful in its approach, balanced in its engagement with others, wide-ranging in its research and interaction, and clearly presented.”

Gulley is currently working on his next book, *Christ Our Assurance: How to have Fitness for Last-day Events and Heaven; A Christ-centered Book of Hope*. This will be a companion source for the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guides* for the second quarter of 2018. 📖

BY ABIGAIL KING

Southern Union Youth Directors Connect with Southern Students



Youth directors from the Southern Union spent a weekend in September investing their time in Southern students. The Union's Ministry Training Weekend provided an opportunity for the youth director from each conference to specifically check in on students that they knew previously from Pathfinders, summer camps, and academies.

The weekend began with Vespers on Friday evening. Staff from Cohutta Springs Youth Camp led out in the praise service, followed by a compelling sermon from Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth director.

The evening continued with youth directors offering a variety of breakout

sessions to tackle current issues, such as "How can I start an active prayer group with my peers?" or "How can I relate to my LGBT friend?" On Sabbath morning, these leaders facilitated more sessions addressing difficult subjects.

For Sabbath lunch, students were invited to the Great Haystack, a massive haystack lunch provided by the Southern Union and members of the Collegedale, Tenn., Church. Church members brought homemade desserts to share with students as a tie-in to the Adopt-a-Student program led by the church.

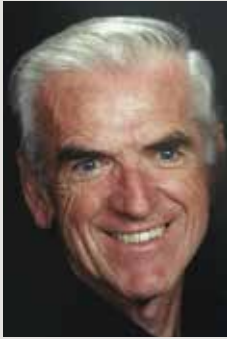
To wrap up the weekend, the youth directors made pancakes for the students at Southern's Student Park on Sunday morning. In this relaxed environment,

students and youth directors were able to talk together and create connections.

"My experience this year was very positive," said Stanley Knight, youth director for the Carolina Conference. "I liked hearing how the new students are adjusting to college and forming relationships and friendships."

Southern students are already looking forward to next year's Ministry Training Weekend. Oksana Wetmore, sophomore business administration major, said, "It was so thoughtful of the youth directors to take time out of their busy schedules to make us pancakes and minister to us." ●

BY ABIGAIL KING



BULLOCK, JOHN A., 75, born May 19, 1941 at Port Deposit, MD, died Sept. 20, 2016 at Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL.

His naturally-gifted business mind for administration and finance found him serving in such areas as administrator for Pewee Valley Hospital in Pewee Valley, KY, where he built a 100-bed nursing home, owning nursing homes in Owenboro, Beaver Dam, and Bowling Green, KY, Tyrone Medical in St. Petersburg, and helped build a school, church, and Maranatha Living Center in New Port Richey, FL.

He was heavily involved with Maranatha Volunteers International, serving on their board for many years and serving with his wife as PR and marketing specialists from 1997 to 1999. They went on many Maranatha mission trips, and were the third couple to become Missionaries of the Year.

While at Forest Lake Church, he was a head elder, greeter, church renovation leader, and served on the Forest Lake Academy board and several nursing home boards. With his wife, he helped found the motorcycle club Ezekiel Wheels, and the two rode to Alaska for their 50th anniversary. He had a fun-loving personality with a

great sense of humor.

One of his last requests was for everybody at his service, was to smile because he said, "It is certain, and I'm looking forward to seeing Jesus."

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia; one son, Christopher Bullock; one daughter, Angela Register; one adopted daughter, Bonnie Shim; one brother, William Bullock; one sister, Lois Irvin; and nine grandchildren. He was predeceased by one son, John Bullock Jr.

The service conducted by Geoff Patterson at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, can be viewed online at forestlakechurch2016.org archives.

CARUBBA, BERNICE, 89, born July 5, 1927 in Louisville, KY, died Sept. 19, 2016 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 50 years where she served as an organist and Sabbath School teacher.

She served as secretary to the Florida Conference treasurer for 15 years. She assisted her husband for 57 years in his pastoral ministry, departmental work, and then as president of the Florida Conference. She is survived by one son, Keith Carubba of Leesburg; one daughter, Kerri (Harry) Hunter of Longwood; two sisters: Elaine Nelson of Fresno, CA, and Mitchelene Mackintosh of Vancouver, WA; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Carubba, and a daughter, Leigh-Ann. The memorial service was conducted by Marvin Lowman at Forest Lake Church in Apopka.



GALAMBOS, BRADLEY J., 66, born Oct. 3, 1949 in Norristown, PA, died Sept. 12, 2016 in Leesburg, FL. He was a member and pastor of the North Lake Church in Leesburg at the time of his death.

His 40 years of denominational service included pastoring churches in Maryland, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Indiana, Texas, New Jersey, and West Virginia. He also served as ministerial secretary for the New Jersey and West Virginia Conferences. He served 18 months in evangelism part time in Alaska and part time in the lower 48. He wrote a book: *A Harmony of the Gospels: The Story of the Messiah*.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janice Gamblin Galambos; one daughter, Connie (Nile) Malloy; three brothers from Pennsylvania; one sister, Becky Graham from Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Norman Bassett at the Lakeside Memory Gardens in Eustis, FL.

MAY, EUNICE E. MAGOON, 99, born April 18, 1917 in St. Petersburg, FL, died in her apartment home with family by her side on June 2, 2016 in Madison, TN. She was a remarkably vibrant and passionate woman. She was positive, warm, and loving to everyone around her. Her happy, contagious personality brought joy to all. She loved everyone and was loved and respected by those who knew her.

She was the daughter of the late Carl and Laura Magoon. She and her one brother, David Magoon, grew up with their parents in Florida. She graduated from Forest Lake Academy and then took nurses' training from the Florida Sanitarium and Hospital and became a registered nurse. Following her nurses' training, she went to California and also became a registered physical therapist.

In 1943, she married Luther A. May. She was a faithful Christian woman and active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church all of her life. She served beside her loving husband and companion in the Gospel ministry where he served as pastor of churches in Iowa, Tennessee, and Kentucky. She loved music and shared her talent by singing, leading choir, playing the piano, organ, and marimba. She was active in community services and served many years for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Community Services Federation



helping people in need, and teaching Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

Her spirit of dedication and sacrifice reflected her servant-heart, her love for God, and her concern for her fellowman. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 67 years, Luther, and her brother. She is survived by three daughters: Sharrie May, Bonnie (Lanny) Phillips, and Judy (Bruce) Trigg; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several nieces; nephews; and many friends.



ULMER, MIRIAM M., 87, born Dec. 14, 1928 in New Orleans, LA, died Oct. 4, 2016 in Sorrento, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church. She became an Adventist after she was married. She served in many capacities within the church: Sabbath School, Children's Department, deaconess, and elder. She loved the Lord with all her heart.

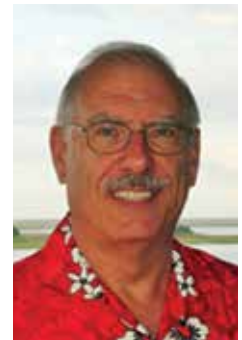
She had the opportunity to work for Loma Linda in the capacity of supervisor to the dental hygienists for 17 years. She was then employed with Florida Hospital in risk management and retired from there in 1993.

She is survived by one son, Vic Ulmer; one daughter, Peggy (Larry) Ruggeri; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, Victor, predeceased her.

ROBERTSON, WILLIS ROY, 68, born May 22, 1948 in Snow Hill, NC, to parents, Oscar LeRoy Robertson and Alice Smith Robertson, died July 27, 2016 in Chattanooga, TN. A longtime resident of Chattanooga, he served as an accountant and finance officer for Life Care Centers of America, Cleveland, TN; Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA; and most recently for North American Credit Services, Chattanooga, TN. He was a member of the McDonald Road Church, McDonald, TN, and served as an elder and greeter. He was known for his kindness, gentleness, and genuine love for people. He did not meet a stranger, and was loved by many.

Loving God and country, he proudly served during the Vietnam War. He volunteered to serve in Operation Whitecoat, a biodefense medical research program of the United States Army. He was buried in the Chattanooga National Cemetery on August 1, 2016.

He was preceded in death by his father, Oscar LeRoy Robertson; stepfather, Arl Voorheis; and brother-in-law, Roy Dunn. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Judy Dunn Robertson; his mother, Alice Smith Robertson Voorheis; son, Kent (Wendy) Robertson; two grandsons: Seth and Caleb Robertson; one brother, Philip (Kathie) Robertson; one sister, Janita (Dwight) Herod; four sisters-in-law: Donna (Glen) Brock, Ina McFarland, Marilyn (Mike) Nicholson, and Peggy Hallman; one stepbrother, Byron (Melody) Voorheis; one stepsister, Sharon (Sam) Kerr; numerous nieces; and nephews. A Celebration of Life service was held at the McDonald Road Church on Sabbath, September 10, 2016, with an abundance of family and friends in attendance. Pastors Dwight Herod and Phil Robertson officiated, reminding us that a great reunion day is coming very soon, when there will be no more sickness, pain or suffering, only eternity spent with our Savior.



ADAMS, MARGARET, 91, born July 18, 1925 in Ute, IA, died Oct. 10, 2016 in Hendersonville, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. She and her fraternal twin sister, Marjorie Ruth, were born to Henry and Edna Jensen. Marjorie died at the age of 15 with complications from diabetes. Margaret graduated from Oak Park Academy in 1943, and Madison College with a Bachelor of Science in nursing in 1947. She married Willis E. Adams on Dec. 23, 1947. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Willis; one sister; and three brothers. She is survived by two sons: Stan (Charlotte) and Bruce; one sister, Naomi (Gerald) Fillman; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews.

BROOKS, WANDA LEE TOLL, 85, born Feb. 20, 1931, died July 1, 2016. She was a mem-

ber of Powderly Church in Powderly, KY.

BROWN, SUSIE L., 80, born Oc. 10, 1936 in Yantley, AL, died July 11, 2016 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Community Church. She is survived by one brother, Haron Roberts; and two sisters: Dorothy Roberts and Nellie Alexander.

CHAPMAN, EUGENE GEORGE, 99, born Aug. 2, 1917 in Kansas City, KS, died Sept. 15, 2016 in Asheville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He graduated from USC Dental School in Los Angeles, CA, in 1949. He served in the Dental Corps of the United States Army in France from 1951 to 1953. In 1953, he started a dental practice in Burbank, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents: Mabel Buckley and Ira Chapman; his wife, Jane; his brother, Paul. He is survived by two loving daughters:

Judy Powell and Melissa DeFoor (David Shippek); three grandchildren: Stephanie (Jamey) Grant, Chappie (Shannon) Powell, and Ken (Nichole) DeFoor; and seven great-grandchildren.

CHEEVER, LILLIE JEWEL, 87, born Aug. 21, 1929 in Ethridge, TN, died Sept. 8, 2016 in Clermont, FL. She was a member of the Clermont Church for 10 years. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Warren Ward Cheever; one son, Edward of Cleburne, TX; two daughters: Karen Shafter of Shreveport, LA, and Denise Cheever of Ft. White; two brothers: Lawrence Cheever of Winter Garden, and Alvin Cheever of Racine, WI; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Byron Voorheis at the Brewer Chapel in Clermont. Interment was at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Winter Garden, FL.

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ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Spacious villa homes and limited rental apartments available now. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet on the day of your no-obligation tour. *Call Loretta for details. 1-800-249-2882 and visit: www.fletcherparkinn.com* [12]

MCDONALD, TN - 10 min to SAU, 3 bedroom home on 5 acres, \$284,900; McDonald, TN. Vacant land: 9.26 acres, level, \$129,900. Call Wendy Dixon, Dixon Team Keller Williams. Call 423-602-7653. [12]

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PROFESSOR FOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS at **Southern Adventist University** needed to begin June 1, 2017. Will be teaching undergraduate level management courses, serving on university committees, directing student projects, involvement with research, advising management majors, and teaching in subject areas: business administration, healthcare administration, and human resources management. Qualifications: earned Doctorate degree in Management, Human Resources Management, Healthcare Administration or related field, with related business experience. Teaching experience and extensive scholarly activity is preferred. Candidates with a master's degree and 18 graduate hours in management may also be consid-

ered. *Send curriculum vita to markhyder@southern.edu.* For a full description of position and requirements visit: www.southern.edu/hr [12, 1]

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY at **Southern Adventist University** seeks to fill a full-time faculty position to begin August 2017. Full-time faculty position teaching graduate level courses and occasional undergraduate courses, providing graduate academic advising and clinical supervision, serve on departmental and university committees, engage in activities of the counseling profession, including development/renewal, research and scholarly activity, and community service and advocacy. Minimum Requirements: Earned doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from a CACREP-accredited program or earned doctoral degree in clinical/counseling psychology from an APA-accredited program and have been employed as full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. Licensed or eligible for licensure in the state of Tennessee as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or School Counselor (LSC). At least 2 years of practice experience in clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling settings. Demonstrated/documentated teaching excellence in higher education. Doctoral-level preparation in clinical supervision. Commitment to cultural diversity and social justice. *Send cover letter with statement of teaching philosophy, current CV, unofficial transcripts, and four (4) letters of reference to: Dr. Ileana Freeman, ileanaf@southern.edu.* For a full description of position and requirements visit www.southern.edu/hr [12-2]

DEAN - SCHOOL OF BUSINESS at **Southern Adventist University** - The post requires a leader with a Doctoral degree in a field of business, a commitment to holistic student development, relating successfully with approximately 14 School of Business colleagues, ability to make timely and well-informed decisions, and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology. *Submit curriculum vitae along with cover letter, and statement of administrative teaching philosophy to: Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu.* For a full description of position

and requirements visit www.southern.edu/hr [12-2]

MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONER at Southern Adventist University - Mid-Level Practitioner assesses patients, diagnoses, and prescribes treatment and/or medication to Southern Adventist University's students and employees/families as per mid-level/physician protocol. Experience of five years in ED/urgent care and/or general family practice, successful completion of an accredited mid-level practitioner program with certification, BLS and ACLS certification is required. Scope of responsibility: Medical evaluation and treatment of students and acute care of employees and dependents within the accepted scope of practice for a mid-level provider. Medical oversight by supervising physician both remotely and on-site. Maintains total confidentiality in compliance with HIPPA. Attends continuing education annually and maintains certifications. Attends scheduled UHC staff meetings. Procedure competence: Laceration repair, burn care, wound management and follow up. *Submit resumes to Sarah Shelburne, sarahshelburne@southern.edu.* For a full description of position and requirements visit www.southern.edu/hr [12-2]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU) seeks a **full-time physical therapy faculty** to teach in one of the following areas: therapeutic exercise, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary or pediatric PT. The optimal candidate will be an Adventist with a Christian world view who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an earned academic doctorate, teaching experience and a scholarly agenda and is eligible for licensure in Florida. A candidate with a Doctor of Physical Therapy and a clinical specialist certificate would be considered. Position begins August of 2017. *Send CV to Donna Meyer, at donna.meyer@adu.edu* [12]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S English Department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in 18th or 19th century British literature. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.; a creative writing background is a plus. *Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, lauej@swau.edu* [12-2]

UNION COLLEGE seeks an Adventist, **Masters-Prepared PA faculty member.** The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in family practice and emergency medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2017. *Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu* [12]

UNION COLLEGE seeks **full-time professor of Communications and English** with strong skills in magazine journalism, editing, and writing instruction for position beginning July 2017. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at marobiso@ucollege.edu. [12, 1]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Chemistry. *For details and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.* We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: <https://wallawalla.edu/> [12-2]

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FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC. is seeking a qualified and experienced leader to serve as **CFO**. This position is full-time with benefits and is responsible for directing the financial and accounting functions of FAI in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and will be involved in strategic planning, evaluation, and development initiatives of FAI. A Bachelor's or higher degree in Accounting or

Finance and 8+ years of accounting/finance experience is required; CPA a plus. Excellent people skills are a must, with experience collaborating with a diverse and dynamic team. The successful candidate will display resourcefulness in setting priorities and have the ability to see the big picture while being highly detail-oriented and organized. Candidate must enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting that includes a unique blend of two schools and several businesses. Ready to serve? *Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO. Email: gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com* [12]

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CONSIDERING SERVING THE LORD through health and education ministry? Uchee Pines Institute is seeking volunteers in the following positions: farm manager, vegan cook/kitchen manager, bakery instructor, kitchen assistant at our vegan restaurant, carpentry instructor, herb shop operator, sewing instructor, auto-mechanic, health food store assistant, and receptionist for our Lifestyle Center. *For more information contact: humanresources@ucheepines.org or call 334-855-4764 ext. 7003.* [12]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in busi-

ness, 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 [12-5]

FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY are invited to join alumni for a "Martin Luther and the Reformation-Celebrating 500 Years" tour scheduled for June 13-25, 2017. Visit major sites of the Protestant Reformation in Germany and Switzerland during this historic, milestone anniversary. Immerse yourself in European culture and breathtaking scenery with experienced tour leader, Bill Wohlers. The cost is \$3,950 per person and includes air fare, ground transportation by motor coach, lodging, breakfasts and dinners, as well as an estimated 20 sightseeing activities. Contact Alumni Relations by emailing alumni@southern.edu or by calling 423-236-2830 to learn more and to reserve your space before January 1. [12, 1]

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Like the rose of Sharon in Song of Solomon 2:1, June Rose Watkins, a longtime member of Durham-Five Oaks Church, impacted everyone she met. She had a pleasant inner beauty and a loving fragrance of genuine care. Rose never met a stranger, and many have testified how she helped them during difficult times.

Rose never married and had no children. She recognized estate planning documents were necessary to effectively distribute her estate after life. Rose chose the Carolina Conference as her Trustee, placing most of her estate in trust so that God's Work would continue to bloom after her death.

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Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

A Compassionate Call in an Age of Fear and Concern

Recognizing that God has made of one blood all mankind (Acts 17:26) but that sin has awakened division, hatred, feelings of superiority, and even domination of others, we reaffirm the absolute necessity of following divine instructions in relating to one another.

Paul reminds Christians that we “are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,” that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus,” Galatians 3:26, 28. Jesus Himself prayed that we “may be one,” just as He and His Father “are one” (John 17:21-23), and commanded us to “love one another” as He loves us (John 13:34). Even in the Old Testament, God’s people are instructed, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...,” Leviticus 19:33, 34, NIV.

The social/political climate in our country and the world has produced worries, divisions, and fears in many individuals. This has even invaded the Church. As a Church, we have a responsibility to care for the disadvantaged and to denounce oppression, abuse, or division in all its forms. This includes people from all ethnicities, religions, life styles, and political viewpoints.

The Southern Union appeals to all our churches, schools, and individual members to extend the love of God to all persons, creating a climate of acceptance and safety in our houses of worship, educational, and health care institutions.

We affirm those who are showing the kindness of our Savior toward the underprivileged, the unwanted, and the outsiders without prejudice.

Even as this statement is prepared,

- Children born in America are asking their parents if they will be separated.
- A teacher in our school was met by political, racist chants by students.
- A Hispanic American citizen was told by an unknown individual, “You will be deported.”
- Mothers are fearful of allowing their sons to drive because they are in danger of losing their life for “driving while Black.”
- A pastor asked whether he can baptize an undocumented person.

These and other recent events call for our voices to be united with them in removing such humiliation, fear, and abuse, for such “should not be so among us.”

VOTED by the Ministerial team of the Southern Union, November 16, 2016.

Southern Union Ministerial Director

Carolina Conference

Florida Conference

Georgia-Cumberland Conference

Gulf States Conference

Kentucky-Tennessee

South Atlantic Conference

South Central Conference

Southeastern Conference

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT MAKES A LIFE WORTH LIVING? - Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., at the Church on the Drive in College Park, FL. This is the question Paul Kalanithi explored in his memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*, after his diagnosis with stage IV lung cancer. Published posthumously, it has since become a #1 New York Times Bestseller. Join Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) for a conversation with his widow, Lucy Kalanithi, about her husband's book and life. This event is part of ADU's ongoing Colloquium series on "Faith and Loss." To RSVP, go to www.adu.edu/series.

GYC 2016: "WHEN ALL HAS BEEN HEARD" - Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Join thousands of young people from around the world at GYC Houston, as we spend four days discovering the Good News and significance of the Judgement through Bible study, prayer, witnessing, fellowship, seminars, and sermons. Visit www.gycweb.org for details and registration. Standard registration closes Nov. 30.

STAYING LEGAL - Jan. 29. A communication training on copyright and trademarks at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Of-

fice, 255 Conference Rd., NE, Calhoun, GA. From 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Lunch provided. Join us for this year's free communication training with Jennifer Gray, J.D., counsel for the General Conference. Jennifer will be talking about copyrights and trademarks. The event is free, but RSVP is required.

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING - Feb. 17-19. Camp Sawyer (Boy Scout Camp), Mile Marker 34. Free to ALL! "FILL MY CUP, LORD," presented by Jeremy Arnall. For camping information, call Laura: 423-972-7694. For all other information, email Pastor Juanita: prayingks@gmail.com. Attendees are asked to bring food for Sabbath lunch/supper potlucks. Wooden chairs are provided, bring your own pillowed comfort. Camp Sawyer was remodeled in 2013 with 20 new individual bathrooms and showers.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING - April 6-9. Honor classes: 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2007. 125th year celebration. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

LA SIERRA 95TH ALUMNI REUNION ACADEMY - April 28, 29. 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside CA. Honor classes: 2's and

7's. Welcome reception: 7 p.m., Friday, April 28, LSA Library. Honor class services registration: April 29, at 9 a.m. Services at 10 a.m. Potluck luncheon. Alumni/Varsity Basketball at 8:30 p.m., on Saturday evening. Please update your contact info. JNelson@lsak12.com; 951 351-1445 x244; www.lsak12.com

AN ACF CHAPTER NEAR YOU! - Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) is our Church's ministry that supports Adventist students who attend public colleges and universities. The on-campus groups are called ACF chapters. When students talk about their ACF experience, they use words such as "home away from home," "belonging," and "spiritual growth" to describe the positive impact an ACF community has had on their lives. So students, if you're not already connected to an ACF chapter on or near your campus, be sure to connect quickly this semester, long before life becomes really hectic. There are currently nine active ACF chapters: ETSU, Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, KSU, UGA, UTC, UTK, and UWG. Two developing chapters are Georgia Southern University and Lincoln Memorial University. For more information such as ways to contact each chapter, visit our website: www.acfgcc.org and click on Chapters.

SUNSET					
	DEC. 9	DEC. 16	DEC. 23	DEC. 30	JAN. 6
ATLANTA, GA	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:39	5:44
CHARLESTON, SC	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:23	5:29
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:11	5:13	5:16	5:21	5:26
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:30	5:31	5:35	5:39	5:45
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:35	4:37	4:41	4:45	4:51
JACKSON, MS	4:56	4:58	5:01	5:06	5:11
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:23	5:24	5:28	5:32	5:28
MEMPHIS, TN	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:58	5:04
MIAMI, FL	5:30	5:33	5:36	5:40	5:45
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50	4:55
NASHVILLE, TN	4:33	4:34	4:38	4:42	4:48
ORLANDO, FL	5:29	5:31	5:35	5:39	5:44
TAMPA, FL	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:45	5:50
WILMINGTON, NC	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:12	5:17

CAROLINA

LE YEAR END CONVENTION - Dec. 29-Jan. 1. Pigeon Forge, TN.
PATHFINDER COUNCIL - Jan. 6, 7. NPR.
VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY - Jan. 14. TBD.
CAROLINA EVANGELISM IMPACT - Jan. 19-22. Myrtle Beach. Details: Visit the Carolina Conference website at: www.carolinasda.org.
VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY - Jan. 28. TBD.
VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY - Feb. 4. TBD.
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL WORKSHOP - Feb. 11. Monroe Church.
ENGLISH ROMANCE @ THE RANCH - Feb. 10-12. NPR.
HISPANIC ROMANCE @ THE RANCH - Feb. 17-19. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE – *floridaconference.com/events*
A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER – Altamonte Springs: toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: *floridaconference.com/abc* or order by email: *FloridaABC@floridaconference.com*
FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE The old, faithful bookmobile vehicle has been retired. Until further notice, a van will make pre-ordered deliveries only. Orders must be made by phone or email before noon Thursday prior to Sunday delivery.
NORTH AREA ADVENTURER ZONE B, 2K COLOR RUN – Jan. 19. Tampa Adventist Academy, 3205 North Blvd., Tampa. Cost: \$15. Details and registration: *floridaconference.com/events/north-area-adventurer-zone-b*
RESTORE: A CONFERENCE ON MISSION – Jan. 30, 31. Forest City Spanish Church, 7601 Forest City Road, Orlando. A conference for church pastors, elders, and ministry leaders supporting transformation for mission. Speakers: Ed Stetzer and Michael Frost. Cost: \$150 or \$99 before Dec. 31. Details and registration: *restorethemission.com*
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREATS – Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: In My Sister's Shoes. Cost: \$47.25-\$236.25 depending on accommodation choice. Details and registration: *kulaqua.com/2017-sda-womens-retreat-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center*
 Feb. 3-5. English-language. Speaker: Marti Jones.
 Feb. 10-12. English-language. Speaker: Carolann De Leon.
 Feb. 3-5. Spanish-language. Speaker: Carolann De Leon.
MEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION – March 10-12. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Boots On the Ground. Speakers: Frank Gonzalez, Robert Hines, Newton Hoilette, Gervon Marsh. Cost: \$31-\$236.75 depending on meal/accommodation/commuter choice. \$25 housing discount if registered by Jan. 16. Details and registration: *kulaqua.com/2017-sda-mens-retreat-at-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center*

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

MESSIAH SING-ALONG – Dec. 11, 3 p.m. Chattanooga First Church.
BANQUET FOR BIBLE RESEARCH STUDENT AND 3 POINT PLAY PARENTS – Dec. 11. Cairo, GA.
MASTER GUIDE DIRECTORS' COUNCIL – Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.
CONFERENCE OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS – Dec. 23-Jan. 2. Calhoun, GA.
CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 1) – Jan. 14, 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.
PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER DIRECTORS COUNCIL – Jan. 15. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
PATHFINDER JUNIOR EVENT – Jan. 20-22. Cost \$45. Register by Dec. 19. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 2) – Jan. 21, 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Atlanta Belvedere Church, Atlanta, GA.
ELEMENTARY BAND/STRINGS FESTIVAL – Jan. 27, 28. Collegedale Academy, Collegedale, TN.
STAYING LEGAL: A TRAINING ON COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS – Jan. 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch provided. Presentation given by Jennifer Gray, J.D., counsel for the General Conference. A free communication training, registration required. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
OASIS HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT – Feb. 3-5. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 3) – Feb. 4, 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Calhoun Church, Calhoun, GA.
CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 4 AND 5) – Feb. 11, 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Chattanooga First Church, Chattanooga, TN. Some events require pre-registration; details at *registration.gccsda.com*

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dec. 6. & March 28. Conference Office.
MINISTERS' MEETING – Jan. 16-19. Pi-

geon Forge, TN.
EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP – Jan. 27-29. Indian Creek Camp.
COUPLES GETAWAY – Feb. 11. Indian Creek Camp.
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP – Feb. 26. Conference Office.
EASTERN KY CAMP MEETING – March 10, 11. Prestonsburg, KY.
MUSIC FESTIVAL – March 16-18. Highland Academy.
LOUISVILLE FESTIVAL OF FAITH – March 24, 25. Louisville, KY.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

COLLOQUIUM SERIES SCHEDULE:
 Dec. 8. 7 p.m., Lucy Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air* (by Paul Kalanithi). Orlando Museum of Art.
 Jan. 4-Feb. 5. 7:30 p.m., Blackberry Winter – a play by Steve Yockey. Orlando Theater at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater.
 April 6. 7 p.m., Philip Yancey, *The Question That Never Goes Away: Why*. Florida Hospital Church.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

WIND SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Dec. 3. Southern's Wind Symphony will perform a free seasonal concert at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center at Southern. The music can also be enjoyed online at *southern.edu/streaming*. For more information, call 423-236-2880.
SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Dec. 10. Southern's Symphony Orchestra and choral ensembles will perform a selection of inspirational holiday music at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. The event is free and may also be viewed live at *southern.edu/streaming*. For more information, call 423-236-2880.

SOUTHERN UNION

SOUTHERN UNION CAMP MINISTRY RECRUITING – Jan. 15-19. Southern Adventist University Campus.
ANNUAL ACADEMY PRAYER CONFERENCE – Jan. 19-21. Camp Kulaqua. High Springs, FL.

For the first time, the World Congress for Religious Freedom is coming to North America. You're invited to join religious liberty advocates and experts from around the world as the Southern Union hosts this once-every-five-years event.



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Private businesses and a right
to discriminate?

Religious freedom and the
millennial generation

International religious
freedom advocacy

Challenges to faith-based
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