

T Southern TIDINGS

MARCH 2017

BELOVED
GO FORTH

IS YOUR CHURCH DECLINING?

Facing Reality and Hope for Your Church

ONWARD AND
FORWARD

COLLEGE PRESS
- 100 YEARS IN
THE SOUTHERN
UNION

BIKERS ON
EVANGELISM
RADAR

REACHING
YOUTH THROUGH
PUBLIC CAMPUS
MINISTRY

HATTIESBURG
EPHESUS
CHURCH HIT BY
TORNADO

Single and Happy



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

Perhaps you have, as I have, noticed the bumper sticker entitled “Happiness is Being Single.” If happiness is being single, why do some of these people look so sad? They display that bumper sticker logo, but have “miserable and unhappy” written on their faces. How can this unhappiness be minimized among singles who are experiencing it? Prayerfully, these suggestions might be helpful.

- **Change Church Attitudes.** Something is wrong with a church that sees single adults as misfits, has no place in the body for unmarried people, lacks programs to meet the needs of singles, and shows no understanding or desire to understand their struggles — especially if the single person is divorced. These attitudes can be challenged from the pulpit. Married couples can be encouraged to welcome singles into the church and into their homes. It may be helpful to remind people that *Jesus and Paul were single*. They might not be welcome in some churches today. Certainly they would be unacceptable to many who maintain a strong prejudice against single pastors. As Christians, we find ultimate security in Christ and not in a local congregation, but believers do need one another. Many would agree that for singles especially, our home is the church, our family the body of believers. No definition of “family” can be called Christian which does not include single people. There may be a place in the church for Valentine’s or sweetheart banquets, couples’ clubs, and family-related church programs, but too often these exclude, overlook, or put down singles. Probably most organizers of these activities have no intention of excluding the unmarried; more often there is nonawareness of the singles in the congregation. Pastors, elders, other church leaders, and members of the congregation should all remember that single people are significant and equal members of the body of Christ. Unmarried adults should have full acceptance in the church community.

- **Seek to Build Stable Marriages and Families.** Many singles are afraid to marry, and others live difficult lives as single parents and divorced people because believers often have distorted and nonbiblical views of marriage. Teaching about healthy marriage and families may be an indirect and effective way to prevent problems that singles and married people both face. To reduce the increasing incidence of divorce among believers, to cut down the number of unfulfilling and status-quo marriages, and to help singles get a more balanced perspective on family relationships, the church can do the following:

- Restate its commitment to the family and to the institution of marriage.
- Give strong, clear, biblical teaching and preaching on marriage, the family, and singleness.
- Encourage fathers to be more active in parenting, and couples to be more involved in marriage building.
- Discourage thinking that creates unrealistic ideals about marriage and the family, or that encourages child-centered marriages.
- Teach communication and conflict resolution skills.

- **Encourage Singles to Make Decisions and Be Active.** Singleness problems can be prevented when unmarried people are helped to trust God for their present and future needs; to honestly face and attempt to deal with their personal problems and struggles; to reach out to others in a spirit of giving and friendship; to evaluate their life goals periodically; and to work on developing a balanced life that combines worship, work, play, rest, and periods of both socializing and solitude. Often when people are active and involved in meaningful ministry to others, there is less time or reason to dwell on problems. 🕒

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march 2017



IS YOUR CHURCH DECLINING?

Facing Reality and Hope for Your Church

BY RALPH RINGER



PHOTO BY: WOODROW COOK JR.

Albert Frazier (left), pastor of the Anniston, Alabama, Church; his wife, Claudette; new members who joined the church by profession of faith including J.C. Phillips (fifth from left), pastor, standing next to Erwin Jones, member from Birmingham, Alabama, who presented the Sabbath message to Phillips; three newly baptized members; and Ralph Ringer (far right), evangelist and director of church growth/evangelism training at the Southern Union

About half of the churches in the Southern Union are plateaued or declining. Churches of all sizes can plateau or even decline over time. Russell Burrill, longtime professor at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, with extensive research in this area, has a lot to say on this subject in his book, *Waking the Dead*. He says most of the churches in the North American Division plateau around the 15-year mark of their existence (page 32). He also reveals in

the same book that churches have a life cycle similar to human beings. However, it has been demonstrated by churches that allow the Lord to empower them to fulfill the Gospel commission, and keep that as their priority, do not have to follow this cycle. There is also hope for those churches that have plateaued or are declining.

The Southern Union administration is so concerned about the need of these churches that they asked Ralph Ringer, director of



PHOTO BY: WOODROW COOK JR.

Ralph Ringer preaches during the Revelation of Hope meetings at the Anniston, Alabama, Church.

church growth/evangelism training at the Southern Union, to take on the project of helping them. He will be working with a committee representing all of the conferences in the Southern Union that want to work together to help grow these churches. The committee has already met twice, and will continue to meet on a regular basis. Many of the needs and challenges, as well as the possible involvement of conferences, pastors, and local church leaders and members, have been explored. The purpose of the committee is to help enable every church pastor, the church leadership, and the members in the process of growing their church.

Some pilot programs have already been started. The Mount Olive Church in Anniston, Alabama, was at a low point. Attendance was down to five or six at church, although in the past it had been near 100. The South Central Conference asked Albert Frazier, pastor, to regrow the church when they asked him to go there. As Frazier started building his church, he contacted Ringer to ask his advice and help. They agreed on many things, including for Ringer to do a Church Growth Seminar on December 19, 2016, and then a Revelation of Hope series from September 10 to October 1, 2016. Frazier and the members worked hard. They asked others

to come and help, and the church attendance grew to 20-30 on Sabbath.

The Revelation of Hope meetings ended October 1, with 45 in attendance. The diverse attendance included interests of three pastors from other churches. The meetings were different from most. Each Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday night, the meeting started at 7 p.m., with a 15-minute break at 7:50 p.m. for light refreshments and interaction between members, interests, pastor, and speaker. From 8:10 until 9:00 p.m., the second meeting was held. On the last three Sabbath mornings, there were two meetings in place of Sabbath School and the church service: "Revelation a Complete View 1, 2, and 3" at 9:30 a.m., and three regular meetings at 11 a.m.

More than 20 newly interested people attended most of the meetings. J.C. Phillips, pastor, attended every meeting and joined the Mount Olive Church by profession of faith on October 1. Phillips is not the only pastor in his family; his six brothers are pastors, as were their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Debbie and Tim Adams joined the Mount Olive Church by profession of faith on October 1. Debbie Adams had attended church in the same building when it was the Calvary Baptist Church, and

PLATEAUED CHURCHES HAVE MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE CONDITIONS:

- Membership has basically stayed the same for years.
- Attendance has been about the same for years.
- Tithe and offerings have stayed the same.
- Attitude of maintenance, not growth.
- Members want most if not all the pastor's time.
- Criticize their pastor for spending too much time and/or money for outreach.
- Do not want to try new ways of outreach.
- Lack of vision of how to grow their church.
- Happy the way the church is.
- Resist change of leadership or programs.
- Not willing to listen to or use youth/children in leadership and/or activities.
- Negative attitude toward evangelism.
- Most or all their church budget is for themselves.
- Keep programs going that are not working.
- Do not keep their church/school buildings/grounds in good condition.

RESOURCES THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO TURN AROUND AND GROW YOUR CHURCH:

- *Steps to a Vibrant Church*, a turnaround guide for churches in a plateau or decline, by Brad Cauley. Purchase it at AdventSource, 800-732-7587.
- *Creating Healthy Adventist Churches through Natural Church Development*, by Russell Burrill and Tom Evans. Purchase it at NADEI Bookstore, 269-471-8303.
- *The Big Four*, by S. Joseph Kidder, 269-471-8303.
- *Waking the Dead*, by Russell Burrill, 269-471-8303.
- *Evangelism that Works*, by Loren Nelson. Purchase it from Ray Hamblin, 800-274-0016.



PHOTO BY: WOODROW COOK JR.

Numerous attendees responded to Ralph Ringer's altar call for baptism.

DECLINING CHURCHES HAVE MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE CONDITIONS:

- Membership declines year after year.
- Attendance declines year after year.
- Less than half of the members attend.
- Little to no outreach activity.
- Few to no baptisms or professions of faith per year.
- Most or all their church budget is for themselves.
- Do not have a vision to reach their community.
- A sense of not being able to reach their community.
- Divisions in the church.
- Negative attitude toward evangelism.
- Have a negative attitude toward their pastor (and of previous pastors).
- Combative atmosphere instead of love, care, and acceptance.
- Tithe and offerings decrease.
- One or a few members want all the power and control.
- Reject new leadership.
- Keep programs going that are not working.
- Don't keep building/grounds in good condition.

her first marriage was performed there. This had happened before Mount Olive bought the church building, and she said it is interesting how God showed her more truth in the same building where she used to attend church.

The pastor and church team strongly supported the meetings. There were five baptisms and three professions of faith, for a total of eight as of October 1. There are five more planning for baptism, and there are several more who continue to study in the follow up. They have a Wednesday night Prophecy Seminar and a Sabbath School Disciples Class. Mount Olive Church is now a growing church!

How can you tell if your church is plateaued or declining? Read the sidebars to see. Please pray for the committee and all who are involved in helping these churches grow. 🙏

Ralph Ringer is the director of church growth/evangelism training at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

WAYS TO GROW YOUR CHURCH SO IT DOES NOT PLATEAU OR DECLINE:

- Have faith-based optimism.
- Utilize the power of prayer.
- Depend on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Make evangelism the #1 priority.
- Have effective leadership.
- Involve as many members as possible.
- Disciple current and all new members.
- Have/create a loving, caring, accepting atmosphere.
- Get involved in your community.
- Keep the cycle of evangelism going.

LEROY J. LEISKE

A Leader Who Led With Love and Integrity

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

LeRoy J. Leiske, who served as president of the Southern Union from 1964-1965, passed on December 22, 2016, in Keene, Texas.

Leiske was born July 27, 1920, in Bentley, Alberta, Canada, to the late George and Amelia Unterseher Leiske. He married Sylvia Lockert on June 1, 1943, in Bemidji, Minnesota; the couple shared 68 years of marriage before she died in 2012.

Most of Leiske's ministry was in administration. He served as president of the Wyoming Conference (1952-1954), Alabama-Mississippi (now Gulf States) Conference, (1954-1962), Georgia-Cumberland Conference (1963-1964), and Southern Union Conference (1964-1965). After leaving conference and union administration, he served as president of Southwestern College (now Southwestern Adventist University) and the Pacific Press, and was mayor of Keene, Texas.

Reflecting on Leiske as a leader, Jerry Heinrich, who grew up around Leiske, recalls three characteristics about Leiske that are indelibly impressed on his memory. One, he knew the names of everyone in the conference. He would go to the churches, and after preaching go to the door to shake hands and call every member by name. Two, Leiske expected all kinds of things from the people, but expected nothing of others that he did not require of himself. He worked side by side with his workers. Three, he took pastors of tiny churches and helped them become conference leaders. Among them are W. D. Wampler, Joe Tompkins, J. Henson Whitehead, Don Holland, Maurice Abbott, Hugh Leggett, and others.

When Ralph Peay was missionary volunteer director (now youth director) for the South Central Conference, he had the opportunity to interact with Leiske, who at that time was the Southern Union Conference president.



Peay recalls, "This was during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, which was a challenge to secular and spiritual leadership to politicians in all parties, and pastors of all faith communities. It was very obvious to me that Elder Leiske was very comfortable in his human relations. Even when it was unpopular and illegal to dine in an integrated environment in Decatur, Georgia, and Atlanta, Georgia, I recall distinctly that Elder Leiske made reservations for this to happen. At the restaurant in Decatur, Georgia, we had to enter from the back door. At the other restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia, we entered the front/main entrance. He was accepted as an 'honorary soul brother.'

"He was not afraid to do what was right. He knew that to be politically correct was not always morally right. He chose to leave with God the care of his reputation. His learning and yearning and internal burning constrained him to be courageous.

"He paid a price for his commitment to civil and human rights in the middle 1960s, when it was not safe to openly support the vision of Ellen White regarding the value of black lives, and particularly black Seventh-day Adventists. I remember seeing Elder Leiske in a Post Office in Nashville, Tennessee, when he was no longer president of the Southern Union. He was as enthusiastic and optimistic as ever,

and genuinely glad to see me. He was not bitter, but rather, at peace with his conscience.

"It is reported in the book *Seventh-day Adventists and the Civil Rights Movement*, by Samuel G. London Jr., D.D., that Elder Leiske 'was strongly committed to desegregation.' My personal assessment is that he was a sincere, courageous, Christian gentleman who loved people and was not ashamed to admit it anytime, anywhere. He believed that love could not long exist without some positive expressions in behavior. A mere 13 months as the Southern Union CEO did not quench his zeal or change his philosophy on the value of a soul, regardless of its color or ethnic background.

"It was a real privilege and positive experience to know this man in those turbulent sixties. He was a steady, focused, moral authority — unafraid to challenge the status quo and speak truth to power."

He is survived by his daughters, Nanci Slease, and Sandra Underhill and her husband, Jerry; three grandchildren, Brett Leiske and his wife, Crystal; Alexandria "Alex" Hopps and her husband, Gary; and Nick Underhill and his wife, Briana; four great-grandchildren, Haley, Kal-El, Ava, and Ashton; numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives; and friends. ❀

Give With GRATITUDE

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

Sonia Allemant, a member of the Atlanta First Hispanic Church, Tucker, Georgia, is an occupational therapist who graduated in Peru, and serves as interventionist in matters related to early childhood in hospitals. She is married and has twin girls. Her life was like that of any mother who works and cares for her family until her parents, who always helped her with the care of the girls, made a trip to Peru, their country of origin. There, her mother became seriously ill. Sonia made arrangements with her job, and left for Peru to take care of her mother. Her employer promised they would maintain her position in her absence. The illness was prolonged, and Sonia had to remain in Peru for almost a year. As a result, she lost her job. When her mother's health improved, Sonia returned to the United States. She immediately set out to get another job, but with no success.

The financial situation of her family became difficult. Although her husband stayed in the United States to work while Sonia cared for her mother, they had always counted on Sonia's income, and it was hard to maintain the infrastructure they had as a family. In the middle of this scenario, her mother's health worsened and Sonia had to return to Peru.

Once again, there she was at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport — sad, angry, with little money, alone with her two girls in a stroller, hanging on to handbags, and wondering how long this unsustainable situation would stretch. A deep fear of what awaited her on that journey took over her mind. Suddenly, they announced that it was time to board the plane. She had to make a transfer in Miami, Florida, and the stroller she was carrying was a fundamental tool for the transportation and safety of her daughters. As she was about to get on the plane, she tried to close the stroller many times, but it seemed to be stuck. The crew kindly tried to assist her, but without success. The plane was ready to depart from



Allemant family: Paul, Sonia, and twin daughters Bridget and Brianna

the gate, and they were still trying to close the stroller. Some passengers came out and did whatever they could, but it was in vain. She was told that she would have to leave the stroller. Sonia tried to figure out how she would manage in Miami with the girls and the luggage. Finally, the pilot felt compassion and came to help, but again, the stroller would not close. At that moment, as a last resort, Sonia said, "God, please help me." She finished saying these words and lifted the stroller as if to try for the last time, and before pushing it, the stroller closed. When she got on the plane, the other passengers applauded her. Nervous and embarrassed, she sank into her seat wanting to disappear. After arriving in Miami, she tried to open the stroller and found that it was locked again. This time, she prayed first, and the stroller opened immediately.

While flying to Peru, Sonia meditated on the incident, and could clearly see that God wanted her to know that He was right there with her the whole time, and was going to continue to accompany her. She cried and asked for His forgiveness. Great peace flooded her heart, and she faced her fears in

a different way.

Her mother's health improved completely, and they all returned to the United States. Once they were back, the search for a job began again, but with a different attitude. After a while, she was offered a position with three patients in Gainesville, Georgia, far away from home. She wondered if it was worth the effort, but decided to take the job anyway. This was the situation for a month and a half.

One Sabbath in mid-December 2016, a call was made for a special offering at the Atlanta First Hispanic Church to cover a financial deficit with the church's finances. Each family was asked to donate a minimum of \$250. Sonia's husband is not an Adventist, and he had been sympathetic and generous to the situation of his in-laws. She did not want to ask him for money. However, she said to herself, "God has shown me that He is by my side. I want to give this money that I do not have now, but I know He will provide." She filled out the form with the pact, and went home in peace.

That week, the number of children assigned to her at the hospital began to increase, and after a few days, she had 16 children to assist. On January 21, 2017, Sonia gave her happy offering. That money was given with gratitude for an experience she will never forget.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee," 1 Chronicles 29:14 KJV. 🙏

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



ONWARD AND FORWARD

Supporting Adventist Baby Boomers

BY MIGUEL A. VALDIVIA

The Adventist Baby Boomer generation is starting to retire, and the gigantic size of it, plus the well-documented longevity connected with the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle, will create an exciting opportunity for service, mentorship, and recreational activities for persons in this group and those dedicated to their support.

In much the same way that the preceding decades created a culture of youth immersed in prolonged education, delayed marriages, and numerous lifestyle options, the new and improved 50-, 60-, and 70-something group are creating a new breed of retirees who are foregoing the rocking chair and comfy quilts for hiking, running, volunteering, building stuff, and returning to the workforce.

Those of us who are both working in support of the Seventh-day Adventist employees and approaching the golden age ourselves (who isn't?), perceive a need for enriching the experience of those joining the retirement ranks, and those who are starting to prepare for the transition. And, preparation is of the essence — financial, psychological, logistical, and spiritual.

A time.com/money survey of March 2016 showed that as many as a third of all Americans don't have any retirement savings. This is probably one of the reasons why a *USA Today* report of an AARP study says that “the number of workers who are 75 and older has skyrocketed by 76.7 percent in the past two decades.”

But, money is only part of the equation. A safe landing into the retirement zone requires many incremental changes in perception. Many in the service professions such as clergy, teaching, and



healthcare tie their sense of self-worth to their careers. The gold watch only serves to remind them of their past contribution to the lives of their patients, parishioners, or students, and the potential loss of relevance. Other realities that will hit retirees with greater or lesser force are extra time, much more time with the spouse (generally a good thing), the loss of social contact at work, and reduced income.

Still, for most Adventist retirees and those in the preretirement phase, the idea of embarking on a looser version of service, with time to smell the roses and enjoy the grandchildren, is something they are greatly anticipating. For these folks, retirement can truly be a golden phase full of contentment and meaning.

As the largest Union in the North-American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists, and as the recipient of many Adventist retirees transplanting to warmer climates, the Southern Union is hosting an unprecedented event to support the retirement planning of Church employees, and to recognize and affirm the continued contribution of those already retired from formal service. The three-day event is being called the 55+ Onward and Forward church and Adventist hospital employee

convention. It will take place at Southern Adventist University, June 22-24, 2017.

The 55+ designation is more than a marketing gimmick; the seminars being offered will support active lifestyle choices and hobbies, some adult education seminars, and plenty of spiritual nourishment. The speakers include Dan Jackson, NAD president; Ed Reid, author; Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union; Jud Lake, Th.D., D.Min., professor at Southern Adventist University; Harold Cunningham, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ministerial director and gardener extraordinaire; and Ray Jimenez III, newly appointed director of Adventist retirement at the NAD.

To register for this event, go online to www.southernunion.com/55convention and follow the link for the Onward and Forward Convention; or, call 770-408-1800, extension 111. 📍

Miguel A. Valdivia serves as the executive secretary of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary, is coordinating the event with the support of the conferences' counterparts.

COLLEGE PRESS — 100 YEARS

in the Southern Union

BY ROB HOWELL



College Press owners Rob Howell (left) and Brad Fisher

College Press is a privately-held Seventh-day Adventist company that specializes in printing, fulfillment, and warehousing solutions for non-profit ministries. This basic description of College Press has not changed much over the last 100 years.

In 1916 and 1917, The College Press was born largely on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, for the purpose of printing the

Southern Union Conference's magazine, *Southern Union Worker* (now *Southern Tidings*). College Press initially moved into an old home on the Thatcher Farm, and then was moved into one of the first buildings built on campus, even before an administration building was constructed. College Press was specifically created with the intent of providing student jobs and income for school expansion.

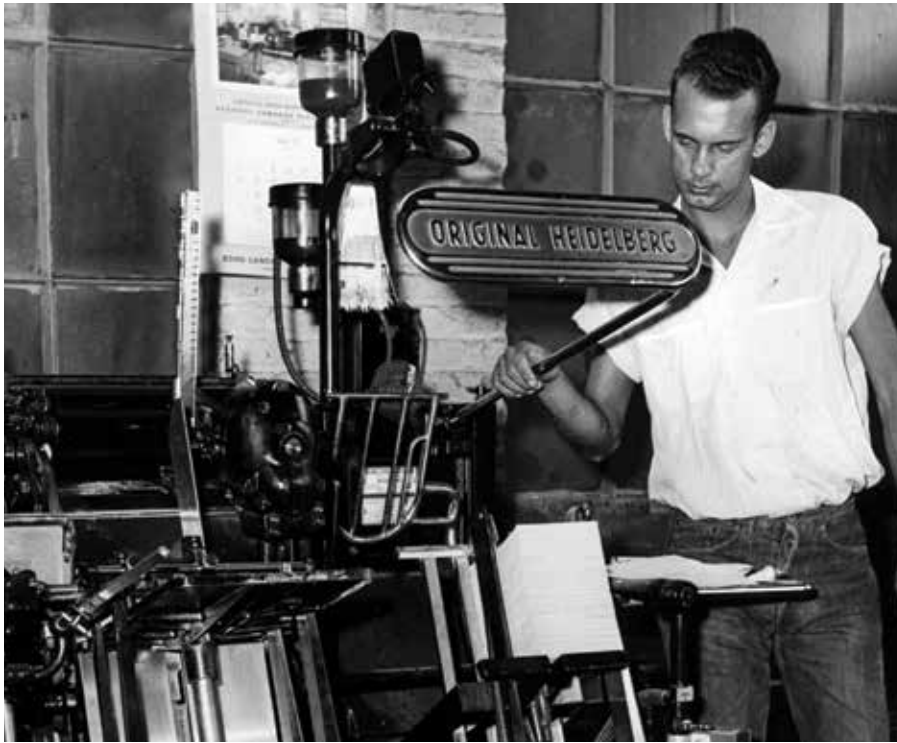
Fast forward 100 years, and College

Press is still on the campus of Southern Adventist University, where it employs students and is still producing the *Southern Tidings*. While the customer base has grown to include partnerships with many non-profits, the core mission for College Press is still the same.

Letting Him Lead

The owners of College Press, Brad Fisher and Rob Howell, are both long-time Sev-





enth-day Adventist Christians, and firmly believe that God is specifically leading College Press. Examples of His grace and care are seen often in terms of both answered and unanswered prayer.

The Lord has blessed, and while under Fisher's and Howell's ownership, College Press has seen a steady increase in business. As they prepare for the future, you'll see things like an expanded sales department, new positions in the production department, and additional new equipment in the mailroom and digital press areas. In addition to these items, more opportunities are being considered, and through it all, College Press is poised to support Christian ministries for many years to come.

A History of Progress

While some things have stayed the same — including a commitment to customer service, quality, and creative solutions — many things have changed. Over the years, College Press has updated equipment, processes, and even adopted completely new technologies (see timeline below).

It's Time to Celebrate!

This year is the centennial anniversary for College Press, and they would love some help celebrating. If you're a former or current employee, customer, friend, or just have a love for printing, please plan to join the celebration. There will be a tour of

College Press, and a traditional Adventist meal during the afternoon and evening of April 21. After supper there will be a special Vespers led by John Bradshaw, speaker/director for It Is Written. Please RSVP to College Press at 423-396-2164 or rsvp@cplitho.com.

**100th Year Celebration
April 21, 2017**

**Open House / Tour - 2-5 p.m.
Supper - 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Vespers - 7-8 p.m.**

1923

Monotype typesetting system

1945

Linotype equipment is purchased

1964

Kodak Color Key System is replaced with Press Color Proofing

1978

Upgraded from punch paper to computer disks

1990

Macintosh computers for typesetting, layout and color separations

2004

Partnership with Fuji Film Direct to plate – no more film

2014

Partnership with Xerox for Digital Press printing

Heart Transplant Team PERFORMS 100TH PROCEDURE

Rises to Top Program in Southeast

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS



The Florida Hospital Heart Transplant team gave a special gift this past Christmas by performing their 100th procedure.



In the southeastern United States, Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, did the most heart transplants in 2016.

Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida, is pleased to announce its heart transplant team performed their 100th procedure on Christmas Day, December 25, 2016, marking a significant milestone for the program.

The Florida Hospital Transplant Institute launched the specialty in 2012, and the medical team performed six heart transplants that year. In 2015 the heart transplant team performed 26 procedures, and in 2016 the five-member physician team performed 52 heart transplants.

“To reach 100 heart transplants within five years is a testament to our consummate physicians and highly skilled clinical teams who share a deep commitment to providing patients the highest quality of care,” said Barry Friedman, senior administrative director of the Florida Hospital

Transplant Institute.

It seemed only fitting that the 100th heart transplant occurred on Christmas Day.

Kevin Grady, who became ill in December 2015, because a virus attacked his heart, noted that Nirav Raval, M.D., medical director of thoracic transplant programs, called him on Christmas and asked if he had opened all his presents. “He said, ‘I’ve got one more for you,’” Grady recalled. So, the Titusville resident headed to the hospital and had a heart transplant that day. “It’s the most amazing thing I’ve ever witnessed,” Grady said. “I’m feeling great and am just amazed.”

According to the 2016 Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network data, Florida Hospital was the top heart transplant program by volume in the southeast United States region, which includes Flor-

ida, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico.

Patients have traveled from as far as Duval and Broward counties for a heart transplant at Florida Hospital Orlando.

Patients have also traveled great distances for treatments such as ventricular assist device (VAD) implants. These devices can be used as a bridge to help a heart failure patient, or as a permanent treatment for someone needing chronic heart failure support, but who is not a candidate for a transplant.

“We are committed to being the stable, high-quality, high-volume program that central Florida deserves,” Raval said. “We thank our patients and referring doctors, who trust us; and we thank our donors and families, who make miracles out of tragedy.”

Bikers on

EVANGELISM RADAR

BY DAN FORBES



PHOTO BY: JESUS ACOSTA

When people in the community, who once thought of Adventists as difficult to know and be comfortable around, saw motorcycles roaring up the street and bikers going inside Inverness Church, one person commented, “Maybe we need to rethink our opinion about those Adventists and go check them out again for ourselves.”

On a crisp, clear Sabbath morning, bikers roared into the parking lot of Inverness, Florida, Church to participate in a much-anticipated motorcycle outreach in the retirement community of Eden Gardens. This event grew from a challenge presented to the church board by Dan Forbes, pastor, to try intentional, missional witnessing as an option to traditional forms of evangelism.

At a vision casting meeting, the board members learned what can be accomplished when a congregation becomes involved in actively helping people in the community, before showing them the way to Jesus. The church became intrigued and excited to give it a try. When they were presented with the specific challenge of inviting bikers from Adventist Motorcycle Ministry and the community, the older conservative congregation was not sure what to expect.

Prayer warriors were put into action as members learned to be specific in their prayers. Lists of projects to be accomplished were made and committees formed. As they took on tasks, the members expanded

their thinking regarding the definition of evangelism, and began to see the possibilities of other ways to minister to people in the community.

- Gift bags for bikers and guests included a Desmond Doss book and specialty items such as flashlights donated by a local hardware store.
- The afternoon charity ride raised \$500, and a matching donation from the church went to The Path of Citrus County, a facility providing assistance for homeless and/or those struggling with addictions. Children residing in the facility received Christmas gifts.
- In partnership with Adventist Motorcycle Ministry, toys were collected from bikers and members for The Children’s Home of Dunnellon.

The local newspaper became interested in the church’s effort to raise money for The Path, and offered free publication of an article; and, on the day of the event, the newspaper published two advertisements inviting people to attend. This publicity helped contribute to a capacity crowd attending the

worship service on December 10, 2016. DuWayne Sipper, director and founder of The Path, spoke about their mission and needs. Ten residents of The Path came as guests for the service and stayed for the meal that followed.

During the service, Ernie Porter presented a poem and letter to the bikers that he had written. In addition, 85 lap blankets crocheted by Crystal Day were displayed, and a special prayer of dedication was offered before they were delivered to a nursing home. Day also presented a special throw with a motorcycle motif to Rene Acosta, international president of Adventist Motorcycle Ministry. Recording artist Sippie Jenkins from Orlando, Florida, provided special music for the worship service, and held a sacred concert in the evening.

Friendships were developed among the organizations that were helped on this special day, and plans were laid to partner together in future efforts. What would otherwise have taken months — maybe even years — to accomplish with traditional evangelism was accomplished in a day. ●

REACHING YOUTH

Through Public Campus Ministry

BY NELSON SILVA



Nelson Mercado (left), Rogelio Ortiz, and Emily Alessandra at the Adventist Christian Fellowship booth during the MTSU student organization's fair.

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Murfreesboro, Tennessee, had its biannual student organizations fair on January 24, 2017. Most of the 367 groups listed on MTSU's website convened in a multipurpose room in the Student Union Building. Each group passionately sought out students who leisurely walked through the crowded room. Organizations varied from sororities to social justice causes and Christianity.

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) interacted with several students in two hours. All conversations were interesting. For instance, meet "Gary," an international student from Singapore. He is pursuing a business major as an exchange student. Gary misses rice and soup, he responded

without hesitation. Gary also shared about his interest in Christianity. He is searching for meaning. International students represent a great missional opportunity. Churches could provide transportation, food, and friendship for lonely students like Gary. He could become a missionary to his friends and family in Singapore.

Meet "Seth," a local young adult searching for God. He attends Bible studies, and wonders if the Bible is true. He is even considering traveling to Israel with his roommate to continue his search for meaning and God.

Gary and Seth are not alone on the quest. Other students picked up GLOW tracks that addressed the existence of God in an awful world. ACF gave away almost

100 copies of the Desmond Doss story. Providentially, MTSU showed the movie *Hacksaw Ridge* six times in three days during January.

Are you passionate about Public Campus Ministries (PCM)? Consider attending a PCM Catalyst Event. Nashville First Church will host a free Catalyst event on March 25, 2017, with Ron Pickell from the North American Division. To register, go to www.southernunion.com/acf. The Lord said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest," Matthew 9:37, 38. Is the Lord calling you to a Public Campus Ministry near you? ☛

EDUCATING to SERVE

PHOTO BY: RON LOWERY

BY DAVID SMITH, PH.D.

Southern's campus now

As Southern Adventist University celebrates 125 years of training young people, it is remarkable to see how God has led. Much has changed since the institution was established in 1892, but its core values of placing God first, nurturing students, and serving others have never wavered. The dedication, sacrifice, and vision that mark Southern's beginnings have also remained constant.

The school was originally founded in Graysville, Tennessee, by George W. Colcord, at the encouragement of Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership. With the dream of offering quality Adventist education to the Southeast, Colcord was committed to the school's success, using his own money to rent a temporary classroom on the second floor of the town's general store. Initially, 23 students attended his classes.

Though small, the school prepared its students to have a positive impact on the world for decades to come. One of the early graduates, Rochelle Kilgore, was born on a cotton plantation in Reynolds, Georgia, in 1887. Shortly after graduating in 1904, Kilgore began a teaching career that would span 75 years, mostly spent in higher education. Instructing young people was more than an occupation for Kilgore: through the years she invited 94 students to live in her home, and corresponded with hundreds of American service members around the world. She died at the age of 105, but is still remembered as an inspirational figure.

Moving the College to the Dale

By 1916, after many rocky years in Graysville — culminating in a fire that demolished the women's dorm — the school's administration, along with leaders of the Southern and Southeastern unions, decided

to relocate the school to what is now Collegedale. Then known as Thatcher Switch, the site offered a lovely setting but very little infrastructure. However, the team had a vision of what Southern could become, and, with the help of funds raised through the union's publication, *Field Tidings*, they purchased the property and made the move.

For the first few years in Collegedale, students lived in tents, and early accounts use terms such as "Spartan" and "primitive" to describe life on campus. Visiting missionaries even expressed that the conditions at the school were worse than in the mission field. Still, the little school persisted. Various accounts from the time say that students complained very little about the rough conditions. According to A.N. Atteberry, then principal of the school, "The pioneer spirit was dominant. The young men and women felt they were experiencing some of the conditions our missionaries often endure, and also that they were building for those who would come later."

That indomitable spirit carried on through the years as the campus and student body grew. By the 1940s, World War II loomed on the horizon. Following the Adventist tradition of pacifism, Southern took part in a program called Medical Ca-



The school's tradition of service goes back to Graysville, Tennessee, where its sanitarium provided health care to the community.

det Corps, training young men to save lives rather than to kill, and preparing them for the military's medical service. By the end of the war, 171 Southern students had served in the U.S. armed forces, with eight making the ultimate sacrifice.

The philosophies of saving lives and serving the community are woven throughout Southern's history. In the early years, the school operated a sanitarium to meet the community's health needs, and in 1956, Southern debuted a new program: nursing. It quickly became the most popular major on campus, and by 1973 Southern had the largest nursing school in Tennessee. Graduates of the program have gone on to provide quality healthcare around the globe.

From its infancy in Graysville to a thriving University of nearly 3,000 students in Collegedale, Southern has trained young people to positively impact their world. Graduates have gone on to become missionaries, filmmakers, and senators. They work at the General Conference, Google, and the United Nations. Whether leading a congregation or researching a cure for cancer, each one carries the legacy of service in their heart — and it all began 125 years ago on the upper floor of a tiny store in southeast Tennessee.

As we mark Southern's 125th anniversary this year, we invite you to join us in honoring this tradition of serving others. Our goal is to collect 125,000 hours of service by the end of the year. Visit southern.edu/125 throughout the year to enter your community service hours and check progress. Everyone is invited to participate. 📍

David Smith, Ph.D., is the 26th president of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Hattiesburg Ephesus Church

HIT BY TORNADO

BY VANESSA MCCULLUM



Sam Amfo Jr., D.Min. (fifth from left), pastor of Ephesus Church, honors the many volunteers: Richie Halversen, pastor of College Drive Church in Pearl, Mississippi, Gulf States Conference; Shane Hochstetler, Laurel Church in Gulf States; Jimmy Brazall, Hattiesburg Church in Gulf States; members from the Bass Academy Church and Hattiesburg Spanish Church in Gulf States; and Coach Rick, a good Samaritan contractor from Gulfport, Mississippi; and Sam Juedin, pastor from the Soso/Laurel district in South Central.

South Mississippi counties were on alert for potential tornadic activity on the morning of January 21, 2017. In Hattiesburg, Mississippi, around 3 a.m., the University of Southern Mississippi's tornado siren began to sound. It could be heard for about a three- to four-mile radius. Sam Amfo Jr., D.Min., shared, "At 3 a.m., the church's security system called immediately to notify me, and Michael Thomas, head deacon, that there was a problem at the church." Alerts were steadily coming in, and around 4 or 4:30 a.m., it was reported that a tornado had touched down in west Hattiesburg. Soon after, it was reported that William Carey University had been hit by an EF3 tornado. Ephesus Church, in Hattiesburg, is located about a half mile from the University and had sustained massive damage.

Amfo reported that the members of the church were safe. However, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency reported to CNN that storms shattered parts of southern Mississippi early that Saturday morning, killing at least four people and injuring more than 20 others in Forrest, Lamar, and Perry counties. The members' hearts were lifted to Heaven for those families.

Most of the top floor of Ephesus Church was blown off. On both sides of the church, you could see the sky from the stairwells. One side was filled with blocks and mortar. On the other side, you could walk up the stairs from the inside freely. The two industrial-size refrigerators in the kitchen were still on the second floor, but the stoves were tossed across the back of the church. The granite island in the middle of the

kitchen was still intact. The three upstairs classrooms were totally blown away. The front porches' beams were totally gone. The front doors were intact, but the windows adjacent to the doors were shattered. On the left side entrance, the over-hang had collapsed. The sanctuary had one stained glass window damaged. There was a hole in the roof near the pulpit and front row seats. None of the pews and furnishings were moved out of their places, but there was lots of water damage on the entire first floor. The ceiling in the vestibule was badly damaged, and areas in the mother's room and the over-flow room.

Danny Chandler was preparing to travel to Hattiesburg that morning. Here's his account of the day: "I was scheduled to speak at the Ephesus Church on January 21, 2017,



Ephesus Church



Volunteers from Huntsville, Alabama, include Anthony Paul, Ph.D., and NAPS (National Association for the Prevention of Starvation).

in Hattiesburg, Miss. This date had been on the calendar for quite some time. My topic, ‘Life Storms,’ and scriptural text, Mark 4:35-41, had already been sent to the person in charge of the bulletin. My wife, a licensed professional counselor, was scheduled to present a seminar in the afternoon on depression and the handouts were ready.

“Just before we got dressed to travel, a member of the congregation called. Her conversation was shocking. ‘A tornado hit the city early this morning and destroyed our church. We won’t be having services, so you don’t have to come,’ she explained.

“As I turned to share the conversation with my wife, she asked what I was planning to do. We were scheduled to be in Hattiesburg today. Instead of a sermon, they needed our service. We were sticking

to the schedule. Once we arrived in the city, my wife, son, and I went to the hardest hit area. We parked and walked three blocks to get to the trailer community. We were told of the deaths and injuries. They were trying to salvage the little that was left and start rebuilding.

“It was refreshing to see strangers roll up their sleeves to help people they had never met. From delivering water and food to those who had no electricity, trees in their living rooms, cars unrecognizable, to comforting those who had lost family and friends. It was the display of practical Christ-like compassion that was most reassuring.”

On Sabbath afternoon, the Lord sent angels, several people, members from the south Columbia Church, a family from Bay St. Louis, and students from the University

of Southern Mississippi to offer assistance before the members were ready. A tarp was secured on the roof, and more volunteers called to come out to serve on Sunday. The members were able to clear debris from the parking lot to make it accessible.

Amfo concluded by saying, “We received love, support, water, food, and help clearing away debris from Laurel Church, Hattiesburg Church, Bass Memorial Church, Columbia Church, and NAPS. People have come from all over southern Mississippi to give us assistance in this difficult time. Thank God for His human angels.”

Vanessa McCullum is the communication leader at Ephesus Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Gordon Hospital Hosts Retreat for Cancer Survivors During Celebration of Life Weekend



Approximately 220 survivors, family members, and caregivers took part in Gordon Hospital's Celebration of Life weekend retreat, October 28-30, 2016.

One of the most emotional and pervasive diseases, cancer takes a great physical toll on the body. Unfortunately, many additional burdens often accompany it, including financial, emotional, and sometimes spiritual strains on the patient and their caregivers.

Designed as a weekend to provide mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual renewal, Gordon Hospital hosted its annual Celebration of Life weekend, October 28-30, 2016, providing reflection, renewal, and celebration for cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

This year, the Celebration of Life weekend retreat was held at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga., and

featured Grammy Award-winning artist, author, and worship leader Laura Story. The weekend was filled with music and emotional and spiritual restoration. Activities included quiet reflection, process groups, worship music, financial counseling, CREATION Health seminars, art activities, massages, nutritional information, boating, guided hikes, and special programming for children and teens. Gordon Hospital's cancer care team of physicians, nurses, and staff were involved in all aspects of the program.

"It is a blessing that I am here for another day," said Cindy Tomaszewski, who attended the retreat. "I'm able to celebrate being a cancer survivor. It's also a treat for



Grammy Award-winning Christian artist Laura Story shared her testimony of how God has blessed her and her family despite going through the trials of her husband's brain tumor.

my husband, who is my primary caregiver, and for my children, who had to deal with their mom having cancer. They got to come and have fun, and be with other kids who have gone through the same thing. It's a blessing for all of us." 🎧

BY KAYLEE LANDRESS

Custom Truck Helps Rehab Inpatients Get on the Road to Healing



Patients recovering from stroke, accidents, or other ailments can use the truck, which mimics their personal vehicle, to relearn important tasks without risking injury.

Getting in and out of a parked car is exactly the sort of movement that you rarely give a passing thought — until the day an injury means you can't.

For years, rehab patients at Winter Park Memorial Hospital would practice post-injury safety by accompanying rehab specialists out to the parking lot to practice in their own car. This meant adjusting to the fickle central Florida weather, long trips for patients already dealing with movement issues, and even the natural concerns of being outside while still healing.

Now, patients have a new tool to help them relearn how to get into the driver or passenger seat of a vehicle, within the safety and comforts of the hospital.

Rehab specialists turned to a south Florida custom car builder, who fabricated an \$11,000 invention just for Florida Hospital patients. "With shorter and shorter lengths of stay, we need to make sure we don't skip any of the needed items to get patients



Caregivers help rehab patients relearn everyday activities in the safety and comfort of the hospital.

home and back to their lives," said Emily Neumann, director of inpatient rehabilitation at Winter Park Memorial.

Built with the cab of an actual truck, the device sits on a powerful hydraulic system that can lower and raise to mimic the actual height of a patient's particular vehicle. It also includes bright lights along the floors to help patients see exactly what they're doing. And, of course, it means this important training can be done within the actual rehab facility.

Neumann added that the reaction of the patients who followed the truck being installed was excited, intrigued, and instantaneous. "It takes away the anxiety and the fear of something that could actually be very scary," she said.

A second truck is planned for Florida Hospital Orlando as soon as space is ready. 📍

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS

Chapel Hill New Life Fellowship Celebrates Grand Opening



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Leslie Louis, Conference president, reads 1 Samuel 7:12 with the congregation.



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Dexter Richardson, pastor, presents the “Rainey Buscher Fellowship Hall” dedicatory plaque to Laura Buscher.

Church members gathered for a long-awaited day, the grand opening of phase one of the Chapel Hill New Life Fellowship building project in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Sabbath, January 28, 2017. New Life Fellowship was planted years ago specifically to reclaim former members of area churches, as well as to reach out to Adventist students in the universities and colleges in the Raleigh/Durham area. Their pastor is Dexter Richardson.

Phase one of the two-part plan includes classrooms and the fellowship hall. The church members will be using the fellowship hall for their sanctuary until phase two is completed. During the grand opening celebration, members had a chance to revisit

how God led in the purchase of the property and in raising funds for the building.

This theme of remembrance was echoed in Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis’ sermon on the significance of the Israelites’ Ebenezer Stone. This stone was raised as a reminder of how God had led the Israelites in the past. Louis proposed that the new church is a kind of Ebenezer Stone, serving to remind members how God led them to this location in Chapel Hill, N.C., and will continue to lead as they continue to follow.

Throughout the celebration, individuals who were key in accomplishing phase one were recognized for their contributions. Music is central to worship at New Life

Fellowship, so the service was peppered with congregational praise, worship songs, and special music. The fellowship hall was dedicated to Rainey “Rainman” Buscher, who passed away several years ago. Buscher was an integral part of the church plant, and had a heart for worship and sharing his faith with whomever he met. Above the door leading into the fellowship hall hangs his guitar, donated by his wife, Laura Buscher.

May the Lord continue to guide these members as they follow the Great Commission in Matthew 28, and reach their community for Him. 🕊

BY COURTNEY HEROD

World Youth Group Visit Cuba, Donates New Bibles



PHOTO BY: HENRY STUBBS

Members of the World Youth Group (WYG) visited Cuba recently, and saw firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. Forests, cattle, buildings, homes, and many resources were completely destroyed. Many people lost everything they owned, including their Bibles, and were overjoyed when WYG team members gave them new Bibles. Medical missionaries told of patients on life support, and of a mother in the midst of a complicated delivery, who lost their lives because of the loss of power to the hospital.

Donations to assist those in Cuba who have been affected by Hurricane Matthew, have been sent to WYG. In close collabora-

tion with Jenaro Jimenez, president of the Eastern Conference, the decision was made to use these funds to provide tin for new roofs for some of the 400 Seventh-day Adventist families who lost their homes and/or roofs. The materials for each roof will cost \$125 CUCs (\$135 US), and at the time of writing, more than 240 roofs have been funded.

Praise God for the way He continues to touch the hearts of His people to respond with sacrificial generosity to those who have suffered such great loss. 🙏

BY HENRY STUBBS



PHOTO BY: HENRY STUBBS

Fort Lauderdale Church Holds Pathfinder/Youth Day



PHOTO BY: TREVOR GRIFFITHS

Among those who led Fort Lauderdale's Pathfinder/Adventurer/Youth Day were Martha Lewis (left), South Area Pathfinder administrator; Don Douglas, Fort Lauderdale Pathfinder director; Pedro Perez, Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer director; Jeffrey Thompson, Fort Lauderdale pastor; Daniel Simon, Coral Springs Pathfinder director; and Pauline Douglas, Fort Lauderdale Pathfinder administrator.

Last fall, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church's worship service commenced with pomp and pageantry as the Pathfinder marching band provided music while a procession composed of pastors, platform

participants, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and youth marched into the sanctuary. Patrice Walker and her sister, Deanna, sang the national anthem, and the Pompano Youth Ensemble provided back-

ground music for prayer time.

A capacity crowd listened to Pedro Perez, Florida Conference Pathfinder/Adventurer director, as he gave the morning sermon, "What's in a Name?" Martha Lewis, south area coordinator; Catherine Voltaire, Cluster #4 coordinator; and Pathfinder representatives from sister churches were in attendance.

After a lunch provided by Beulah Shaw and her associates, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and youth went into the nearby community and distributed evangelistic postcards inviting residents to attend an upcoming Revelation Seminar. The inspirational day culminated with a gospel concert on the church lawn.

"I would like to commend our Pathfinder team for their excellent work with Pathfinders, Adventurers, and youth," said Jeffrey Thompson, Fort Lauderdale pastor. 📌

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Apopka Church Honors Local Schools

Apopka Church held a second annual friendship day in honor of local education by giving recognition to representatives of six different schools: Patricia Weisbach, representative of Clay Springs Elementary; Gary Schadow, principal of Dream Lake Elementary; Mary Wallace, representative of Lovell Elementary; Brian Burns, principal of Rock Springs Elementary; Kenyetta Jones, K-2 coach of Wheatley Elementary; and Kelly Pelletier, principal of Apopka Middle School.

Steve Jencks, senior pastor, presented these six educational representatives with plaques to honor their commitment and dedication to their students. His morning message, "Worry Has a Hold on Me," offered hope in spite of life's challenges.

Apopka Church sincerely appreciates



PHOTO BY: ROBERT BROOME

Apopka Church honors representatives from four elementary schools in their area. From left: Brian Burns, principal of Rock Springs Elementary; Mary Wallace, representative of Lovell Elementary; Kelly Pelletier, principal of Apopka Middle School; Steve Jencks, pastor of Apopka Church; Kenyetta Jones, representative of Wheatley Elementary; Patricia Weisbach, principal of Clay Springs Elementary; and Gary Schadow, principal of Dream Lake Elementary.

the outstanding service offered by the area schools in Apopka. 📌

BY THOMAS BROOME

Police Officers Served Appreciation Dinner

Members of Plymouth-Sorrento Church in Apopka, Fla., welcomed local police officers to a special Italian dinner to show appreciation and support for the commitment these individuals have made to the community.

The dinner came as a result of a Sabbath School class becoming inspired by third-quarter lessons on “The Role of the Church in the Community.” A former policeman suggested that a dinner be planned to honor the police department.

With a desire to care for and minister to their local department, Plymouth-Sorrento members extended an invitation to the Apopka police. They also invited police who were family members, friends, and neighbors.

Chef Eddie Garcia, church member, prepared an Italian meal for 15 officers at the

church. Another 15 officers were unable to attend the dinner, so dinner was provided for them at police headquarters in Apopka. Ron Hoffecker, pastor, assisted where needed, and the members made dozens of cookies and brownies to share and help facilitate the program. Each officer received a survival kit which included candies and a small devotional book.

The officers enjoyed meeting and interacting with Kyle Becker, one of the city commissioners who attended the dinner. When originally asked by Garcia to attend, Becker replied, “I would love to come.”

“This is good for us,” one of the officers was heard to say at the close of the meal. “We really like this.”

BY JORGE PINTO



PHOTO BY: JORGE PINTO

Apopka Police Officer Brian Kennedy (left) explained to Plymouth-Sorrento Pastor Ron Hoffecker that “it was an extremely busy day,” making the officers even more appreciative of church members’ willingness to go the second mile to get a hot, homemade meal to them.

School Secretary Honored for Service



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON

Fort Lauderdale members and Jeffrey Thompson, pastor, commended Lenee Vaucher for her 17 years of exemplary service.

Sawgrass Adventist School Board honored Lenee Vaucher during a farewell celebration for her 17 years of service as the school’s secretary.

“Mrs. Vaucher is the glue that kept this school together for so many years,” said Derk Green, board chair. Green chaired the program which was held in the Fort Lauderdale

Church fellowship hall.

Board members, pastors, representatives from area churches, and former students presented tributes to Vaucher, including a Skype message from a person in Istanbul, Turkey.

Two sister graduates of Sawgrass Adventist School, Lisa Lashington and Julie Weeks, played inspirational piano music, and Vauch-

er received a bouquet of flowers presented by Kathy McCullough. Delphia Taylor and Lorraine Palmer of the Sawgrass Home and School Association coordinated the farewell celebration.

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Mom Baptized, Son's School Blesses Her



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: DARLENE MEYER

Sarah Valdes was recently baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church due to the positive influence of the school her sons attend in Maryville, Tenn.

Sarah Valdes shares her personal testimony.

Because of my children's school, I am now a Seventh-day Adventist.

I was born and raised in Georgia in a loving home. Shortly after graduating from high school, I married Angelo. Although we were very young, everyone who knew us thought we were "meant to be." A few years passed, and we started a family. We named

our firstborn son, Ayden. Our whole family was quite overjoyed. A year and a half later, we welcomed another beautiful boy, Alex.

It was the spring of 2005, just a few weeks after Alex's birth, when my husband died in a tragic car accident. Words cannot fully express the devastation that was experienced through this loss. Yet, simultaneously, a tremendous amount of peace surrounded our family during that time. I now see that was God's grace covering us, strengthening and uplifting our hearts.

With the help of my extended family, I was able to continue as a stay-at-home mother. In the fall of 2007, we left Florida to begin a new life in Tennessee. After eight years of homeschooling, our family desired a change. God led me to the Maryville Adventist School.

The first time I walked through the school door in the spring of 2016, I knew this was where God wanted my son, Ayden, to be, but I struggled with uncertainty. Before I left that day, the teacher, Darlene Allen, prayed with me. I could not have fully anticipated the impact attending this school would have for our

whole family.

Shortly after that first visit to the school, and upon Darlene's invitation, my sons and I visited the Maryville Adventist Church. I already considered myself a Christian, and even thought I understood some biblical truths like the Sabbath. The sermon that day struck a chord with me unlike anything I'd heard, and I left with clarity and a new seed of conviction.

By late summer, my sons and I became regular attenders. I spent the next several months studying the Bible in greater depth than I ever had in my life, learning scriptural truths. I experienced a spiritual transformation. I realized that although I'd known God, I'd yet to fully comprehend who Jesus is as my Savior. With God's leading, on the snowy day of January 7, 2017, I was baptized.

It is my privilege to be part of the Maryville Church. I've seen the love of Christ through so many. I marvel at how God brought us here. 🙏

BY SARAH VALDES

Duluth Hosts "Your Key to Wellness" Day

The Duluth, Ga., Church offered its annual Health Ministries Day on December 3, 2016. The theme, "Your Key to Wellness," was on full display with the community invited.

There was a special Sabbath School program, inspiring music, praise, and worship. Herman Reid III, a practicing physician from Evansville, Ind., delivered a powerful and thought-provoking message on "Lifestyle Changes for Longevity." A hearty, bountiful, health-conscience Sabbath lunch, which included an array of hearty soups and salads, sandwiches, fresh fruits and

vegetables, and nuts and grains, was provided. Desserts consisted of a full spread of fresh-cut fruits in lieu of cakes and pies.

Free health screenings were provided for all, which included blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.

To wrap up the day, healthcare providers, physicians, nurses, dentists, and physical therapists facilitated a panel discussion to tackle current health concerns, and stayed well into the evening to answer questions. 🙏

BY GAIL SCOTT



PHOTO BY: PASTOR ROBERT ABDULKARIM

Members of the Duluth, Ga., Church offered a "Your Key to Wellness" Day on Sabbath, December 3, 2016. Mick Evans (right), nurse, takes cholesterol screening for Janet Torres, as her daughter looks on. The day offered a special Sabbath; healthy lunch; and health, blood pressure, and cholesterol screenings. The day ended with a panel discussion by medical professionals.

Dempsey Honored With Two NAD Lifetime Awards



J. Alfred Johnson (left), North American Division (NAD) director of adult ministries; EW Dempsey, Conference adult ministries director, with his award; and Angie David, NAD health ministries director, at the Adventist Ministries Convention Awards Ceremony

ership and encouragement,” say Steve and Karen Wickham.

For many years, Dempsey has served on the NAD health, personal, and prison ministries committees. He helped implement In-Step for Life, leading the challenge with his Conference reporting the top number of miles logged. Dempsey is a runner and an avid exerciser, living the health message he teaches. Sabbaths often find him sharing either a health or personal ministries rally at a local church, seeking to inspire and motivate. “Every Adventist needs to understand the nutrients that are good and bad in nutrition, as well as the cardiovascular system,” says Dempsey, who recently partnered with the Wickhams to offer Reversing Diabetes outreach, changing lives for better health.

Another important, unique ministry Dempsey oversees is Bible Research. He has recorded 31 online video Bible studies, and gives his business cards everywhere he goes. His personal cell phone number is the contact provided, and he thrives on hearing how the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of those who watch the videos and take the written Bible study created by the late Noble Vining.

Bible Research is a family affair for Dempsey with his wife, Beth Ray Dempsey, who has dedicated years and countless hours to the written Bible studies; and his son, Ernie Dempsey, who orchestrated a search engine optimization to guide online seekers to Jesus.

With a grin, Dempsey frequently admits he knows little about technology. He also cannot drive due to poor vision, but nothing stops this passionate disciple of Jesus.

Gary Rustad, Conference general vice president, says, “EW is an example of what living out his passion in life is all about. Anybody who attends a health seminar, asks a question in their Bible lesson, or participates in a 3 Point Play ministry, comes away realizing that he knows what he is talking about, and loves what he is doing.”

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

EW Dempsey was recently presented with a well-deserved, lifetime achievement award at January’s North American Division (NAD) Adventist Ministries Convention in Arizona. He was honored in both health and personal ministries. “I am glad for a lifetime to do this work,” says Dempsey.

“We have long recognized the incredible contributions EW makes within the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. To know that he is respected by his peers across the Division, and now recognized in this way, is additional cause to celebrate and affirm this dedicated leader,” says Ed Wright, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Dempsey has served at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for 23 years. Before his Conference position, he worked in physical education, teaching, and coaching in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area for 22 years. He also worked as an owner/operator for a nursing home.

Passion for Jesus is central to all Dempsey

tackles; he held his first Bible study at age 14. Wearing multiple hats, he directs several Conference ministries, including health, personal ministries, prison ministries, Bible Research, 3 Point Play, and pioneer outreach. Each summer he leads a team of college- and academy-age students, providing free basketball camps called 3 Point Play throughout the Conference. Dempsey partners with local church members and pastors, going to their location to teach basic skills in basketball, but the overall goal is to share Jesus with the children and their parents.

“Perhaps due to his coaching background, one of EW’s strengths is he recognizes abilities in people. He accepts, trusts, and enables them, and then directs the play. He facilitates implementation of programs, and encourages people to do their best and to participate in various activities where they will excel. EW has become our friend through the years of working together. We are grateful for his lead-

PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT, NAD COMMUNICATION

Hoover Christian School Makes Strides



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Lori Abbott, Hoover Christian School principal, teaches her students.



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Hoover students enjoy recess.

Hoover Christian School, Hoover, Ala., has already made headlines in 2017. Recently, Thomas Barton, an eighth-grader at Hoover, placed fourth in the state of Alabama for the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest. Hoover's own math and science teacher, David Haley, presented Barton with his award. In addition to being a math and science teacher at the school, Haley is also a veteran; he was a part of the Air Force Green Giants.

With a new website, new vision statement (Serving humanity, Exploring the word biblically, Educating for eternity), and the addition of grades 11 and 12, the institution is now a pre-K through grade 12 school. These days, Hoover never looked better.

All of the faculty and staff give their best to ensure each student has the tools they need to succeed. After-school programs are growing fast, with a chess club, string music lessons, and piano lessons already

offered. The students will also participate in the first science fair on March 27, and the first fine arts showcase on April 24. Another first event for Hoover this year will be its first high school graduation. Jessica Ryan, Hoover's graduating senior, has been at Hoover since pre-K. Stay tuned for more updates as the school's progress is traced within the upcoming months.

BY TYLER ROBERTS

Montgomery Adventist Students Learn About Civil Rights Movement



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Montgomery Adventist students watch a Civil Rights Movement documentary.



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Sixth-graders Seth Bordlee (left) and Khadra Burden

All eyes were transfixed on the screen as scenes of police brutality and vicious attack dogs held the students' attention in James Hunt's history class. For Black History Month, the fifth- to eighth-grade classroom at Montgomery Adventist Elementary, Montgomery, Ala., watched various documentaries about the Civil Rights Movement.

The video played that day was about the young people of the Movement and how they were ready to face jail and even death for what they believed in. The students sat in silence as if they understood

that if not for being born during this time period, it very well could have been one of them carried off to jail or hosed down because of the color of their skin.

For sixth-grader Seth Bordlee, his mother taught him early on not to judge a book by its cover. "My mom taught me not to treat black people any differently ... I can see anyone that had to go through that deserves a lot of respect." Khadra Burden, sixth grader, understands her responsibility to the Movement. "Our teacher said it only takes one generation. We can make this the generation that ends racism." Both students said

without hesitation that if they had lived back in the Movement era, they would have protested and gone to jail with the other young people involved in the demonstrations.

During Black History Month, the students did not want to forget their responsibility along with today's youth, to stand against bigotry, racism, and ignorance in whatever form they find it. They want to be the generation that ends racism. ●

BY TYLER ROBERTS

God Provides New Place of Worship for Madison Spanish-American Members



Steve Haley (left), Conference president, and Nathan Delima during the January 28 services.

the chapel of Madison Campus Elementary School (MCE). The kindness of MCE was appreciated.

Soon, a Baptist congregation willing to lease their facility for six months was located. The members of the Madison Spanish-American Church thought they would find a property to purchase by the end of that time period, but that didn't happen. During the past two years, offers were made on several properties, but the deals didn't go through. They knew that God had something in store for them.

In October 2016 a Methodist church where the congregation had met many years ago was put up for sale, and an offer was made immediately. God was leading in a miraculous way. Before the end of December 2016, the building had been purchased, and on December 31 a board meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

The beginning of January 2017, the congregation started a "10 Days of Prayer" series, and also began repairs and renovations on their new building. On January 28 the church was inaugurated during a special program. Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, gave the morning message. There were several baptisms during the service. In the afternoon, a service was held for the neighbors, members of the Methodist congregation who sold the church, and members of the Baptist church who kindly shared their building for a year and a half. The presence of God was felt the whole day. The members of Madison Spanish-American Church are thankful for this gift from God, and are on fire to evangelize the area and share the love of Jesus. ❶

BY NATHAN DELIMA

Decherd Members Reach Out in Community

The month of December is usually a busy month at Decherd, Tenn., Church. On December 10, 2016, a joint communion service, with the members of the First Church in Decherd in the South Central Conference, began the Christmas season. Theodore Brown, pastor of First Church, said, "It's always a blessing to work with Pastor Mercado and the Decherd Church." The communion service was followed by an AGAPE Feast.

Decherd Church held its first Christmas concert on Sabbath, December 17; the program included participants from First Church and Tullahoma Church. "It was hard work to get it all together, but it was

worth it," said Lucy Mercado, concert organizer and member of Decherd Church.

Thirty Christmas gift bags were filled and given out in the community around Decherd Church on Sabbath, December 24. Included in the gift bags were small, practical household items, as well as food and the magazine *The Day of the Lord*, published by Amazing Facts. Decherd Church hopes that 2017 will be an even greater year as they look forward to the grand re-opening of their sanctuary. More information to come about the date of that event. ❶

BY NELSON MERCADO



Members assemble Christmas gift bags.

Madison Academy Acros Team Hosts Banquet for Nashville Rescue Mission Clients



Madison Academy students and staff prepared gifts for the banquet.

For the third consecutive year, the Madison Academy (MA) Acros team worked with Nashville Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter in downtown Nashville, Tenn., to host more than 60 women and children for a special Christmas banquet.

On Sunday, December 11, 2016, the MA buses went to the Mission to pick up the women and children for the festivities. The program consisted of a skit by the drama team, a worship thought, and an Acros performance featuring MA alumni and acclaimed juggler Thomas Erickson.

Raphan Ley, MA Acros coach, led out

in worship, retelling the parable of the great banquet. He paralleled the moral of the story with the event: In order to receive the delicious dinner, entertaining show, and thoughtful gifts, all you had to do was get on the bus. The same is true with God's love; in order to receive it, you just need to accept it, no strings attached.

The Acros team delivered a great show with numerous twists, flips, and tumbles that captivated the crowd. One woman shared with the Acros co-captain, Symone Stewart, that she had always wanted to be a gymnast, and watching Stewart's performance allowed her to live her dream vi-

cariously.

The banquet was a success. It allowed these families a wonderful Christmas experience, and the opportunity to forget about their current circumstances. One woman shared with Ley, "I have two kids and am trying to kick a heroin addiction. They aren't with me right now because I know that I can't give them the best environment. It's going to be tough to overcome this addiction, but this program gave me hope that I will be able to have a happy, 'normal' life again." 📍

BY TALEAH VALLES-PETERS

South Central Votes in Chief Financial Officer



Sonja Crayton has been voted to serve as South Central's newest treasurer and administrative officer. Crayton holds a master's degree in business administration, and a B.S. degree in accounting from Oakwood University.

She has served South Central for more than 20 years as business intern, Adventist Book Center manager, senior accountant, assistant treasurer/auditor/controller, associate treasurer, and interim undertreasurer.

Her primary responsibilities include accounting and financial statements, budget management, church auditing, plant fund management, housing, and supplemental retirement accounting.

Crayton is married to Maurice, and they have two children. She is dedicated to her husband and children, and works diligently to keep up with family activities and appointments. She loves the Lord and enjoys traveling, bowling, and resting. Her favorite saying is, "Honor God where you are."



BY MICHAEL HARPE

South Central Pathfinders Baptized During Southern Union Camporee

Excitement was in the air as South Central campers arrived at Camp Kulaqua for the Southern Union Camporee in High Springs, Fla. "Jesus for Me" was the theme, and everyone anticipated a time full of activities, meeting new people, and, above all, learning to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

For many Pathfinders, this was their first time camping and expectations were

high. South Central was well-represented as 157 campers pitched tents, learned how to cook on camp stoves, light campfires, and complete many honors that would add patches to their sashes.

Roll call began every day at 8 a.m., followed by worships that were led by a different club each morning and evening.

Conference Pathfinder coordinators taught honors to numerous campers:

George and Dawn Ray with Tony Brown, taught Physical Fitness; Byron Phillips taught Fire Building and Camp Cookery; Robert Harvey taught Bats; and Geraldine Shepherd from the Allegheny West Conference, taught African Lore. Other fun activities included swimming, horseback riding, first aid relays, and watching the Lima Drive Kingdom Soldiers from Lexington, Ky., compete in the drill competition.

It was such a blessing to see Lorenzo Shepherd, Conference youth ministries director, baptize Kaliyah Roberts, Rochelle Holston, and Kennedy Tapiwa.

The youth and leaders are looking forward

to the time when “they can do it again!”

The next youth and Pathfinder event will be Youth Congress in Knoxville, Tenn., April 27-29. For details, contact the South Central Youth Ministries De-

partment at 615-226-6500. 📞

BY LINDA ANDERSON



PHOTO BY: TONY BROWN

Pathfinders who attended the Southern Union Camporee at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Fla., stand with South Central leaders, including Linda Anderson (front row, left), Robert Harvey, George Ray, Tony Brown, Lorenzo Shepherd, Geraldine Shepherd, Cathy Nelms, Willie Nelms, Lanetta Phillips, and Byron Phillips.



PHOTO BY: TONY BROWN

Lorenzo Shepherd, South Central youth ministries director, joyfully baptizes Pathfinders Rochelle Holston (left), Kennedy Tapiwa, and Kaliyah Roberts.

Poinciana Celebrates Grand Opening of New Church



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR

We Have Come This Far By Faith,” was the theme of the Poinciana Church, Poinciana, Fla., opening celebration on November 7, 2015.

The first 17 members, powered by a Spirit-filled desire to establish a sanctuary of worship and a beacon of light in Poinciana, set forth in faith. The journey began at the mother church, Mount Zion in Kissimmee, Fla., through the use of a first-day church, and onto the auditorium of the New Dimension High School, where there was a sojourn of nine years.

Under pastors Roy Parham, Tony Taylor, Maxwell Berkel, and current pastor Lewis Edwards, D.Min., the church had grown to more than 300 members, emphasizing the need for a sanctuary. The journey to this goal would have been impossible without the reassuring arm of the Lord guiding the members.

Each day of the celebration was a tribute to the faithfulness of God in the struggle to build a sanctuary in His honor. The members were reminded of this by the mass choir, who joyfully declared, “Oh Lord You brought us from a mighty long way, a mighty long stay in the wilderness.”



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR

The sermon on each day of the celebration endorsed this spiritual theme. During the opening ceremony, Parham spoke on the homecoming. He pointed out that the homecoming to a new church is wonderful, but there is one of far greater importance to come. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included Hubert Morel, D.Min.; Alex Bryant, D.Min., secretary of the North American Division; Kurt Allen, CFO of Georgia-Cumberland Conference; Dennis Ross, D.Min., retired Southern Union ministerial director; Lewis Edwards, D.Min., pastor of Poinciana Church; former pastors; first elders of Poinciana and Mt. Zion churches; and some charter members of Poinciana Church.

Bryant’s message was a biblical journey of faith. He told of God leading His people from what at first appeared to be

a no-win situation, as seen by mortals, to an eye-opening experience of the power of God. Bryant reiterated that when God shows up, there is power, miracles happen, and there is change in the relationship with God, which reveals who His people are and Who is in control.

The final sermon was preached by Berkel, followed by a prayer breakfast where tokens and awards of appreciation were presented to some of the many hard-working members of the Poinciana congregation. Berkel reminded the members that the essence of faith is trusting God.

This is the faith that will enable the members to complete the Community Center, so that they may expand various services in the neighborhood, bringing hope to the lost, and rest to the weary as this Earth’s end draws near. This is the ultimate goal of the Poinciana Church, as they keep before them how God has led in the past. The members would be delighted to have you join them in this effort, so if you are ever in the Orlando/Kissimmee area, please feel free to visit and assist them in saving souls for Christ. 📞

BY MICHELLE ANDERSON

Students Continue Southern's Tradition of Community Service



PHOTO BY: BRYANT RODRIGUEZ

Students spent Martin Luther King Day giving tangible help to the community, which included tidying up at the Chattanooga, Tenn., Zoo.

This January marked the 24th year that Southern Adventist University has honored Martin Luther King Day (MLK) through community service. Approximately 1,100 Southern students, along with numerous employees and community members, volunteered at more than 30 locations in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area. Projects ranged from running a street store that provided clothing to the homeless to helping run a robotics camp for children.

Freshman clinical psychology major Sauri Felix helped clean debris from a local farm that

was damaged during a recent tornado. She believes that service is important, not only for those who are helped, but also for those who serve.

“By serving others you learn how to think about more than yourself,” Felix said. “You learn how to think outside of the box and about other people. If everybody cared about other people more, the world would be better.”

Although Southern began its annual Community Service Day in 1993, this year, for the first time, the University also held a week of service prior to the usual event.

Each day of the week leading up to MLK Day featured a different service opportunity. Students read books to elementary-aged children, spent time with residents of a retirement home, wrote thank-you cards for veterans and law enforcement officers, and sewed pet beds for a shelter.

“At Southern, we aspire to the highest ideals Jesus set forth during His time on Earth,” said David Smith, president of Southern. “Just as He came to serve and not to be served, His follow-

ers are to live lives focused on serving others. So, on Martin Luther King Day we go into the community to follow Jesus’ example. In doing so, we celebrate the amazing love of God and how He came to Earth to serve us, as undeserving as we are.”

On Community Service Day, Southern launched a project to collect 125,000 service hours this year in honor of its 125th anniversary. That day close to 4,000 hours were logged. Join Southern in service! Visit southern.edu/125 to enter your hours and check progress throughout the year. 📌

BY TIERRA HAYES



PHOTO BY: BRYAN ARVELO

Southern partnered with the Salvation Army to run a street store where the homeless could select warm clothes for themselves.

High School Students Explore Future at Academic Summer Camps

Southern is hosting 10 academic camps June 5-7, 2017, that bring high school students to the University for an opportunity to explore or sharpen their vocational focus. Each three-day camp includes a spiritual component as well, modeling for students how Adventist education facilitates the marriage of career and calling.

Approximately 80 students participated in last year’s summer camps, coming from as far away as Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Many attend Adventist academies and other private schools, but almost half had public education and homeschool backgrounds.

Campers studied chemistry, computing, English, filmmaking, photography, and math/physics/engineering while enjoying a variety of recreation activities, both on and off campus, in the evenings. Each of those topics will

be offered again this year, alongside four new camps: Civil War history, graphic design/printmaking, social work/global policy/missions, and an honors institute.

Melissa Garbi, senior at Wisconsin Academy, traveled to Southern last summer for film camp.

“It was fun to meet like-minded people and learn about something we all had an interest in,” Garbi said. “The atmosphere was inspiring and convinced me that I could really have a career doing what I love!”

Francine Brown, mother of twin high school seniors in Tampa, Fla., sent both her boys to Southern for a snapshot of university life.

“I thought it would help shape their decision for a college home and major,” Brown said. “They gained hands-on experience and were able to network with professors and peers. Plus, the price was excellent.”

Registration, including all food, materials,

and activity expenses, is \$150 for day students and \$200 for those requiring housing. For campers coming from outside the Chattanooga area, vans will provide free transportation both to and from Southern at centralized pick-up locations in Asheville, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., Nashville, Tenn., and Knoxville, Tenn., on June 4 and 7. For more information, call 423-236-2781 or visit southern.edu/camps. 📌

BY LUCAS PATTERSON



PHOTO BY: TERRY HENSON

Marguerite McHenry, a ninth-grade homeschooler, attended the creative writing camp last year, where campers wrote and performed original material with puppetry.

Adventist University of Health Sciences Welcomes Newest Chaplain



Niesha S. Steinke, campus chaplain at Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando, Fla.

Since its inception in 1992, Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU), Orlando, Fla., has been driven by its mission to develop healthcare professionals who *live* the healing values of Christ. The Office of Chaplains has played an impactful role on campus in reinforcing this vision with students. ADU’s chaplains are essential partners, engaging directly with students to help deepen their relationship to God.

The chaplains are respected members of the ADU family, and act as spiritual and emotional mentors for their students. After the retirement of Bill Crofton, chaplain, ADU had an important decision to make when it came to hiring his replacement. Fortunately, the University found a perfect fit with Niesha Steinke.

As a female chaplain with almost 10 years of experience in hospital work, she offers a unique, distinct perspective to ADU’s student body, which is predominantly female. Originally pursuing a degree in psychology, Steinke first felt the call to ministry when she was enrolled at the University of South Florida. Following graduation, she spent two years in ministry, first as a missionary in Palau and then as an assistant chaplain of Adventist Christian Fellowship at the University of Tennessee. After attending seminary, Steinke moved onto hospital chaplaincy and has worked in various sectors, including two trauma hospitals and the oncology units at Florida Hospital Orlando.

In her new role, it seems she has arrived full-circle from her beginnings. From an on-campus Adventist ministry group to an Adventist university, Steinke has followed God’s guiding path. Her hospital background provides a more informed perspective of what students can expect working as healthcare professionals. Having interacted with patients from different backgrounds, religions, and socio-economic situations, she’s well-equipped to relate to the diverse student body at ADU.

As the newest chaplain, Steinke has been warmly welcomed by the staff and students. She’s been working closely with Reynold Acosta, lead chaplain, who has worked at ADU for 13 years. She’s grateful for their strong teamwork and camaraderie, calling him a “jokester” who has taught her a lot.

Working in hospitals gave Steinke first-hand experience of the emotional intensity of healthcare work as she collaborated closely with nurses, physicians, and other hospital staff. One

of her aims in supporting students is to help them understand the importance of their own self-care in addition to their patients. Besides offering counsel and being involved with campus ministries and school events, Steinke will be teaching a class next semester called Issues in Grieving and Loss.

Steinke has enjoyed the opportunity at ADU to build relationships with the students she meets and be a part of their journey at school. She says, “ADU feels like a family, and the students feel that way too.” Being with ADU gives her the chance to help build a community that supports spiritual growth and gives students, faculty, and staff a place to belong.

The students at ADU come from all walks of life. Yet, its community is unified behind a common mission: to practice healthcare as ministry. The success of this singular vision depends on the hard work of employees like Steinke. ADU’s students are blessed to have her devotion, compassion, and spiritual guidance. 🌟

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



ARNOLD, CATHERINE L. (KITTY), 89, born Jan. 21, 1927 in Orlando, FL, died Nov. 29, 2016 in Tavares. She was a member of the Umatilla Church.

She graduated from nursing in 1949 and began working as a registered nurse at the Florida San (currently Florida Hospital) where she met T.F. Arnold who she married on Feb. 1, 1951, at the Orlando Central Church. After staying home when her children were small, she went back to work as an RN at Florida Hospital when the girls began academy.

Thirty years after she graduated from nursing, she went back to school to get her B.S. in nursing while getting all A's, because Florida Hospital would pay for her classes if she did. After her B.S. degree, she even began her master's program, but that eventually lost its appeal when the grandchildren began to arrive.

Kitty loved life. Her mind was always thinking of new and better ways to do things such as in Pathfinders. She loved beauty and worked to bring that out in her surroundings. She created colorful illustrations to use teaching children about Jesus at Sabbath School, and learned to sew for her girls including their wedding dresses. In retirement, she made porcelain dolls to sell and taught others the art.

She loved God, and in her quiet way she shared this love with her family and others. This influence will live on in the lives of those who knew her. She is survived by one daughter, Kerry (Bob) Burns; four sisters: Jeanie Wright, Alberta Enright, Anna (Reginald) Shaver, and Donna Ahrlrich; and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, T.F. Arnold, and one daughter, Kay Jorgensen.

SHEPARD, RICHARD H., 83, born Feb. 3, 1933 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, died Oct. 11, 2016 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He became a member of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, FL, when he became their pastor and continued there as a member after retirement.

He began 40 years of full-time pastoral work in the Mountain View Conference as an intern, and then as a pastor in Beckley, Lewisburg, and Huntington. He served in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference as a pastor in Augusta, GA. He served the Florida Conference as a pastor in Miami Springs, Tampa, and Kress Memorial in Winter Park. He was then called to the Florida Conference Office, and given the responsibilities of Church Ministries and Sabbath School. After his full time retirement, he served for 16 years in Religious Liberty and/or Retired Denominational Employees Ministries. He was going to completely retire several times, but he was too busy. On January of 2016, he realized his health wasn't good, so he laid down his work. He still visited people and sent cards as he always wanted to make people happy. He was always willing to help whenever or where he could - a Christian gentleman to all who knew him.

He is survived by two daughters: Verlene Marie Wheeling and Evelyn Darlene West; and four granddaughters. His wife, Elaine, predeceased him. A Celebration of Life service was held on November 5, 2016 at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, with the homily given by Florida Conference President, Mike Cauley.



SMITH, THOMAS HUNTER, 88, born Aug. 1, 1927 in Sebring, FL, died Oct. 23, 2015 in Florida City, FL. He was a member of the Homestead, FL, Church for 45 years.

He was ordained by the South Atlantic Conference as a Lay Evangelist and several hundred souls were baptized in tent meetings as a result of his leadership. He was instrumental in the building of several churches, including Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, FL; Bethel Church in Florida City, FL; Ephesus Church in Jacksonville, FL; Ephesus Church in West Palm Beach, FL; Northside Church in Miami, FL; Northside Multiplex in Miami; and Mt. Pisgah Church in Carol City, FL, along with several other churches.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Juanita; one daughter, Carol Tracey; three grandchildren: Salnave, Claudine, and Alexandra.

TORTAL, QUIRINO G. (KERRY), 81, born July 15, 1935 in Ilog, Negros Occidental, Philippines, died Dec. 11, 2016 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park Church.

After graduating in 1962 from Philippine Union College (now Adventist University of the Philippines), he was employed as an accountant, school treasurer, and teacher at the College. He then settled in Hinsdale, IL, where he worked for 18 years in the Data Processing Department of Hinsdale Hospital. He moved to Avon Park in 1991, and worked for nine years in the Purchasing Department of Florida Hospital Heartland before retiring in 2000.

As a church member, he served as an elder, deacon, Sabbath School teacher, and associate treasurer for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Remedios; one son, Jolliffer of Chicago, IL; one daughter, Maylin (Frank) Warda of Portland, OR; four brothers: Teodorico Jr. (Josefina) of Orlando, Segundito (Caroline) of Sebring, Willie of Toronto, Canada, and Danny (Colleen) of St. Cloud; one sister, Loida (Joe) Orlando; and two grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents: Teodorio Sr. and Estelita; one brother, Eddie; and one sister, Feliza Cereno.

The service was conducted by Pastor Frank Gonzalez at the Avon Park Church, and the interment was at the Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park.



ALDEA, JOYCE RACINE, 87, born Oct. 16, 1926 in Pontiac, MI, died Oct. 9, 2014 in Columbia, MD. She was a member of the Naples, FL, Church for 29 years, willingly serving her church family where needed. She graduated from Adelphian Academy, Holly, MI, in 1944. She married Sam E. Aldea Jr., in 1949. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Sam. Since her death, her brother, Harold "Hal" Racine passed away. She is now survived by her daughter, Janet D. Aldea; her brother, Edwin "Bud" Racine; her sister, Helen (Gary) Jacobs; nieces; and nephews. The service was conducted by Norman Wilson at the Vassar Seventh-day Adventist Church, Vassar, MI. Inurnment was in Rich Township Cemetery, Mayville, MI.

ANDERSON, PETER R., 81, born July 2, 1934 in Holyoke, MA, died March 23, 2016 in Orlando, FL. Pete, as he was lovingly known, was a member of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, FL, for 57 years. He served the Church as head deacon and director of the Pathfinder Club for many years. He was famous for his Pete's burgers that he sold at Camp Meeting and other functions. Pete's burgers were also served at the reception following his memorial service. Pete designed the current church lobby and oversaw its construction. He is survived by his wife, Nola; three sons: Thomas, John (Cathy), and Russell (Christine); one sister, Ethel Fagan; one granddaughter, Rachel; and two grandsons: Jonathan and Josh. The service was conducted by Pastors Bill Waters and Cheeko Cotta at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park.

AUGUSTINE, TAMMY M., 56, born Aug. 28, 1959 in St. Augustine, FL, died July 26, 2016 in St. Augustine. She was a member of the St. Augustine Church for 40 years. Tammy loved the Lord and everyone she met. God blessed her with many talents which she shared with her family and many friends. She loved gospel music and especially the Gaithers. Her family took her to their Jacksonville concerts as long as she was able, and their music playing in her room was very calming. Tammy leaves to cherish her memories, her parents: Heyward and Frances Augustine; two brothers: Scott (Debbie) and Tony (Sam); one sister, Rhonda (Eric) Usina; many nieces; and nephews. The memorial service to celebrate her life was conducted by Pastors Ed Komorowski and Jonathan Pawson at the St. Augustine Church. Interment was in Craig Memorial Park in St. Augustine.

BOROVIC, HELEN C., 76, born April 21, 1940 in Pozar Montenegro, died Dec. 19, 2016 in Gainesville, FL. She was a member of the Englewood Church. She served by her husband's side as a pastor's wife. She is survived by her husband, Pavle

Borovich; and three grandchildren.

CHESSON, LAURA Y., 69, born June 12, 1947 in Manhattan, NY, died Nov. 21, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. She was a member of the Conyers Church in Conyers, GA, for 10 years. Before moving to Conyers, she was an active member of the Lithonia, GA, Church and Ephesus Church in Manhattan, NY. Her love for children led her to positions such as Sabbath School, AJYS, Helping Hands, Children's Chorale, Adventurer leader, and King's Kids Choir Assistant Director. She was a member of the social committee, family life, Jubilee Bell Ringers, VBS coordinator, and creator of the F.R.O.G. Ball, which means Fully Rely on God. Laura worked as an EKG Technician at New York University Medical Center. She later accepted a position in Non-Evasive Cardiology and retired after 28 years of service as the Vascular Lab Administrator. Laura is survived by her husband of 45 years, William Chesson Sr.; seven children: Yvonne (Lance) Simpson, Stacie (Marlon) Curtis, Laurie Chesson, William (Keisha) Chesson II, Aavia, James, Thomas, and John; two sisters: Christabel (Solomon) Bartholomew, and Beverly (Olson) Perry; nine grandchildren: Andre, Omari, Korei, Aaron, Shane, William III, Kylie, Konnor, and Janyra; two nieces: Belinda and Bettina; and three nephews: Olson Jr., Brian, and Trevor; many cousins; and friends. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Sherwin Jack at the Conyers Church. Laura leaves a legacy of compassion, understanding, encouragement, faith, and unconditional love.

CUSHMAN, ALDEN "CORKY," 89, born Aug. 11, 1927, died Oct. 14, 2016. He was a member of the Louisville, KY, Church. He was a retired warehouse worker for Louisville Tile, a Navy veteran, and a lifetime member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church where he had served as a deacon. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marie Davis Cushman; three children: Barry (Pam) Cushman, Tim (Valerie) Cushman, and Lisa (Denny) Wheeler; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

CUSHMAN, MONA MARIE, 85, born Sept. 3, 1931, died Nov. 1, 2016. She was a member of the Louisville, KY, Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alden "Corky" Cushman. She is survived by three children: Barry (Pam) Cushman, Tim (Valerie) Cushman, and Lisa (Denny) Wheeler; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

FRANKLIN, MARJORIE JEAN, 91, born Nov. 14, 1925 to the late Emmett and Thyra Hudson Paris, died Nov. 24, 2016. She was a member of the South Louisville, KY, Church where she was active

with women's ministries. She was a retired bookkeeper for the Jefferson County Public Schools and a member of the National Honor Society. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Franklin. Left to cherish her memory are one daughter, Judy (John) Elkins; one son, Dr. Mark (Tricia) Franklin; one sister, Dot Snyder; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

GAYLE, PEARL A., 90, born April 19, 1926 in Manchester, Jamaica, died Oct. 27, 2016 in Ocala, FL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala, where she served as head of hospitality for a number of years.

GOODWIN, CLAUDETTE C., 72, born April 19, 1944 in Trinidad, West Indies, died Oct. 4, 2016 in Spring Hill, FL. She was a member of the New Port Richey Church. She is survived by two daughters: Selena Goodwin-Hay and Lorna Goodwin-James; two sisters: Angelina Drakes-Newsome and Louvina Drakes-Slatte; and seven grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Glenn Aguirre at New Port Richey Church. Interment was at the Pinelawn Cemetery in Melville, NY. She was predeceased by her husband, LeRoy Goodwin, and her son, LeRoy Goodwin Jr.

GREEN, ANTONIA, 65, born Jan. 22, 1951 in Manhattan, NY, died May 17, 2016 in Gainesville, FL. She was a member of the Gainesville Church. She is survived by two brothers: John and Colin Greene. The service was conducted by Pastor Daniel Graham at the Gainesville Church.

HENLEY, MARJORIE, 76, born Jan. 14, 1940 in Colon, Panama, died March 21, 2016 in Ocala, FL. She was a member of the Silver Spring Shores Church in Ocala since 2003, where she worked with Family Life, Women's Ministries, and Health & Temperance. She is survived by two sons: Michael Henley and Jerome Henley; one daughter, Loretta Henley; two brothers; one sister; and eight grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor William Felder at the Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala. The interment was at the Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Ocala.

HICKS, ENID E., 79, born March 19, 1937 at Middlesex Hanover, Jamaica, died June 16, 2016 in Ocala, FL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala since 2005. She is survived by one son, Barrington Wint of Auburndale, FL; two brothers: Lewis Brown of England, and Gladstone Brown of Brooklyn, NY; six sisters: Sarah McGregor, Laurel Lumpden, Dorothy Mowatt, Cicelyn Scott, Mah-b Brown, Delta Johnson - Jamaica; and five grandchildren. The service was

conducted by Pastor Matthew Christo at the Silver Springs Shores Church. Interment was at the Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Ocala.

MONTANEZ, PABLO, 59, born July 13, 1956 at Caguas, Puerto Rico, died June 24, 2016 at Land O'Lakes, FL. He was a member of the New Port Richey Church for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; one son, Liam Montanez of Land O'Lakes; and two sisters. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Glenn Aguirre.

NEWSOM, PHYLLIS NIX, 80, born May 2, 1936 in Dexter, MI, died Nov. 6, 2016 in Madison, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. She is survived by one son, Steven Nix; four daughters: Sharen (Dale) Biggs, Karen (Stan) Oetman, Tonya Newsom, and Teena Newsom; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

PICHETTE, RAYMOND E., 88, born May 29, 1928 in Ocean Grove, MA, died June 21, 2016 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for more than 22 years. He is survived by his three sons: Raymond (Yvonne) of Bolingbrook, IL, Thomas (Herlinda) of Safety Harbor, FL, John (Michele) of Sarasota, FL; three daughters: Linda (Tom) Lechleitner of Aligan, MI, Louise (Rusty) Hauver of Myersville, MD; and Barbara (Wayne) Goffin of Port Charlotte; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. His wife of 68 years, Pauline, predeceased him. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Alexander Voigt at the Port Charlotte Church. The interment was at the Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota.

SWEENEY, MABLE FRANCES, 96, born Nov. 29, 1920 in Birmingham, AL, died Dec. 12, 2016 in Fletcher, NC. Mable was a member of Fletcher Church and a dedicated caregiver, homemaker, and gardener. She was preceded in death by her parents: William Jasper Whitaker and Mabel Anna Houlden Whitaker; her husband, James Albert Sweeney; three brothers: Braxton Whitaker, Robert Whitaker, and Jay Whitaker; and by one sister, Nell Stovall. She is survived by her son, James Albert Sweeney II of San Luis Obispo, CA; one daughter, Ellen Lamb and her husband, Leon, of Hendersonville, NC; one daughter-in-law, Sandra Sweeney of Tryon, GA; six grandchildren: Phillip Pearson of Hendersonville; Tami Pearson of Asheville; Rusty Sweeney of Atlanta, GA; Christopher Sweeney of England; Nicholas Sweeney of Hendersonville; and Timothy Sweeney of Georgia; 13 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews

TATE, LOUISE ANNETTE, 62, beloved daughter, sister, and friend, born Sept. 26, 1953 in San An-

tonio, TX, died May 10, 2016 in Chattanooga, TN. She was preceded in death by her father, Winford Tate. She graduated from Collegedale Academy and worked as quality analyst for various insurance companies throughout her professional career. She retired in 2015. Louise was actively involved in volunteer work at Erlanger Hospital and with the Vital Center for the Blind. She loved animals from early childhood onward. Her pets have included dogs, cats, horses, and even a monkey. She loved time spent with her friends, boating, horseback riding, ballroom dancing, kayaking and snorkeling. She especially enjoyed driving sports cars and had a gift for creative writing and poetry. Louise attended the Standifer Gap Church with her parents Winford and Virginia Tate. Louise is greatly missed by her family and friends. She is survived by her mother, Virginia Tate; her siblings: Michael Tate and Gayle Tate-Casson; her brother-in-law, Jerry Casson; and her extended loving family. A memorial service was held May 28, 2016 at Heritage Funeral Home in Chattanooga, TN. Pastor Mickey Mallory of the Standifer Gap Church presided over the service. Interment was at Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, TN.

THOMPSON, WARREN A., 93, born July 27, 1923 in Lanesboro, MN, died Aug. 6, 2016 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, FL. He is survived by his sister, Nola Anderson; and six nieces; and nephews. A Celebration of Life was held Aug. 27, 2016 by Pastors Albert Ellis and Eric Doran at Kress Memorial Church.

VANDEBOSS, DOROTHY M., 85, born June 9, 1931 in Hanover, NH, died July 3, 2016 in Ridge-top, TN. She was a member of the Portland, TN, Church. She worked as the head cashier at Madison Hospital (Tennessee Christian Medical Center) for 27 years. Following her retirement, she volunteered at the Madison, TN, Community Service Center. She is survived by three daughters: Linda (Joe) Chandler, Barbara (husband Ken is deceased) Mayes, and Laura (Michael) Watson; two sons: Jerry (Dorothy) Vanderboss, and Charles (Karen) Vanderboss; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

VAUGHEY, THOMAS KEVIN, 48, born April 24, 1968, died Aug. 7, 2016. He was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. He was preceded in death by his father, John J. Vaughey. He is survived by his wife, Gemma Vaughey; one daughter, Samantha Vaughey; two brothers, John and James Vaughey; and one sister, Maureen Greer.

VOSS, HENRY A., 77, born July 21, 1938 in

Grainger, NY, died June 23, 2016 in Avon Park, FL. He was a Seventh-day Adventist for 24 years. He served as Food Service Director at Union Springs Academy, Union Springs, NY from 1964 to 1965. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Esther; one son, H. Alan Voss of Victor, NY; two daughters: Cheryl (Charles) Hixon of Victor, NY, and Carol (Douglas) Montevecchio of Victor, NY; one brother, Reginald (Mary Lou) Voss of Buffalo, NY; two sisters: Elva Hennard of Warsaw, NY, and Natalie Sax of Wilson, NY; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor George Brown at Avon Park Church.

WESSELS, RHODA NEDINE, died Aug. 11, 2016. She was the daughter of Elaine and Izak (deceased); and sister of Gunter (Elena) Wessels and Delia (Todd) Wessels-Anderson. A memorial service was held Sept. 10, 2016, in the Gospel Chapel of the Collegedale Church.

WEST, DOROTHY EASTIN, 90, born May 9, 1926 in Ohio, died June 30, 2016 at her home in Williamsburg, KY. She was a member of the Williamsburg, KY, Church. She graduated from Williamsburg High School and Cumberland College (University) Summa Cum Laude. She also received a Master's degree from Union College in Lincoln, NE. She worked at Cumberland College as an assistant treasurer, and taught special needs students at Whitley County Middle School. After retirement, she continued to help students pursue their higher education. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack West; her parents: William C. and Lenna (Collins) Eastin; and one sister, Margie Anne. She is survived by two daughters: Teresa "Penny" (Bill) Teague, and Gayle (Bob) Bell; three grandchildren: Brian (Shawna) Bell, Chad Bell, and Christy (Brian) Henry; three great-grandchildren: Christopher, Abi, and Kaley; two brothers: Dudley (Patti) Eastin, and George (Karen) Eastin; two sisters: Warda West and Phyllis Clendaniel; many nieces; nephews; a host of family; and friends.

YINGLING, PAUL BRENTON, 71, born May 19, 1944 in Los Angeles, CA, died April 15, 2016 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He taught English and French at Fletcher Academy from 1968 until his retirement in 2011. He also served as principal and president at the academy. He enjoyed playing the violin and going on road bike rides. He is survived by his wife Susan of Fletcher, NC; two daughters: Christy (Steven) Gusse of Loma Linda, CA, and Sara (Brian) Halverson of Loma Linda, CA; three grandchildren: Sara, Paul, and William; one sister, Patti Muncy of Safford, AZ; and one brother, Bruce Yingling of Healdsburg, CA.

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cal 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 [3]

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Lay pastor, Mike Duman reports, "We were able to have an evangelistic crusade, purchase plenty of literature to pass out, and finally set up an It Is Written Bible School operating from our church."

► To learn how you can provide lasting support for your passions, contact your local conference or university Planned Giving and Trust Services Representative.

Carolina Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200	Florida Phil Bond (407) 644-5000	Georgia-Cumberland Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951	Kentucky-Tennessee Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391	Oakwood University Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000	South Central Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500
Gulf States David Sigamani (334) 272-7493	South Atlantic (404) 792-0535	Southeastern Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142	Southern Adventist University Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818		SUSDAGift.org

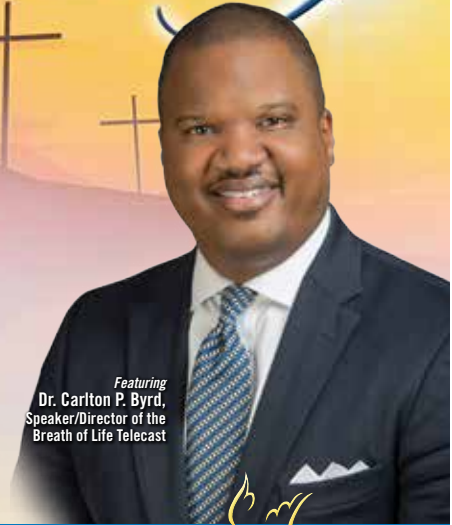


NBC EASTER SPECIAL

The Rising

**Filmed LIVE at the Oakwood University
Seventh-day Adventist Church**

*This special, which was aired on ABC in 2016, will now be shown on NBC in 2017!
"The Rising" includes an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director
of the Breath of Life Television Ministry and Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University
Church in Huntsville, Alabama, along with music by Grammy Award winning vocalist,
CeCe Winans; violinist, Jaime Jorge; and the internationally renowned
Oakwood University Aeolians Concert Choir.*



Featuring
Dr. Carlton P. Byrd,
Speaker/Director of the
Breath of Life Telecast



Internationally Renowned
Aeolians Concert Choir



CeCe Winans
Grammy Award
Winning Vocalist



Jaime Jorge
Violinist



Watch on NBC • April 16, 2017

For a list of stations, visit www.breathoflife.tv or call 256.929.6460

LEGAL NOTICES:

Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Session

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA. The purpose of this session is to receive reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2016, elect officers, departmental directors, and the Conference Executive Committee, revise or amend the constitution and bylaws, and to transact any such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

Edward E. Wright, President
Miguel A. Valdivia, Secretary, Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.
and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA. The purpose of this session is to transact such business as may properly come before the meeting and to revise or amend the constitution and bylaws. Delegates to the 32nd regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

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

FOUR-YEAR



SCHOLARSHIPS

Did you know that Southern's scholarships can benefit freshmen for up to **FOUR YEARS** when students maintain a 3.0 GPA?

**Freshman Academic
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FULL TUITION

awarded over four years
based on GPA
and ACT score

**Freshman State
Scholarship
Replacement**
\$12,000

awarded over four years
for students from most
Southern Union states

**Freshman Leadership
Scholarship**
\$10,000

awarded over four years
for students who held a
leadership role during
their senior year of high
school

**Freshman Lightbearer
Scholarship**
\$8,000

awarded over four
years for students who
graduated from a non-
Adventist high school
or homeschool after
attending for at least
two years



For complete details about Southern's scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit southern.edu/scholarships.

P.O. Box 370 • Collegedale, TN • 37315-0370
1.800.SOUTHERN • southern.edu



Power for Mind & Soul

CAROLINA

KOREAN ELDERS' RETREAT - March 3-5. NPR.
PATHFINDER WORKBEE - March 17-19. NPR.
MPA MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 30, 31. MPA.
ELDERS'/DEACONS'/DEACONESSES SUMMIT CERTIFICATION - March 31-April 2. NPR.
ALIVE YOUTH RALLY - March 31-April 2. Spartanburg, SC.
ADVENTURER FUN DAY - April 7-9. NPR.
VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR TRAINING - April 21-23. Carolina Conference.
MPA ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 21, 22. MPA.
PATHFINDER COUNCIL MEETING - April 21, 22. NPR.
MPA ACADEMY DAYS - April 28-30. MPA.
SEEDS - April 28, 29. Triad Fellowship CO., Greensboro, NC.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events
A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER - Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: 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 on designated days. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.
 March 19. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)
 March 26. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.
 April 2. Inverness, Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.
 April 9. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
 April 23. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.
 April 30. Cocoa, Ft. Pierce, Midport, West Palm Beach First, Boynton Beach, Margate. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay, Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)
 May 7. Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.
ADVENTURER FUN DAYS - Theme: Healthy Living Through Nature. Cost: Adventurers, \$10 online or \$12 on site; adults, no charge.
 March 26. Central Area. Forest Lake Church, 515 Harley Lester Lane, Apopka. Check in begins 8 a.m. Registration: conta.cc/2fzt3vc
 April 9. North Area Zone B, Tampa First Church, 822 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa. Check in begins 9 a.m. Registration: conta.cc/2eQjOU3
123RD ANNUAL FLORIDA CAMP MEETING - April 20-23. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Filled With His Spirit. Revision to this year's featured speaker: Dan Jackson, North American Division President. Cost: varies depend-

ing on meals and accommodation choice. Details: floridaconference.com/campmeeting

CAMPESTRE HISPANO - April 28-30. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Guest speaker: Frank Gonzalez. Cost: varies depending on meals and accommodation choice. Details: floridaconference.com/campestre

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT - March 17-19. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
REGENERATE (YOUTH FESTIVAL) - March 18. The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA. Featuring guest speaker, Karl Haffner, teaching pastor at Kettering Adventist Church (11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.). Don't miss the Afternoon Expression Session; youth and young adults share their talents (2:30 p.m.). Concert: The Skit Guys (7 p.m.). Worship and festival are free; there is a fee for lunch and the evening performance. Bring clothing, toiletries, bedding, etc., for the "Shirt Off My Back Mission," helping the refugees in Clarkston, GA.
HEALTH AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING WITH EW DEMPSEY - March 18. 3-6 p.m. Powder Springs Church, Lakeview, GA.
PRECISION DRILL EVENT - March 19. Soddy Daisy High School, TN. Cost is \$6 per drill team member/instructor. Deadline to register is March 1. Register at pathfinders.gccsda.com.
HOW TO CONDUCT A REVERSING DIABETES SEMINAR/LEADERSHIP TRAINING - March 19. Chattanooga First Church, TN. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY DAY - March 23. Duluth, GA. 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Check out AAA, enjoy performances, games, and prizes. Lunch provided with registration.
DINOSAUR EVENT (3D PRESENTATION) WITH RICHARD AGUILERA - March 25. Collegedale, TN. March 26. Atlanta, GA. Sponsored by the Pathfinders. Come and discover how dinosaurs fit into the biblical worldview. Pathfinder/Adventurer Clubs preregister to receive the free honor patch.
CONSTITUENCY NOMINATING COMMITTEE - March 26. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - March 31-April 2. Calhoun, GA. Theme "Joyful in Hope." Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, renewal, and reminiscing with a golf tournament, motorcycle ride, and 5K run/walk.
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS' WEEKEND - April 6-7. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
WOMEN'S & TEEN GIRLS' SPRING RETREAT - April 7-9. Crandall, GA. Theme "Be Happy." Speakers: Gail McKenzie, women; Aubrey Toup, teens ages 10-13; Erica Jones, teens ages 14-17. Registration early bird deadline is March 2; final deadline, March 16.
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND ACADEMY DAYS - April 7, 8. Calhoun, GA. All 8th-12th grade students are invited to see what GCA has to offer.
ASI: SOUTHERN UNION - April 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - April 20-23. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
32ND CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION - April 30. Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA.
 Some events require pre-registration; details at registration.gccsda.com.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

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.
PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES TRAINING WEEK-END - March 25, 26. Nashville, TN.
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCE - "Higher Up-Deeper In" - March 31-April 1. Indian Creek Camp.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - April 4. Conference Office.
BOARD OF EDUCATION - April 6. Conference Office.
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCE - April 7, 8. Indian Creek Camp.
TEACHERS' IN-SERVICE - April 13, 14. Conference Office.
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 21-23. Indian Creek Camp.
HIGHLAND ACADEMY DAYS - April 21, 22. Highland Academy.
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 21-23. Indian Creek Camp.
PRAYER SUMMIT - PRAYING FOR YOUR HUSBAND - April 23. Conference Office.
MOTHER/DAUGHTER GRADES 5-8 ONE DAY EVENT - April 30. Paradise Ranch.
KY-TN CAMP MEETING - May 26-June 3. Highland Academy Campus.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

COLLOQUIUM SERIES SCHEDULE:
 April 6. 7 p.m., Philip Yancey, The Question That Never Goes Away: Why. Florida Hospital Church.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT - March 19. Southern's Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of classical music, including Symphony No. 2 for Organ and Orchestra, op. 91 by Alexandre Guilmant, among other pieces. Starting at 7:30 p.m., the concert will be held in the Collegedale Church, and is free and open to the public. You can also view it at southern.edu/streaming.
PREVIEW SOUTHERN - March 23, 24. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN.
WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT - April 2. Southern's Wind Symphony, conducted by Ken Parsons, presents "One Word: Adventure," a collection of pieces such as Timothy Mahr's Endurance and Frank Ticheli's Vesuvius. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church, and is free and open to the public. You can also view it at southern.edu/streaming.

SOUTHERN UNION

SOUTHERN UNION PBE PLAYOFFS - March 25. Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - March 24. Registration and breakfast at 7:30 a.m. with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The Awards Ceremony will follow the Tournament at 1:30 p.m. Four Person Scramble (Best Ball) - \$150. Entrance fee per player which includes a 2-person cart, breakfast, lunch, and ditty bag and golf towel. 5-5-5 and tournament mulligans may be purchased at registration. Canebrake Country Club, 1 Cane Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Contact David Crowson at 713-385-0863 or docrowson@aol.com for information about registration or sponsorship opportunities. Visit the Facebook page BMA 2017 Charity Golf Tournament for updates.

110TH JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS SCHOOL ANNI-VERSARY CELEBRATION SABBATH - April 1. Takoma Park Church and at JNA, 117 Elm Ave., Takoma Park, MD. Registration-10 a.m. Worship Service-11:15 a.m. Fellowship luncheon-2:30 p.m. Class reunions, JNA school tours, 4:30 p.m. musical concert and JNA memories, light supper, and Alumni Basketball Game. RSVP mrevollo@jna.org, 301-270-1400. Last Anniversary & Alumni Celebration before school closes and moves to the new Takoma Academy Preparatory School site. More information to come on Facebook - John Nevins Andrews School Alumni and Friends.

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.

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY "ACADEMY DAYS" - April 7-9. If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just the place for you. Come for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Visit www.oklahoaaacademy.org.

LAURELBROOK ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION - April 7-9. Laurelbrook Campus, Dayton, TN. Honor classes: 1957, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12. Please update your mailing address and contact information: 423-775-9448 or jean081246@gmail.com.

MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL EVENT - April 8. Everyone is invited to "Go Maranatha!" a missions Sabbath in Chattanooga, TN, featuring Adventist leaders from around the world, and stories from the mission field. Special music will be presented by the Aeolians from Oakwood University. ICCM Theatre & Event Center, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free admission. Details: 916-774-7700 or www.maranatha.org/gomaranatha.

ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 14, 15. Enterprise Church, Enterprise, KS. Come renew your friendships. Honor classes: Graduating years ending with 2's and 7's. Details: Email ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or call 620-640-5740.

COLLEGE PRESS CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY - April 21. 1 p.m. Customers, employees (present and past), vendors, and friends - please join us in celebrating 100 years of supporting God's mission. We will have a plant tour, a presentation of future plans, a meal, and a special Vespers by John Bradshaw, Speaker/Director for It Is Written. Please plan to come and RSVP by emailing rob@cplitho.com or by calling 800-277-7377. www.cplitho.com

LA SIERRA 95TH ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION - 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.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION - June 9-11. For alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

100TH ANNIVERSARY FOR COVINGTON, KENTUCKY, CHURCH SCHOOL/TAYLOR MILL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - Oct. 28. If you or someone you know attended our school, please contact us at 859-905-0077, alumni.tmca@gmail.com, or our website at tmcaacademy.net, and like us on Facebook at Taylor Mill Christian Academy. We are trying to reconnect with alumni and are soliciting prayers, stories, and volunteers. Your input is crucial to making this event meaningful and memorable.

NEW FLORIDA CONFERENCE OPERATING HOURS - Florida Conference transitioned to extended operating hours Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., with lobby doors opening at 8 a.m. The office is closed to the public on Fridays. These changes DO NOT affect A Better Choice Adventist Book Center hours and days of operation. The action to begin a four-day work week was voted Dec. 4, 2016, by the Florida Conference Executive Committee for the following reasons: (1) extended working hours Monday through Thursday to better serve constituents; (2) most local conference offices, as well as unions, North American Division, and the General Conference, follow this practice; and (3) to provide more time for office staff to prepare for customary weekend speaking appointments.

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.



	MAR. 3	MAR. 10	MAR. 17	MAR. 24	MAR. 31	APR. 7
ATLANTA, GA	6:36	6:42	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:03
CHARLESTON, SC	6:19	6:24	7:29	7:34	7:39	7:44
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:21	6:27	7:33	7:39	7:44	7:50
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:39	6:45	7:51	7:56	8:02	8:08
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:44	5:50	6:56	7:01	7:07	7:12
JACKSON, MS	6:00	6:05	7:10	7:15	7:20	7:25
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:39	6:46	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:12
MEMPHIS, TN	5:58	6:04	7:10	7:15	7:21	7:27
MIAMI, FL	6:24	6:27	7:31	7:34	7:36	7:40
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:44	5:50	6:55	7:00	7:05	7:09
NASHVILLE, TN	5:44	5:50	6:57	7:03	7:08	7:14
ORLANDO, FL	6:27	6:31	7:35	7:39	7:43	7:47
TAMPA, FL	6:32	6:36	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:51
WILMINGTON, NC	6:10	6:16	7:21	7:27	7:32	7:37



The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same.

Since the 1866 opening of the Western Health Reform Institute, Adventists have provided hope, health and healing to millions of patients around the world. Yet as medical technology changes and health care evolves, one thing remains the same: our unwavering commitment to provide uncommon compassion, deliver whole person care, and extend the healing ministry of Christ to every patient, every time.

**CELEBRATING A
150 YEAR
LEGACY
OF ADVENTIST
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A SOUTHERN UNION-WIDE EVENT

For Current and Retired Denominational and Adventist Hospital Employees (55+)

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CONVENTION

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JUNE 22-24, 2017

COLLEGEDALE, TN

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DAN JACKSON
North American Division President



RON SMITH
D. MIN., Ph.D. Southern Union Conference President



ED REID
Retired, Popular Author



JUD LAKE
Th.D., D.Min. Southern Adventist University Religion Prof.



HAROLD CUNNINGHAM
Georgia-Cumberland Conference Regional Ministerial Director



RAY JIMENEZ
Adventist Retirement Administrator

This is a three-day Southern Union event to be held at Southern Adventist University for those age 55+ who are currently employed by or are retired from the SDA Church or an Adventist Hospital. It will be a wonderful opportunity to fellowship, attend specially designed seminars, and receive rich spiritual nourishment. Registration is required to secure your place. **Lodging discount is available for first 100 who register.**

\$15 per person/ \$25 per couple

This includes Sabbath lunch

+ NUMEROUS BREAKOUT SEMINARS

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER ONLINE, GO TO www.southernunion.com/55convention OR CALL LESSIE SCURRY AT (770) 408-1800, ext. 111

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