

T Southern IDINGS

JUNE 2017

TECHNOLOGY and my CHURCH:

How Does It Impact My Church?

GOD — THE GRAND
CHOREOGRAPHER

THE BEAUTY OF
EVANGELISM

CHURCHES
ENGAGING IN
POLITICS

“LIVING LAST
SUPPER”

A Meaningful and Missional Collaboration



Gordon Retzer, Retired
President of the Southern
Union Conference



Terry Shaw,
President/CEO of Adventist Health
System in Altamonte Springs, Florida



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

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern hemisphere of the United States and in several other states in America enjoys a robust enhancement in mission through the dynamic relationships with Adventist-sponsored health-care delivery systems. More specifically, I am pleased to acknowledge and appreciate, through this editorial, creative coordination and spirited synergy between the Adventist Health System (AHS) and the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Representing both entities are leaders using specialized approaches to introduce people to Jesus as the ultimate solution for the spectrum of human problems.

The first of the two leaders I will refer to is Gordon Retzer. He is the most recent retired president of the Southern Union, and is now residing in central Florida. Having left a legacy of incessant growth and evangelistic expansion, he continues in his retirement years to engage through innovative ministry in guiding people to a quality life with Jesus.

The second leader I will reference is Terry Shaw, new AHS president/CEO. He sustains his mission-driven passion for the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellness of people through his leadership of the faith-based healthcare system, which includes 46 hospital campuses in 10 states, as well as a continuum of integrated care composed of urgent care centers, home health and hospice agencies, physician practices, and skilled nursing facilities. Under Shaw's leadership of the health system, thousands of employees sustain the sacred mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

Just one example of both Retzer's and Shaw's passion for ministering to people is evidenced as they participate along with a group of committed senior leaders at AHS and Florida Hospital. They coordinate evangelism and teach the Grace and Truth Class (a Sabbath School class at the Forest Lake Church). I invite you to carefully notice and read the feature article by Gordon Retzer on page 8 of this exciting issue of the *Southern Tidings*. What an encouraging portrait of conjoint evangelism shared by healthcare leaders and church leaders/members.

My favorite author, Ellen White, in her book *Ministry of Healing*, page 143, states that "Christ's method alone will give true success."

- He met people where they were.
- Wherever He was, He spoke to people of things pertaining to a better life.
- He spoke words of kindness and encouragement while sharing people's burdens.
- He passed by no human being as worthless or hopeless.
- Christ was social.
- Christ's power was manifested in gentleness and humility that won hearts.
- He ministered to the poor and rich.

Our Redeemer came to this world to reveal God's love to a lost world. He established a church through which He was able to reach the world with the story of salvation. I appeal to our readership to join us in our quest to reveal God's love to discouraged, bruised, and broken people. Through AHS and the Seventh-day Adventist Church at large, we can achieve the meaningful and missional collaboration that we need.

Finally, in the awareness of all who read this, thank you Gordon, Terry, and the Grace and Truth Sabbath School class teachers and members for inspiring us in the Church to apply the method of Christ in reaching and helping others. -- RCS

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TECHNOLOGY and my CHURCH:

How Does It Impact My Church?

BY RICHARD STEPHENSON

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already,” *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis.

“Christ Himself set an example of true service. His whole life on Earth was spent in ministering to others,” *How God’s Love is Manifested*, Ellen G. White.

Stewardship and service may not be the first things you think of when you think of information technology (IT). Yet, the very heart of IT in the Church, the essence of what we do, the ministry that we have been called to, should be summed up in these two words — stewardship and service. I would like to briefly explore the link between stewardship and service, and to, perhaps, realize the co-dependent relationship that both stewardship and service have to one another.

A startling Scripture is found in the Old Testament book of Malachi 3:17, 18. I believe this passage ties together stewardship and service. It is God speaking in Malachi, saying: “They shall be mine, says the LORD of Hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God





PHOTO BY: RICHARD STEPHENSON

Southern Union Information Technology Services training session to develop ways to secure the Church's infrastructure



The Southern Union ITS team include Milton Sand (seated, left), associate director; Leonard Fernandez, support engineer; Richard Stephenson (seated, right), director; and David Koliadko, accounting support engineer.

PHOTO BY: JULIE BURKS AND NATHAN ZINNER

equally impactful. The unfaithful manager lost *all* of his stewardship responsibilities and was cast out. Sobering indeed! God’s expectations for our stewardship of His resources is indeed high. Are we faithful to His expectations of our stewardship? Our stewardship to God involves more than just our finances; it involves our total being. As IT in the Church, our stewardship must begin and end with the realization that every asset, every piece of equipment we manage, is first and foremost a tool to be used for the Gospel. We are not just supporting the operations of an organization; we are the hands and feet of Christ in an ever-increasingly digital age.

Back to Malachi 3, we find a distinction (*the* distinction?) that will exist when Christ comes to collect His treasured possession — us. Did you catch the distinction? Here it is again “... Then once more you shall see **the distinction** between the righteous and the wicked, **between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.**”

I find this revelation incredible! The distinction between the righteous and the wicked will be the same as the distinction between *those who serve God and those who do not serve Him!* Service is the distinction, *service is the difference!* Could it really be true that we will be judged by our service to God and others?

But, what is the connection between service to God, and service to others? Christ, in His own words, tells us that service to God is synonymous with service to others. We find in Matthew 25:36-40, “I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.’”

Could Christ have said it any plainer?

and one who does not serve Him.”

Wow! There is so much for us to explore inside these two verses. (Isn’t that true with all of Scripture?) Firstly, what an incredible revelation of just how the Omnipotent Ruler of the universe, the Sovereign King of all creation, feels about you and me. Remarkably, God refers to us when he says “MY treasured possession”! Sometimes we may just read right past that, but it is crucial to our understanding of stewardship. We are God’s property, His *treasured* possession. Perhaps this is what C.S. Lewis is referring to when he says, “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.” We are God’s possession not only because He created each of us, but also because He redeemed each of us. We belong to God, twice over!

We are reminded of the passage in 1

Corinthians 6:19, 20 says, “You are NOT your own; for you were bought with a Price!” And again, we are told plainly in 1 Corinthians 3:23, “You belong to Christ.” This is the heart and soul of stewardship, understanding that *who we are, all we are, and all we have* is God’s first. Therefore, any identity, talent, gift, or ability, and really any inclination to do good at all, was first His before He entrusted it to us. Do we really understand this? We are on loan from God, to serve God by serving others.

In the parable of the talents, found in Matthew 25:14-30, we find that God richly rewards those faithful stewards who managed His resources according to His Will, with ever-greater responsibility. The clear take-away from Christ’s Words is that we will all be judged, and our performance as managers of His stuff will be judged, by our faithfulness as stewards. In Matthew 25, the reward for both faithful stewards was the same. God *doubled* their respective areas of responsibility. Moreover, the consequence of unfaithful stewardship is



PHOTO BY: MILTON SAND

David Koliadko, ITS accounting support engineer at the Southern Union, leads song service during the Sabbath services at the Southern Union Information Technology Services (SUITS) convention.

Our service to others is, in fact, our service to God. Still in Matthew, Christ removes any doubt about service when He says in chapter 20 verse 26, “Whoever wants to become Great, let him become a servant.” If there is to be anything “great” about us, brothers and sisters, may it be our service to our fellow man.

So we find in that one passage of Malachi, I believe, the two tenets of IT in the Church: stewardship and service. I believe that faithful stewardship and service to others will always be found together. They are two sides of the same coin. If we are faithful stewards, then we will understand that not only do we belong to God, but that our brothers and sisters *also* belong to God. And, if we understand that, then we understand that service to God is, in fact, serving God’s children. Again, by serving others, we serve God. We see that the apostle Paul echoes this reality in Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ that you are serving.”

IT work in our Church today must be

about stewardship and service. We are stewards of technical resources ... resources that the Lord expects us to use in His service, for His Glory. Together with the volunteer audiovisual and IT person at your local church, with the IT staffs at our schools, with the IT directors at our academies, and with the IT departments at our conferences, we in IT, corporately, serve by providing the Church with resources, tools, and techniques. We serve our pastors, our teachers, our support staff, our churches, our schools, our conferences, and our administrators by seeking to enable them to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. We most often work behind the scenes, stewarding and serving. Our desire is to help empower and enrich the Gospel through the resources we have been entrusted with. We are not unlike medics serving just behind the front lines, running from fire to fire, helping to resolve whatever challenge that may arise. This is the work that God has called IT in the Southern Union to accomplish. As Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14, “But this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the mark for the prize of



The Southern Union Welcomes...

Jermaine Alexander, current IT director for the South Central Conference, will join the Southern Union Information Technology Services team on August 1, 2017, as the assistant director of IT Services. The Southern Union is thrilled to have Jermaine join the team. His primary responsibilities will include support to the conferences and academies. Jermaine has an obvious, contagious passion for serving the Lord, and his experience in directing the IT Department at South Central will be a real asset as he transitions to serving the broader field. Welcome, Jermaine and Kamilah, to the Southern Union family!

the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

I would ask you to please pray for all of the support staff within this Church. Pray that we are faithful in our duties as stewards and servants. Pray that we may join you on that great and mighty day when God says to His stewards, **“Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter thou into the Joy of your Lord,”** Matthew 25:21. 🕊

Richard Stephenson is the director of the Information Technology Services Department at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

GOD

— *The Grand Choreographer*

BY GORDON RETZER, RETIRED PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN UNION

Santiago peered through the small window into the Sabbath School classroom six at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Florida. He believes the Spirit moved him to open the door and come in, even though the teacher had already begun. The Grace and Truth class, with more than 75 attending each week, is led by Ted Hamilton, who coordinates the class and teaches along with Terry Shaw, Loran Hauck, Kelly Pettijohn, and Greg Ellis. All the teachers are senior leaders at Adventist Health System and Florida Hospital, and have been faithfully teaching a Sabbath School class for more than 20 years.

When my wife, Cheryl, and I joined the class after retiring and moving to Orlando, Florida, we immediately noticed that every week each teacher focused on Jesus, the Gospel, and how to live with full joy and confidence in the grace of Jesus. As the Bible was studied, Jesus, full of grace and truth, was always the focus.

Well, Santiago kept coming. Several in the class befriended him and learned that he had family in Nicaragua. He was now retired, living in Florida. One Sabbath during the prayer request time, he spoke of his mother in Nicaragua, and other family members who were Seventh-day Adventists, but because they had very few resources in the remote villages, he wanted to help the church members there get songbooks in their dialect.

The next Sabbath, the class was invited to raise money for printing the songbooks, which had already been translated. Robyn, who works at Florida Hospital, said she could get the songbooks printed, and in a few weeks Santiago was on his way to his family and the scattered Seventh-day Ad-

ventist churches in rural Nicaragua with 450 new songbooks. I assumed he was a member of the Adventist Church. A few weeks later, imagine my surprise when he approached me after class one week and asked what he needed to do to be baptized. He had been raised a Seventh-day Adventist, but had left the church many years previously. But, his mother, now in her 80s, had been praying for her boy every day.

It was a privilege to begin studying with Santiago the very next week. In a few weeks, a date was set for his baptism in February 2014. The class decided to have a special Sabbath meal at the home of Loretta and Loran Hauck, and celebrate his baptism which took place in their pool. What a celebration! And, we got to meet Santiago's wife, Patti, for the first time. Immediately, we could see she was an active Christian. I recently heard a preacher refer to God as the Grand Choreographer, moving through events and people toward the purpose of completing His work of salvation (Philippians 1:6). More than 50 class members were in attendance that day, and God arranged for Patti and Santiago to sit at a table with Terry and Paula Shaw for lunch. Why? Because Patti, a CPA (certified public accountant), is a professor and co-chair of the Accounting Department at Valencia College, and Terry, who at the time was chief financial officer of Adventist Health System, is also a CPA. Terry and Paula took an interest in Patti, and they had a grand conversation of all things accounting and business.

We didn't see Patti again for one year. Santiago kept coming to class and church. On the one-year anniversary of Santiago's baptism, the class was thrilled to see Patti come through the door with her husband.

Cheryl and I had lunch with them after church, and Patti talked about how Santiago kept telling her about the class teachers, and how much he was learning, and how kind everybody was. So she decided to check it out. And she kept coming faithfully every week, even when Santiago was out of town.

Several months ago, tragedy struck the family when Santiago's daughter's husband in Mexico suddenly died. She was left with five children. When we heard the news, Cheryl kept wondering what we could do to help them. The next week when Santiago and Patti arrived at class, we asked them how the class could help. Patti thought for a moment, and then the Spirit gave her the perfect idea: "She is a seamstress, but her old sewing machine is broken." We got Loretta and Patti together, and that very week Loretta found a commercial sewing machine, and the following Sabbath the class members donated \$1,000 for the sewing machine, as well as the airfare for Santiago to take the sewing machine to their daughter in Mexico. Patti couldn't believe people would so quickly jump in and help. It's not unusual for the class. One Christmas, the class bought a car for a single mother who is a member of the class. Several students have been helped financially at Forest Lake Academy.

In early 2017, Patti asked the class to pray for her since she had made the decision to leave her church, and she was going to tell the pastor. She had been a leader in the church and very involved. Even as Patti was making her announcement, a class member went over and put her arms around her. That Sabbath, Patti heard Pastor Geoff Patterson announce a week of fasting and prayer, and Patti and Santiago came every



night. Patti is a praying saint. The first night they attended the prayer meeting, God brought Pastor Geoff's wife, Alicia, to be a prayer partner with Patti.

And a few weeks later, after a Saturday night of games and popcorn at our home with several of the new members (in the past four years, through the work of the Spirit, 10 Grace and Truth class members have been baptized and joined the church), Patti lingered and asked if I would baptize her. Then, she surprised us. "It sure would be nice if I could have someone else baptized with me. I'm going to pray that God will impress someone else to be baptized at my baptism." Then I told her that the Haucks had shared with me that when Patti was ready to be baptized, they would be thrilled to have the baptism in the same pool where Santiago was baptized. Patti was overwhelmed. So Sabbath afternoon, February 18, 2017, exactly three years from Santiago's baptism, the whole class gathered again at the Haucks garden baptistry, and Patti was buried in baptism. **AND her prayer was answered!** Julia was baptized with her! Yes, God is the Grand Choreographer. Here's what happened.

The Sabbath following Patti's request to be baptized, it was announced to the class, and Patti told the class she was praying for someone else to join her in baptism. The following Sabbath, believe it or not, Julia,

who had moved to Orlando to live with her son, Jon, after her husband of 50 years had suddenly died of cancer, and who had been attending the class for several months, approached me along with Jon, and shared that she wanted to study to prepare to be baptized and join the Church. You see, some five years ago her son, Jon, was in Costa Rica to surf and explore, and God initiated a contact between him and a young lady he had never met, Patty, who lived there. She was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. He was not. Her father worked for Adventist World Radio. He helped Jon learn the teachings of Jesus, he was baptized, he and Patty fell in love, were married, and now Jon works for Florida Hospital in Information Technology. He and Patty have been members of the Grace and Truth class for several years.

Jon then brought his brother, Don, to Jesus. Don moved to Orlando from Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and while enjoying a meal at Jackie and Ted Hamilton's home (one of many times they host various members from the class), I met Jon, his wife Patty, and Don. That day, Jon told me he thought the Holy Spirit was working in his brother's life, and he was thinking about being baptized. We studied together, and two years ago Don, through his attendance at the class, the influence of his brother, and the impact of a Friday evening home Bible

study and prayer group conducted by several members of the Sabbath School class, was baptized. That meant that Jon and Don's father and mother became curious, and their dad started researching about the seventh-day Sabbath and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He became convicted through the Spirit, and invited the pastor in Ft. Walton Beach to come to their home and study.

Then cancer struck, and in a few short weeks, Julia's husband, John, was dead. He died in Jesus, there is no doubt about that. So Julia moved to Orlando at the end of 2016 to live with her children. Of course she started coming to the Forest Lake Church where her sons attended, and to the Grace and Truth class. She loved it. The teachers kept teaching about Jesus and His grace.

And that's how it came to be that through the providence of God and the Holy Spirit, Julia made her decision to be baptized. When Cheryl and I were studying with her, she said, "I'm so excited, I can't sleep!" God knew all along that Julia would be the answer to Patti's prayer. And Julia and Patti are now new friends in Jesus. Patti shared a moving testimony before she was baptized. "The genuine love and care I received from the members of this class, without judgment or question, have changed my life. You have shown me Jesus." 🙏

THE BEAUTY OF EVANGELISM

BY ALAN PARKER, D.TH.

There is a science to touching hearts for Jesus. Christ told us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves in our dealings with people (Matthew 10:16), but sharing Jesus with others doesn't always come naturally. Thankfully training and practice can make anyone a more effective soul winner.

Six years ago, It Is Written partnered with Southern Adventist University to establish SALT (Soul-winning And Leadership Training). Students can earn college credits and learn to effectively share Jesus' love while studying for their chosen degree. This is practical education.

College students weren't the only people interested in becoming educated soul-winners. Young professionals and retirees alike started asking about how they could participate in SALT. So, It Is Written and Southern Adventist University started a one-week intensive program called Summer SALT. Each July leaders in evangelism such as Alan Parker, D.Th., John Bradshaw, pastor and It Is Written speaker/director, and others take the time to personally mentor and train students in practical evangelism.

Graduates of the SALT program are ecstatic about their experience. Leah, a 2013 graduate, took a position as the Bible interest coordinator at Kettering Hospital after her training. "One of my biggest takeaways from SALT was that the course made everything very practical," Leah said. "I learned to plant seeds, and never limit what God can do." Crystal, a full-time hairdresser and Summer SALT graduate, now holds 10 to 20 Bible studies every week. "SALT gave me the tools I needed to get Bible studies



Alan Parker, D.Th., teaches a SALT class.

John Bradshaw, pastor and It Is Written speaker/director, teaches a SALT class.



SALT staff

SUMMER SALT

DATES: July 12-16, 2017
LOCATION: Southern Adventist University
SPEAKERS: John Bradshaw, Alan Parker, Michelle Doucoumes, Chris Anderson, Victor Maddox, Keith Reid, Little Light Studios, Nicole Parker, and more
REGISTER: southern.edu/salt

SALT 365

Soul-winning training webinars from It Is Written
FREE AND ON-DEMAND
WATCH: itiswritten.com/salt



SALT students go door to door.

going in my local church,” Crystal said.

Whether students take the accredited courses in the fall or the summer intensive program, they return to their community equipped to share Jesus with their friends and neighbors. But, the training doesn’t end there. In 2016 It Is Written launched SALT 365, a free, weekly video series available to anyone with an internet connection. It Is Written team members, SALT instructors, and other evangelism experts share practical tips about sharing Jesus’ love with others. Each video is archived and available for viewing anytime.

Not everyone is called to give a Bible

study. But, regardless of how we share His love, there are principles that make reaching hearts more effective. This year Summer SALT is expanding their program to offer additional tracks in health evangelism, media ministry, and biblical counseling.

Orlando recently graduated from SALT, and works as a nurse and part-time Bible worker on a Navajo Indian reservation in Arizona. “One of the greatest things I realized was that there is a science to soul-winning,” Orlando said. “The methods that were shared gave me a lot of confidence. SALT showed me the beauty of evangelism.”

Over the past six years, 385 students have learned how to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves when sharing Jesus with others. In their various mission fields around the country and the world, they share Orlando’s testimony: “I’m here to reach people’s hearts, to become their friend, and then point them to Jesus.” That is the beauty of evangelism. 📌

Alan Parker, D.Th., is the director of the SALT program, as well as director of the Pierson Institute of Evangelism and World Missions at Southern Adventist University. He lives with his wife, Nicole, and children in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Churches Engaging in Politics IS NOT A GOOD THING!

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Throughout the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump promised voters, especially evangelicals who were behind him, that he would do away with an IRS restriction brought about in 1954. That restriction, the Johnson Amendment, prohibits 501(c)(3)s — mostly churches and other non-profit/charities — from engaging in campaigning for or against political candidates.

Following the inauguration in January, movement began on making that promise a reality. On February 1, 2017, a bill was introduced in both houses of congress. The Free Speech Fairness Act (S 264 and HR 781) would specifically do away with the Johnson Amendment by stating, “An organization may not lose its tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) or be deemed to have participated in, or intervened in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office . . .” However, before the bill had any action, the president preemptively signed his executive order.

Do not be misled by the general media: The executive order signed by President Trump on Thursday, May 4, 2017, did not do away with the Johnson Amendment. Instead, the executive order was a command to the IRS to quit enforcing the amendment. While the amendment still stands, the president is asking the IRS to turn a blind eye toward churches who engage in more robust political speech.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, because of its biblical beliefs and practices, does not desire to intervene in elections. Additionally, the church has opposed certain previous proposals for a full repeal of the Johnson Amendment. Therefore, while recognizing the law’s potential First Amendment concerns, the church reaffirms its opposition to legis-



lative efforts to eliminate or weaken rules that prohibit nonprofits, including houses of worship, from endorsing or opposing candidates.

“... the church will not modify its practice of remaining neutral in elections. While church members are free to support candidates or even run for office themselves, it is not the role of the church to become involved in the electoral sphere.” (Church statement on the proposal to repeal the Johnson Amendment, April 6, 2017, Adventist Review)

While many will argue that the executive order did little to change the current rules, the concern is with that section of the or-

der that deals with political speech by and through religious leaders and organizations. Most pastors in America know how increasingly divisive politics has become, and will hopefully use discernment for the varying political opinions of their parishioners to keep this type of speech out of churches. Nevertheless, for Adventists the concern that American churches could become more heavily involved in politics has its roots in the prophetic implications of this troubling action. On the eve of the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, a review of history and its propensity to repeat itself brings to mind the truth about churches who feel motivated to place their agenda on the government’s door through increased politicization. By allowing churches more unbridled freedom in politics, you risk making the politician beholden to the organization/church who got them elected.

“This is what the Jews did in the days of Christ and what the church has done ever since whenever she has lost the grace of Christ. Finding herself destitute of the power of love, she has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted, and the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time,” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, page 126.2.

Conventional wisdom dictates that we are better able to fulfill our prophetic purpose as a church when we stay focused on Christ, rather than politics. ●

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of the Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Department at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

“LIVING LAST SUPPER”

Presented at Auburn Church

BY JEFF WESTBERG



SUBMITTED BY: JEFF WESTBERG



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As a special Easter presentation, members of the Auburn, Georgia, Church wrote and performed a play on the Last Supper with Jesus and His disciples. The men spent hours in Bible study to ascertain the psychological makeup on what the men of that day might have said while eating this historic meal.

Each disciple delivered a five- to seven-minute dialog reflecting his thinking about Jesus, His kingdom, and the relationship he had with the Messiah.

The Auburn, Georgia, Church decided to do something extraordinary for Easter this year. Fernando Villarruel, director of the congregation's men's ministries, approached the pastor seven months ago and shared his dream of producing a "Living Last Supper" using Leonardo da Vinci's famous mural of the late 15th century as the template.

The men spent several dozen hours in deep Bible study to ascertain the psychological make-up of the disciples, and then wrote what each man might have said while sharing this historic meal with Jesus.

After hours of perfecting their dialog, the 13-member troupe was ready to practice. They transformed the church sanctuary into the upper room, and had several

dress rehearsals. Each disciple delivered a five- to seven-minute dialog reflecting his thinking about Jesus, His Kingdom, and the relationship he had with the Messiah, who was portrayed by Larry Moore. Each disciple ended his thoughts by wondering if he was the one who'd betray the Son of God.

During the actual performance on Easter Sabbath, there were three musical presentations interspersed throughout the program to allow the actors a chance to rest.

The church invited the city through a mass mailing of invitations to each home in the city, and hand delivered some 500 handbills. The 180 members of the audience (60 from the community) were both entertained and challenged by the perfor-

mance. There were humorous lines interwoven within the dialog, but there were also important theological presentations and probing questions. The script was skillfully written and achieved its desired impact on the hearts of the audience.

At the conclusion of the presentation, light refreshments were provided in the fellowship hall, and the *Desire of Ages* and *Steps to Christ* were shared with visitors. One couple, invited by a recently baptized member of the congregation, stated they had never considered Jesus in the way this presentation shared. They said their desire is to become Seventh-day Adventists.

It was a very special way of celebrating Easter and bringing glory to God.

Watch the presentation on the Auburn Church's webpage: AuburnSDA.org. 📺

SOUTHERN SUMMERS

BY TIERRA HAYES



High school students dig into the mysteries of computing during Southern's Academic Summer Camps.

After May graduation, life on the campus of Southern Adventist University changes pace. Students pack up their things, fill their cars, and head home for the three-month summer break. But, campus doesn't stay empty for long.

Despite the absence of the full student body, Southern overflows with activity during the summer. From day camps to graduate intensives, there's something for just about everyone. These are a few of the highlights.

Exploring Their Wild Sides

During the school year, Anna Plank is a junior graphic design student at Southern. But during the summer, she works as a counselor for one of the University's summer programs, WellKids in the Wild, which allows her to be more in touch with her adventurous and outdoorsy side.

The WELLKids day camps encourage young people, ages 10-16, to explore nature

through fun and exciting activities.

"The kids really seem to like it a lot," Plank said. "My brother was in one of the groups, and he loved it."

Run by Southern's Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Department, the camp guides students through a week of physical challenges. Participants take part in hiking, mountain biking, caving, field trips, and other events.

"While there are a lot of full day camps in the area, there might be some parents who are interested in getting their kids out of the house for a few hours in the middle of the day," said Leslie Evenson, Wellness Institute director. "We have open facilities to utilize, and we primarily want to do something to get kids moving and active."

Diving Into Campus

It's no secret that for many high school students, summer is no longer just about going to the beach and hanging out with

friends. Often students use the break for enrichment activities that cannot be experienced during the regular school year, and Southern caters to this need.

For the second consecutive summer, the University is offering high schoolers the opportunity to take part in its Academic Summer Camps. The three-day camps are offered in 10 subjects, including chemistry, photography, writing, and Civil War history. Students can explore their interests while engaging with the campus and professors.

Lucas Patterson, the director of Southern's academic camps, believes today's youth realize that it could be up to them to make a difference in society.

"I think this generation really wants to change the world," Patterson said.

In order to reflect this trend, Southern will be hosting three new camps with emphases in social work, missions, and global policy, in addition to the camps offered last year.



Summer graduate intensives make it easier for working students to earn their master's degrees.



New students make friends and get ahead academically during Southern's SmartStart.



WellKids in the Wild helps young people get active, and have fun outside for a few hours a day.

Flexibility in Earning a Degree

For Katrina Schreiner, Southern alum and current graduate student, the regular school year is hectic. Working as an elementary school teacher, she struggles to find additional time to complete her master's degree. For that reason, she finds Southern's summer graduate intensive programs beneficial.

These courses are condensed to approximately one month each and offer flexibility to working students.

"They're catered to the teacher's schedule, and allow me to attend classes I wouldn't otherwise be able to since I don't live locally," Schreiner said. "It's helpful to focus on a class or two at one time, and do it during the summer while I am not working."

These classes are available online and on campus in many disciplines, including outdoor leadership, education, religion, healthcare, and business.

Starting Smart

Rick Anderson, associate director of admissions at Southern and a 2008 graduate, recalls arriving on campus as a freshman. Rather than starting in the fall semester, Anderson arrived a month early to attend SmartStart, a free, three-credit-hour course.

"By taking that class, I learned what it was going to take to be successful in college," Anderson said, "I was able to focus a lot more time and energy into that class and get ahead of the game academically."

Southern offers one-month courses all summer, but the session at the end of July is special. First-time students are encouraged to come to campus during this time to participate in SmartStart tuition free. Students can choose from a variety of classes, such as Intro to Photography or General Biology, to kick-start their academic experience. The program also helps acclimate new students before the entire student body returns.

Anderson believes that students have an exclusive opportunity to be introduced to Southern's campus, and make new friends during SmartStart.

"Southern is a unique place with a lot of new people, and SmartStart is an opportunity to focus without the load of other classes," Anderson said. "Most students who attend have a good experience. They see that our professors on this campus care about students and will spend time helping them to be successful."

For more information about activities on campus during the summer, or about Southern Adventist University in general, visit southern.edu. 📍

Tierra Hayes is a sophomore mass communication major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

The Spanish Voice of Hope

CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI



The late Braulio Pérez Marcio, Litt.D., was founder and director/speaker for more than 30 years of the Spanish Voice of Prophecy, now Voice of Hope.

Like a light in the midst of the shadows caused by World War II, The Voice of Prophecy in Spanish, later known as The Voice of Hope (VOH), emerged in 1942 in Glendale, California. Its main mission was to reach the population of the Spanish-speaking world with the Gospel of salvation through the radio. Founder, Braulio Pérez Marcio, Litt.D., director/speaker for more than 30 years, was born in Spain in 1904, and raised and educated in Argentina. He also taught in Central America. In 1942, while ministering in Havana, Cuba, as pastor and evangelist, he was invited to conduct the radio program that would be known internationally.

Throughout his ministry, he led evangelism campaigns in all Hispanic American countries, as well as among the Hispanic population of the United States. His erudition, sensitivity as a writer and poet, and deep understanding of the Hispanic language and culture made him a very influential personality among the Hispanic audience. Above all, he was an instrument of the Lord who exalted the blessed hope of His return.

In 1971, when Perez Marcio's health was declining, Milton Peverini took his place for 24 years, and then Frank Gonzalez took over. Since 2013, Omar Grieve from Argentina, and his wife, Nesy Pittau from Brazil, have been taking the lead. Evangelist Ángel Rodríguez Medina joined them in 2014. All ministry personnel identified with the Grieves' deep vision of using the resources of the ministry to proclaim the message of salvation boldly and effectively, and to exalt Jesus Christ as the only source of hope and salvation. Thanks to the invaluable support of innumerable people, and through the power of God, VOH has sown a Christian message of security, peace, and love.

Now, 75 years later, as a way of celebrating a path full of blessings, an evangelistic caravan was organized that launched in Cuba last March. For seven years the program had ceased to be transmitted in Cuba, and there is a lot to celebrate now that it is on the air again. Fifty simultaneous campaigns were conducted; in addition, they participated in the evangelistic caravan, visiting 17 cities, graduating 22,000

students, and baptizing approximately 1,800 souls for the glory of God.

This year's anniversary will mark special events in the territories of the nine unions in the North American Division, concluding with the anniversary summit event to be held September 9, 2017, at the Loma Linda Adventist Church, Loma Linda, California. Before that culminating event, the caravan will pass through Portland, Oregon; Chicago, Illinois; Garland, Texas; Ashton, Maryland; Atlanta, Georgia; New York, New York; St. Paul, Minnesota; and San Jose, California.

The Southern Union Conference Hispanic Ministries Department is looking forward to participating in this celebration on July 22, 2017, when The Voice of Hope Caravan will be in Jonesboro, Georgia. The churches in the area are getting ready for the event. There is no doubt that God will bless every step of the process to make this great project a reality. 📌

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

*Adventist Health System President/CEO*TERRY SHAW
VISITS HOSPITALS*Across the System*

BY MARIO ROBERTS

When Terry Shaw, Adventist Health System (AHS) president/CEO, assumed leadership of the organization, he had a clear vision to ensure that “Adventist Health System is widely respected as a consumer-focused organization that engages individuals in their health by delivering Christ-centered, holistic, best practice care across a connected, comprehensive continuum of services. With Christ as our example, Adventist Health System cares for and nurtures people: our employees, our communities, our healthcare professionals, and those who trust us for care and healing.”

To accomplish this, a new AHS Cabinet was appointed, and work immediately began on a new strategic framework and working plan. Shaw then joined other members of the Cabinet and visited Adventist Health System hospital campuses across nine states, where they listened to and learned from those who are carrying out the mission in their local communities.

“I felt that it was important to get out to our hospitals first and meet with those who deliver on our mission promise every day,” said Shaw. “It is so reassuring to be out in our local markets, interacting with employees across the organization who take so much pride in our mission. From surgeons to nurses, administrative staff to volunteers, all of our employees play such an important role in ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.’”

The visits have enabled Shaw to spend some one-on-one time with hospital leadership teams and discuss the future of



Terry Shaw, AHS President/CEO, shakes hands with hospital staff who work to deliver the organization’s mission every day.

AHS, the fulfillment of the organization’s mission, and ways to work better together to serve patients and communities.

Shaw and his executive team used the visits to roll out a recast version of Vision 2020 with a new, simple, five-word expression: holistic, exceptional, connected, affordable, and viable. “I want to be sure that our leaders can easily share the story of our vision on a five-floor elevator ride with one of our employees,” outlined Shaw in explaining the new Vision 2020 construct.

The visits provided Shaw and the leadership team an opportunity to begin sharing a new set of strategic imperatives that will drive planning throughout the system. They have also taken the feedback

from the local meetings and integrated it into areas that will improve processes and strengthen the organization.

“This has been a wonderful learning experience. We are greater as a whole, and that starts with the people serving our patients,” Shaw added. “I am so excited about the future of Adventist Health System, and together, we continue to deliver compassionate, connected, whole-person care, which will increasingly differentiate us from other care providers, and make an even greater impact in the lives of patients and the communities we serve.” ●

Mario Roberts is the senior communications specialist at Adventist Health System.

FATHER AND SON TEAM UP

For Evangelism

BY TYLER ROBERTS

Richard and Richie Halverson share more than the title of evangelist; they also share the title of father and son. From March 17 to April 8, the Halversons have held an evangelistic crusade in Mississippi in two locations. Son Richie preached at the College Drive Church in Pearl, Mississippi, and father Richard preached at The Ridge Church plant in Clinton, Mississippi. God blessed the event tremendously, with 18 people joining the Church.

With no signs of stopping, the duo plan to start another set of meetings in Tupelo and Corinth, Mississippi, in the summer months. Richie credits his father's ministry as one of his earliest influences. "It was a part of our family upbringing. We had to go to the meetings whether we wanted to or not I remember as a young person going with my dad visiting people. It was just a part of my life." For his part, Richard couldn't be more proud of his son. "I'm glad for the fervor that he has When you step out in these meetings you are nervous, and you're not sure what's gonna happen I think the most beautiful thing I've seen is that he has a desire to reach souls for Jesus. And, there's no better way than evangelism."

This crusade is a first in many respects; both preachers are speaking simultaneously at different church locations. "We've done this intentionally," explained Richie. "This is the first time we've done one meeting for The Ridge Church plant and another meeting for the College Drive Church (the mother church) at the same time It's kind of forced the two churches to take ownership, which can be a good thing." Richard expounded on the special nature of these meetings, "I've done city-wide meetings before, but I've never done a



Richard (right) and Richie Halverson, father and son in ministry



Richie Halverson preaches at the College Drive Church in Pearl, Mississippi; it's the mother church to The Ridge.



Richard Halverson preaches at The Ridge, a church plant in Clinton, Mississippi.

meeting where I was working with just my son. I've always wanted to do it. It's been awesome."

The method both father and son have used in this crusade is to mix the old with the new. In the era of social media and the internet, technology plays a big role in evangelism efforts — but for both pastors nothing beats the personal touch. "That's probably the strongest avenue, the Holy Spirit working together with you when you

interact with people," explained Richard. "When they know that you really care, they're more moved to make decisions." Richie went further in depth, "It's great using social media We're advertising on Facebook and on Instagram, getting people talking about the subjects. The drawback is that there is no substitute for personal interaction. We don't Facebook live or live stream. We want people to come out and get the one-on-one interaction. What my father has imprinted on me, whether I'm a pastor or whatever I am, is the need to do public, personal evangelism." The secret to both father and son's success is that, as Richard put it, "Christ is at the center of every message we have, rather than just doctrine. People need to see that you're concerned about them, and that God has great things in store for them."

The duo will begin meetings in the Tupelo, Mississippi, district, July 14, 2017. ●

AFRICAN EXTRAVAGANZA... FREEDOM WALK

BY DAPHNE JOHNSON



Samuel McClendon directs the Bethany Christian Academy choir.



African art and cultural displays prepared by Bethany Christian Academy students and teachers.

The Black History Freedom Walk at Bethany Christian Academy in Macon, Georgia, where Thomasa Henry is principal, was held February 23, 2017. This grand event was hosted by Bethany Church, where Steven Ruff is pastor. Students, staff, parents, and friends convened in Bethany's cafeteria to enjoy a traditional soul food dinner. The term "soul" originated sometime in the mid-1960s, to describe African American culture.

After dinner, the guests assembled in Bethany's sanctuary, welcomed by the song "I Love the Lord Today," featured by Samuel McClendon. The students of Bethany Christian Academy provided powerful singing, movements, orations of Negro spirituals, and a compelling rendition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s unforgettable speech, "I Have a Dream." Each student performed with pride and precision. God's Spirit showered the sanctuary with the "reign" of freedom.

After the program, the congregation prepared for the Freedom Walk — a walk embodied on the left side of the hallway by

shadowed art depicting African natives, the jungles of the motherland, and the native animals. On the right side, all witnessed the African trade ships that landed thousands of ancestors on this foreign soil, to the chains that bound them to the rigidity of the master's command. From the platform of the slave trades in Charleston, S.C., to the platform of the first black President of the United States — God has been good: God has had His eyes upon them, He has had His arms around them, and His heart within them.

The highlight of the evening was the piercing words of R. Steven Norman III. Norman reminded the attendees that the importance of their being was "Standing in the Gap." These words were etched in the hearts of the students, and are still rehearsed daily in their devotions and conversations. The students and teachers are so proud to be a part of a church and school that can never forget their past, and will always celebrate their future through the love and commitment in keeping Adventist Christian education alive.

"Ordinary kids, with an Ordinary purpose, worked with Ordinary skills, and did an Extra-ordinary job."

Thank you, students of Bethany Christian Academy. Never forget!

The foundation and academic parallel of this program was based on the integration of Black history, paralleling it to the academic standards of education. This includes reading, writing, history, art, music, geography, social studies, technology, literacy, drama, Bible, poetry, research, spelling, and public speaking.

His-story yields our future:

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations. Ask thy father, and he will show thee, thy elders, and they will tell thee," Deuteronomy 32:7.

"We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history," *Life Sketches*, Ellen G. White, page 196. ●

Daphne Johnson is the K-2 teacher at Bethany Christian Academy in Macon, Georgia.

AHS's Florida Hospital to Provide Free Mobile Dental Care to Community in Need



The 40-foot Winnebago mobile clinic will provide dental services to underserved patients throughout the community.



The walking trail is designed to provide enjoyment and recreation for Gordon Hospital employees and the community.

Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital is partnering with the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County to provide a free mobile dental clinic for underserved patients. In Osceola, the mobile clinic — a specially equipped 40-foot Winnebago — will travel to less populated parts of the county, such as Holopaw, Kenansville, and Narcoossee.

For low-income, uninsured residents of these areas, a trip to the dentist is a major undertaking, especially if they are reliant on public transportation. As a result, many simply forgo dental care. Access to care is a serious issue in Osceola. According to state statistics, Osceola ranks 59th out of Florida's 67 counties when it comes to access and quality of care. Additionally, in

2016 the ratio of dentists to residents in the county was a staggering 3,610:1, approximately double the state average of 1,820:1. Furthermore, while the statewide ratio has been improving in recent years, the opposite is true for Osceola.

The mobile unit will provide services to include dental evaluations, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, dental sealants, and fillings, as well as dental and oral-care education.

"We are happy to be able to offer this important service throughout our community. Poor oral health may contribute to other health issues. The availability of this van will enable us to provide services that promote good oral health care," said Belinda Johnson-Cornett, administrator for the Florida Department of Health in

Osceola County.

The project is funded by a one-year, \$304,930 grant from Florida Hospital's Community Health Impact Council (CHIC). CHIC, as the council is commonly known, awarded more than \$1 million in 2016 to projects that improve the health of central Floridians and address societal issues.

"CHIC is very pleased to be supporting this important initiative to bring dental care to underserved areas of Osceola," said Debbie Watson, executive vice president for Winter Park Health Foundation and a longtime CHIC board member. "Providing this type of dental care has been shown to have a large impact on patients' overall health and quality of life." ●

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS

AHS's Gordon Hospital Hosts Dedication for New CREATION Health Wellness Walk Trail



Each CREATION Health principle is displayed along the wellness walk to inspire all to live a healthier life.

Gordon Hospital recently held a dedication ceremony for the CREATION Health Wellness Walk. Guests in attendance included employees of Gordon Hospital, members of the foundation board, Jeremy Collis of Northwest Georgia Paving, and the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce.

Funded by the employees of Gordon Hospital, Gordon Hospital Foundation, and community partner Northwest Georgia Paving, the CREATION Health Wellness Walk is a beautifully landscaped one-third-of-a-mile pathway designed to provide enjoyment and recreation for the employees of Gordon Hospital and the

community. The walk has numerous exercise stations along the trail. Its purpose is to be a safe place of exercise and recreation for employees of the hospital and the entire community.

The dedication ceremony started off with a word of welcome from Kathy Johnson, president of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce. Pete Weber, president and CEO of Gordon Hospital, gave a word of thanks and appreciation to all those who donated to make the project a reality. Attendees were also invited to make a 25-year wish for Gordon Hospital on a provided card for a time capsule that will be buried near the CREATION Health Wellness

Walk, and opened in 25 years.

“The CREATION Health Wellness Walk is a wonderful asset to employees, patients, and the community as it provides a safe and convenient place to get out and walk,” said Denise Rustad, CREATION Health coordinator. “Regular activity is so important for our health, and walking is a free and easy way to make sure we are getting our daily dose of cardiovascular exercise. I am excited to see people take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to better their health.” ●

BY CHELSEA ETHERIDGE, MARKETING COORDINATOR AT GORDON HOSPITAL

Carolina Conference Hosts Annual Adventurer Fun Day



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Adventurers participate in one of the myriad of activities.

Every year Adventurer clubs throughout the Carolinas prepare for a huge spring event called Adventurer Fun Day. The Adventurer Council and Nosoca Pines Ranch welcomed 850 Adventurers, staff, and family members on April 9, 2017. This year's theme was "Embracing the World for Jesus," and the goal was to teach Adventurers how to share the Gospel by embracing different countries around the world.

That morning, hundreds came dressed to impress as they showcased their chosen country's native attire. Prior to this event, clubs had been given tasks to complete, such as finding a pen pal from their country, learning the memory verse and theme song, and collecting funds to build a One-Day Church.

The program opened with several brave Adventurers giving the prayer; reciting the memory verse; and singing the theme song,

"We Are His Hands," in front of a packed gymnasium. Next, the clubs traveled across the globe by going to seven stations representing all seven continents.

Council members had worked tirelessly decorating and designing their station or "continent," and it sure paid off! In Asia, Adventurers learned how to perform an Israeli dance, and make neat origami creations. Down under in Australia, the Adventurers learned how to throw a boomerang and do the kangaroo hop, which is no easy task! Over in Africa, there were safari hayrides, and a tour of the greenhouse "safari." In Antarctica, the Adventurers enjoyed dog sled races, and learned to carry eggs on their feet like penguins. Europe's big focus was refugees, and the Adventurers learned about the importance of clean water, played fun relay races, looked at refugee tents, and traversed a ropes course while blindfolded. Upon entering South America, the children

learned the importance of being medical missionaries. The last stop was North America, where the Adventurers took a journey out West to ride horses, and scaled the largest attraction in Adventurer Fun Day history — an enormous, mountain-like inflatable measuring 170 feet long and 22 feet high, which was a huge hit for young and old!

As the day came to an end, the Adventurers gathered to sing, pray, and enjoy a slideshow of their day. The location where the One-Day Church will be built was revealed at the end of the program, and the crowd applauded when they discovered their donations would go toward building a church in the island country of Haiti. Carolina's Adventurer Fun Day was a great success, and could not have taken place without the many volunteers and staff working behind the scenes. 📍

BY NICOLE STALLINGS

Spartanburg Church Hosts Annual Alive Youth Rally

Something amazing recently happened in the Carolinas. The Spartanburg, S.C., Church hosted their annual Alive Youth Rally, March 31 through April 2, 2017. The theme this year was "Written on Your Heart," and leader Henry Johnson

brought in some incredible talent. This event has been successfully leading youth closer to their Savior for eight years. This year, the numbers increased again with more than 500 in attendance, some traveling from as far away as Mississippi to attend.

Ryan Hodgins, Carolina Conference pastor, was the guest speaker, and Engage Ministries from Southern Adventist University led the worship music. Friday night's program was filled with beautiful praise songs, an inspiring message, moving testimonies,



Ryan Hodgins, Carolina Conference pastor, prays over the youth.

PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, spends time getting to know the youth in attendance.

PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

and talent from the teens. The evening concluded with AfterGlow, always a hit with the youth because it allows them to connect with friends from all over the Conference. The blessings continued on Sabbath with powerful messages from Hodgins, whose honest stories about struggling with sin demonstrated to the youth that they can overcome sin through Christ. His appeal to the youth was for them to bring whatever burden was written on their hearts and give it to God, no matter how big or small the burden.

Hundreds of youth made a decision for Christ on Saturday night as they participated in a special communion service. The Rally ended with food, games, a movie, and good fellowship with one another. Some attendees tried out the giant human slingshot in the gym. Alive Youth Rally was a tremendous success, and it would not have been successful without the many volunteers who selflessly dedicated their time to the Carolina youth event. 📌

BY NICOLE STALLINGS

Carolina Conference Hosts Communication Workshop

The voice and tongue are gifts from God, and if rightly used, they are a power for God,” *Manuscript*, page 40, 1896.

On April 2, 2017, the Carolina Conference Communication Department hosted a workshop for local church communication leaders. This year’s special guest was George Johnson, former North American Division communication director and now assistant vice president of communications and marketing at Clafin University in Orangeburg, S.C.

Johnson focused on the many hats worn by the local church communication leader. He shared personal experiences as well as the wisdom gleaned from them, and his presentation was not only informative but entertaining and practical.

One of the most compelling segments of his presentation covered recent trends

in social media and its effects on society. During this segment he shared a video called “Socialnomics 2017” (viewable on YouTube) that included astonishing statistics on how social media has reduced the average person’s attention span to less than that of a goldfish. Information such as this helps church communicators construct their messages for effective presentation.

Your local church communication leader is an essential part of your church’s ministry team. He or she needs your support and help in this ever-changing world.

Much appreciation and thanks goes to George Johnson for his willingness to share his church communication experiences with the Carolina local leaders. Be sure to watch for information about next year’s communication workshop and don’t miss out! 📌

BY COURTNEY HEROD



George Johnson demonstrates the concept of the multiple hats that a local church communication leader wears.

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



George Johnson, assistant vice president of communications and marketing at Clafin University in Orangeburg, S.C.

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR

Centenarian Irene Osborne Celebrates Birthday

Irene Osborne celebrated her 100th birthday March 5, 2017, with family and friends at the Walker Memorial Academy gymnasium in Avon Park, Fla.

This centenarian, born Irene Felice, took nurse's training at Madison Hospital in Tennessee, where she met her husband to be, J. Wesley Osborne. They were married September 11, 1938, in a garden wedding the day after her graduation. When their house in Hendersonville, Tenn., burned down in 1967, they moved to Avon Park.

After working with various children's Sabbath School divisions, Osborne eventually became associated with the youth group. Fond memories were made for these young people as they had fun pursuing missionary ventures. In appreciation for her work, they nominated her for the Woman of the Year



Irene Osborne

Award with emphasis on home and community. She received this award in 1986 as part of the Association of Adventist Women's Convention in Loma Linda, Calif.

"I just want to be remembered as the youth leader," says Osborne, "as youth have been

my life. I think there is nothing like our young people." Evidently, the feeling was mutual, as those she influenced in Avon Park dedicated the Osborne Youth Center in honor of her faithful, loving ministry for more than 30 years.

After her doctor husband, who specialized in obstetrics, passed away in 1992, Osborne moved to California to be near her children. Avon Park still seemed like home to her, so in later years she has spread her time between California and Avon Park.

Her family includes two sons, David (Judy) Osborne and John (Diane) Osborne; two daughters, Judith (Jim) Crabtree, and Pat (Bill) Kirstein; four grandsons; four great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter. ❶

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Pathfinders Celebrate Island Navigator's 30th Anniversary

Florida Conference's Island Navigator program for Pathfinders will celebrate its 30th anniversary July 21-23, 2017. A special ceremony will be held in the Florida Keys on Sabbath for guests and former participants who wish to honor the long run of this ministry.

The inception of this program began when a special group of visionary Pathfinder leaders, Howard "Howie" Baez, Fred Perlee Sr., Jose "Joe" Rivera, Benny Tillman, and Jeanne Wolfe, explored possible locations for a Teen Challenge under the Pathfinder umbrella. This program encouraged a long-lasting and meaningful relationship with Jesus, and trained young people in survival skills for end-time events.

The Saladino family of Marathon, Fla., was contacted to take these leaders by boat to Molasses Key.

"I drove the group in our boat to the island for a weekend of camping and exploring," says Ray Saladino. "Although raised in the



GROUP PHOTO: RAY SALADINO
PHOTO ART: AIDA CRESCIONI

One of the longest-running Pathfinder programs in Florida Conference, Island Navigator trains young people in survival skills and meaningful relationships with each other and with Jesus.

Church, I wasn't an active member at that time. Little did I know that God was going to use this new adventure to reach me. Through a growing friendship with Joe Rivera, I found a new interest in following God, became an active church member, and got involved in helping youth through the Pathfinder program. Several years later, I became director of the program, now called Island Navigator, which used Molasses Key to navigate Pathfinders to a relationship with God through nature."

Under the current leadership of Calvin

Brooks, the program continues as one of the longest running in Florida Conference Pathfinders. It is their hope that, with God's leading, this program will continue for another 30-plus years or until Jesus comes again.

You are welcome to join Island Navigator on Sabbath, July 22, to celebrate God's mighty, working power. Please RSVP to path.adv@floridaconference.com if you wish to attend this special ceremony. ❶

BY RAY SALADINO

Forest City Spanish Church Members Celebrate Journey to New Campus



Members and guests gathered March 25, 2017, in the 2,000-seat sanctuary to consecrate Forest City Spanish Church's new campus.



Hard work, great sacrifice, and much prayer transformed an abandoned property into a facility for advancing God's work in the surrounding community.

PHOTO BY: FERNANDEZ MEDIA

PHOTO BY: FERNANDEZ MEDIA

There was an undeniable sense of joy, gratitude, and accomplishment among those who attended Forest City Spanish Church on Sabbath morning, March 25, 2017. The day was the culmination of a two-year journey filled with great challenges and even greater miracles for this 1,500-member congregation.

In January 2015, a small group of church leaders and pastors were given the first tour of a former church property available to any congregation willing to show a logical plan to fulfill their mission in the surrounding community, and willing to pay the asking price of 10 million dollars. As the group examined the campus, they visualized how to utilize every square foot while feeling a sense of limitations and inability to make such a financial leap.

Nearly 50 other congregations had taken the tour, dared to dream, and walked out knowing that only a collection of undeniable miracles could make their dreams a reality. The difference came for Forest City Spanish

Church when Vicmael Arroyo, senior pastor, visited Duane Rollins, Florida Conference treasurer, and Mike Cauley, president of Florida Conference, with the hope of convincing them to be dreamers.

As the weeks went on, the group of dreamers and prayer warriors continued to grow. The following months were filled with long days and late nights working to negotiate the price of the property to a more realistic number; creating a plan to pay for it; and obtaining approvals from the church's board of directors, members, and the Conference Executive Committee.

Through many miracles, a potential loan was available in late May 2015, a payment plan had been devised, the original price had been reduced to less than half, and a clear sense of God's guidance permeated. It was time to act. The Conference Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the project, and the final offer was made and accepted by the bank.

After analyzing the property, a new set of challenges were discovered. An intim-

idating amount of renovation needed to be made and paid for in order to bring the abandoned property up to the codes set by local authorities, as well as the needs of the congregation. This led to a time of hard work, great sacrifice, and much prayer to move forward day after day and month after month. A planned six-month renovation effort turned into a year-and-a-half journey.

On December 31, 2016, hours before the start of another year and almost two years after the first prayers were raised heavenward, Forest City Spanish Church members worshiped for the first time in their new 2,000-seat auditorium. Work continued on the building, and on March 25 the church and property were consecrated to the use of God's work in the surrounding neighborhoods through their ministries and community service efforts. There was no doubt that this edifice dedicated to God, was indeed a collective victory! ●

BY JORGE FIGUEROA

Coalfield Church Members Serve Community

Each Sabbath, the children at the Coalfield, Tenn., Church take up an offering designated as missions for community children. Several years ago, according to Lonnie Cook, pastor, the Coalfield public school teachers invited his church and other local churches to participate in the school's Christmas for low-income students.

"I began pastoring the Coalfield Church in 2009, and I am amazed how God blesses our children's mission offering.

Treasurer Jerry Bentz turns it into a check for \$1,000 to the Coalfield school's Christmas project every year.

The response from the teachers: "It is always a pleasure to see students with their new outfits, coats and shoes, toys, and other goodies. You made a difference again this year. That is certain. Thank you!"

The Coalfield Church also launched a

"Hope for the Hungry" food community ministry on August 3, 2016. Danny Treece, the main organizer and food purchaser, said he appreciates the church's support with prayers, funds, and many hours of labor. "As soon as our monthly distributions are over, the Lord fills our shelves again. It doesn't take much to be kind — a loaf of bread, a jar of jelly, spreading love, making an impact for eternity."

In December 2016, 28 boxes of 938 perishable and nonperishable food items were picked up at the church by low-income families. Community service added new Bibles, literature, and new and used clothing. The congregation donated gifts to food ministry children, choosing names from an angel tree in the church foyer. A smiling 89-year-old member said she was so happy to have a part in showing love to children. Another member received a

thankful phone call from someone saying they had never owned their own Bible. 📞



PHOTO BY: LONNIE COOK

Coalfield Church members Patty Sexton, Teresa Baer, and Carol Gigante work with the food bank ministry.

BY JANE MOORE

Baking Bread Educates Dalton Visitors



SUBMITTED BY: VIVIAN RAITZ CARLSON

About 40 people attended a bread-baking session at the Dalton, Ga., Church. Everyone went home with a sample they could bake at home.

"Sugar is a poison!" stated Vivian Raitz Carlson, director of the April 2, 2017, bread-baking session held at the Learning Tree School gym in Dalton, Ga.

"That's a quote from a health educator who worked with me several years ago at the Chattanooga Health Expo," she continued. "He then amazingly demon-

strated his point with the assistance of a husky high school student. The student ate the sugar in a small commercial packet, and immediately showed decreased strength."

At the Bread Bake, Carlson showed the video of a bread-baking program she had done on a local television program several years ago. On it she had demon-

strated the practical how-to's of mixing and kneading the dough, letting it rise, and then placing it in the prepared loaf pans, as well as how to make healthy cinnamon rolls.

Samples of homemade bread spread with peanut butter, plus cinnamon rolls, were enjoyed. Participants had brought mixing bowls and utensils to use. They excitedly worked in twosomes, using a recipe for two loaves.

Nearly 40 persons each took home a loaf of multi-grain bread to bake right away at the close of the two-hour hands-on event. Several men attended, and a number of attendees were friends from the community.

Door prizes were awarded, and the attendees requested a repeat. 📞

BY VIVIAN RAITZ CARLSON

Chattanooga First Celebrates Friendships

The Chattanooga, Tenn., First Church promotes and celebrates friendship with local Islamic Center members whose mosque is in close proximity to their church. Approximately 60 Chattanooga First members gathered for the long-awaited fellowship meal with their Muslim neighbors in the church fellowship hall on Sunday, April 2, 2017. The friendship seed had been planted specifically to share the Gospel and to foster an understanding of different beliefs, as well as to create meaningful friendships in the Chattanooga area.

The first opportunity to interact with their Muslim neighbors came three years ago when church members were invited, along with others from the community, to visit the opening of the Chattanooga Islamic Center, which includes a place of worship, elementary school, and an activity center. City officials, First Church members, along with hundreds of other community members, were permitted to visit each area of the mosque and to ask questions. During the opening ceremony, stories were related as to how the building of the Islamic Center came about, and what Muslims believe. An elaborate, international dinner climaxed the evening.

The next three years provided opportunities where the theme of friendship was echoed by the Islamic Center and the Chattanooga First Church. Dale Tunnell, Chattanooga First Church senior pastor, encouraged his congregation to try new methods of outreach. His sermons often are reminders of how working for the harvest includes “to preach to those who dwell on the Earth — every nation, tribe, tongue, and people,” Revelation 14:6.

A group of Chattanooga First members who had established good relationships with the Muslims encouraged one another in deepening the friendship with their neighbors. They personally contributed in funding, planning, and hosting the spe-



SUBMITTED BY: DALE TUNNELL

The Chattanooga, Tenn., First Church held a fellowship meal with their friends from the local Islamic Center. About 70 visitors attended the meal with a time for visitation, a vegetarian meal, stories, and praise to God. The visitors include Nissa Bereawy, Christian Bunch, Dr. Siddiqui, Nathan Shires, Batool Siddiqui, Dr. Umbar Shah, and Gurpreet Malhi.

cial Friendship Event. The evening started with Tunnell welcoming and briefing the Islamic visitors about Seventh-day Adventist’s beliefs. Singing the hymns, “This is My Father’s World” and “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” brought special meaning to the guests who had been educated in Christian schools. Several of them commented they “miss singing the hymns from childhood.”

Following the singing and responsive reading, Tunnell shared a short sermon on The Lord’s Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. “The Lord’s Prayer embraces the whole world,” stated Tunnell, “and by many Christians it is considered as the most concentrated form of the Gospel — indeed one of the most valuable treasures of the Bible.” He noted that it is in The Lord’s Prayer that Jesus is seen sharing His privilege of portraying God as Father, the personal God of love, Who is very near until eternity. Furthermore, it guides all to speak to God directly, and to exalt Him who lives in Heaven.

The church’s Muslim friends appreciated the explanation of The Lord’s Prayer,

and found some similarities between their main prayer, The Fatiha (the opening sura in the Quran), and The Lord’s Prayer. As they listened to Tunnell, and read through the Bibles provided them, they could see that the theme of The Lord’s Prayer is not fear but love, not isolation but security, not despair but continual thanks.

The evening ended with a special time for visitation with 70 new friends, and was highlighted with a memorable vegetarian meal, stories, praise to God for His guidance, and the beginning of meaningful friendships. Many of the Chattanooga First members expressed that, “the kindness and love shown toward us, and how appreciative our new friends are will always be the blessing for us as we continue this journey together.”

When the members make friends who learn to trust them because they are authentic followers of God, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14) can work through them to help other people. 🕊

BY HILDA CHAPMAN

Women of Spirit II Held at Bass Memorial Academy



Guest speaker Kym Garroway (left) stands with the winner of the drawing made by Sheri Keith.



The women enjoyed a delectable spring tea party spread.

Women of Spirit II is a program for all women, 18-108, with a variety of programs to touch a woman's heart socially, emotionally, and spiritually. The women meet the first Monday of October through December, February, April, and May, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Bass Memorial Academy Church Fellowship Hall, Lumberton, Miss. Each program starts with a beautifully decorated room to make the women feel special as they enter: a delicious buffet is served, as well as an inspirational devotion, a special feature, and a take-home favor to remember the evening. And on occasion, a small "serendipity" might be included.

Special features have included speakers from all walks of life. One was a local artist who shared her story; she also drew a picture of Jesus to the music "It is Well with My Soul," and then a drawing was held to select one woman who was blessed to go home with the beautiful portrait. Two outreach programs were held in December to help those in need for a better Christmas. A musical program was planned by Christian women and men from all denominations.

One of the serendipity highlights was at

Christmas when two elementary students (Lizzie and Louise Ramos) sang "Away in a Manger," with a two-month-old baby Joseph whose family is currently studying God's Word with some church members. It brought tears of joy and happiness to see the realistic remembrance of the Savior's birth before their eyes, something so precious that happened long ago. They continued with three more stages of Jesus' life — as a young toddler portrayed by 11-month-old Josie Shives, a four-year-old boy, and then an eight-year-old boy playing with his dad and reading Scriptures to imagine what Jesus and Joseph might have done.

One of the special feature highlights was in April. Nancy Buxton, women's ministries leader from the Mid-America Union, came to speak to the women about "Silver Boxes — The Gift of Encouraging Words." 1 Thessalonians says, "Encourage one another ..." All around are people who need encouragement, people who are hurt and need help. She shared how to become an encourager, making others feel special, and challenged the women to be the best that they can be while sharing the gift of encouragement.

Prior to the April program, the women were informed about a Bass Church member, who no longer lives in the area but still fairly close by, whose house had burned to the ground and they had lost everything. The Women of Spirit II team worked together and raised money. One of the women invited the member to come, and they were able to present her with a "silver box" of \$500. Jimmy Brazell Jr., pastor of the Hattiesburg/Columbia district, added additional money with their love offerings. Her heart was touched by the Bass family reaching out to her.

In May, the women wrapped up their second full year of this ministry, and their stories have been amazing.

The women recognize that they are not the same, and it's not an easy job to minister to a diverse group. This has provided a great place to meet other women and also to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers. There is no charge, but they do ask for reservations, and donations are gladly accepted.

When the women leave after the program, the mission and goal is that their hearts have been blessed. 🙏

BY VALYNDA BAILEY

Pensacola Junior Academy Has Successful School Year

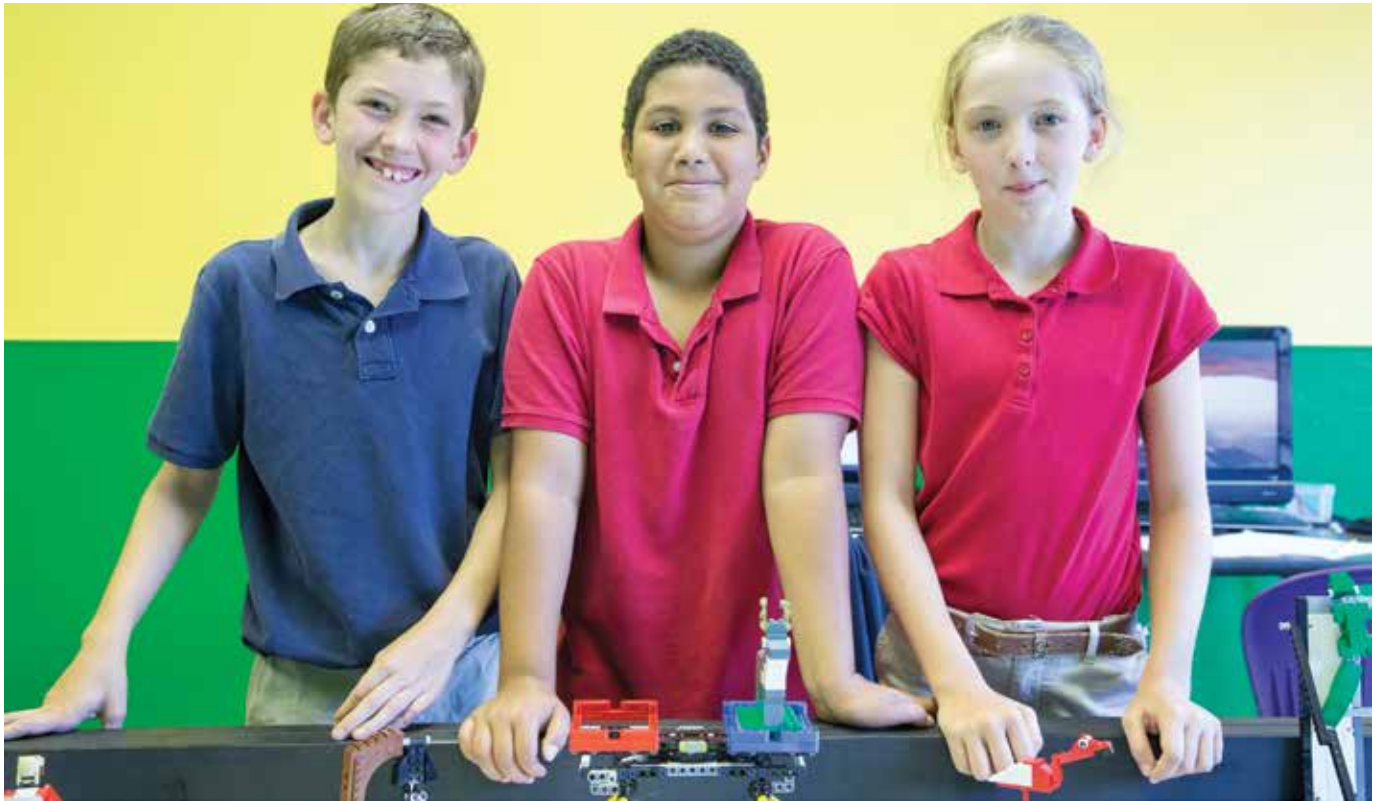


PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Pensacola Junior Academy students in the robotics program include Mason Kelley (left), 4th grade; Ben Algarin, 5th grade; and Peyton Kelley, 6th grade.



PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

Kindergarten teacher Heather Hauffe helps a child with an assignment.

With a thriving robotics program led by Kristy Mobley, and a growing kindergarten program taught by Heather Hauffe, Pensacola Junior Academy (PJA) in Pensacola, Fla., had a great year. Thanks to the state of Florida’s initiative program, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), the PJA early childhood program will be expanding next year to include pre-K as well. Families with children who cannot afford to send their children to pre-K will be able to under the VPK program. Hauffe believes that, “The biggest benefit of these childhood programs is that it gets the kids into the routine of school, and it feeds them developmentally. Some kids are already doing first-grade work.” The school has

a warm, family atmosphere where each child can feel welcomed and wanted. The school’s robotics program gives students the opportunity to learn critical thinking and problem solving skills. “I think every school should have this program. Problem solving and building is fabulous,” said Mobley. Stan Hobbs, education superintendent for Gulf States Conference, had nothing but good things to say. “We believe that PJA is a school any member of this community would love to attend,” said Hobbs, adding, “This [PJA] is a great learning environment characterized by individualized, Christ-centered instruction from teachers who really care.” The school family looks forward to bigger things from PJA next year. 📍

BY TYLER ROBERTS

Madison Campus Children's Choir are Missionaries Through Song



The Kids in Tune choir and director celebrate 10 years of missionary service.

Did you know that you don't need to travel or be a certain age to be a missionary? The Madison Campus children's choir, Kids in Tune, has been a missionary group for 10 years. The choir celebrated its 10th anniversary on March 25, 2017, with a performance of songs from their newly released DVD, *Thankful Heart*.

Eighty former and current members of

the choir joined to sing easily recognizable numbers like, "El Shaddai," "The Wonderful Cross," and "How Great is Our God." The concert also featured original songs written specifically for the DVD: "Servant's Prayer," by Billy Smiley and Gissela Kroll, and "Scars," by Aaron Jones.

Kids in Tune released a CD several years ago that has been shared on Christian net-

works. The choir has inspired the founding of choirs in Brazil, Australia, and Mongolia. Its songs have been used for nursing home ministries in Canada, non-denominational Vacation Bible School programs, and special church and school programs around the country and world. Now that influence is spreading further through the release of the *Thankful Heart* DVD. Choir director and founder Gissela Kroll and choir coordinator Faith Martin have done an amazing job with the children's choir.

"It's such a blessing to see God work through us," Kroll said. "Our hope is that many hearts, little and big, will be touched by God's love, and that they will be inspired to serve Him." ❶

BY KEN TURPEN

Middletown Church Holds First International Weekend

Middletown Church in Louisville, Ky., is blessed to have more than 24 countries represented among its members and attendees. This cultural diversity inspired the first exciting two-day International Weekend in early March 2017, based on Acts 2:5-11, celebrating how the members' differences of background and experience make them stronger in Christ.

The international concert on Friday featured 11 songs sung in Romanian, Kpelle, Mizo, Portuguese, Spanish, Twi, German, English, and Malayalam. A delicious supper preceded the concert during which dozens of attendees socialized and got into the spirit of the event.

On Sabbath morning, women's ministries hosted an appetizing continental breakfast, followed by Sabbath School which featured a rousing song service, an



Ghana Ensemble render special music during the International Sabbath School.

energetically-dramatized mission story, special music, and an engaging panel lesson discussion on the Holy Spirit.

The grand Parade of Nations featured the processional of 24 colorful international flags, and the sounds of "Baba Yetu" and "The Lord's Prayer" in Swahili. The international worship team led the congregation in inspiring praise music, and

Middletown Mass Choir sang two theme songs featuring lyrics in French, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, English, and American Sign Language. The Middletown pastor, Marius Serban, opened his sermon, "Discipleship with Jesus — John," by speaking in Romanian.

The international potluck featured dozens of mouth-watering homemade dishes, including vegetable potstickers, samosas, tofu rice noodles, fried plantains, taco salad, mixed grains, enchiladas, sweet rice bread, tamales, picadillo, and channa saag.

International Weekend will become an annual fixture as Middletown builds on its diversity to draw the members closer together in Christian unity and love. ❶

BY MELLANIE HUNTER

Lawrenceburg Members Celebrate Baptisms



Sarah Westerbeck (left), Jeane McKeen, and Jeanette McHenry

Jeane McKeen was watching Amazing Facts on television two years ago, and started correspondence studies. When she completed a set of lessons and showed an interest in keeping the Sabbath, the Adventist Information Ministry chaplain contacted Lloyd Schomburg, pastor of the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church, and transportation was arranged for McKeen to attend church. Sarah Westerbeck and Jeanette McHenry volunteered to continue her studies. Baptism was scheduled, but McKeen suddenly moved away and was unable to be reached.

It was a delight to everyone when she moved back to Lawrenceburg. She eagerly joined three other baptismal candidates, Lee Santos, Brayden Burns, and Jace Sutherland, and was baptized on March 25, 2017. It was truly a Sabbath celebration of joy. After the baptism, McKeen commented to Schomburg, “When I started studies, I had no idea I was about to become a part of something so big.” 📍

BY LLOYD SCHOMBURG

Ridgetop Pre-K/K Students “Operate” With Vowels

Pre-K and Kindergarten (pre-K/K) are essential to the foundation of a person’s education. Once that foundation is laid, and laid firmly through care, patience, and persistence, the building can begin and continue for a lifetime.

Branching out from the basic phonemic awareness and letter identification at Ridgetop Elementary School in Ridgetop, Tenn., gradually led to using new phonics skills to put sounds together in simple words for the pre-K/K students.

After simple words came a fun activity called Vowel Surgery. Within a few more months of word studies, phoneme reviews, and leveled readers, it was time to prep the “operating room.”

While the pre-K/K students were at recess, their teacher, Shannon Armantrout, transformed the classroom into an operating room; changed into nurses’ scrubs, gloves, hat, and surgical mask; and ran outside with a siren. “Emergency! Emergency!” she said. “Please come help me. I need doctors.” The students froze, confused, but when they began to realize what was going on, they ran over quickly. Armantrout explained, “I have patients in here that need



The doctors prepare for vowel surgery.

your help to be put back together. They’ve lost their vowels. We must have a doctors’ meeting immediately to discuss how to help them. Meet me in library right away.”

In the library, the students reviewed the five vowels. Once everyone was appropriately dressed for surgery, charts with a page for each patient stapled inside were distributed. The doctors were then paired up and began operating. It was slow at first as they became acclimated to the activity and what

needed to be done. But, they began to quickly locate the missing vowels, place them on the word, and then record their findings in their charts. In the end, all patients were stable and recovering well, thanks to the help of 10 doctors working hard to return vowels to their appropriate place.

It’s always exciting to learn in a new and fun way! 📍

BY SHANNON ARMANTROUT

Carl McRoy Interviews Judge Cynthia Adams



Judge Cynthia Adams sits at her bench in the Douglas County Courtroom.

When did you know you wanted to become a lawyer and what was your motivation? How did your faith inform your decision?

I don't know that I can pinpoint the exact moment that I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. For as long as I can remember, it was my chosen profession. I knew that it would be a career where I could excel. I have the ability to see both sides of an issue and advocate for either side.

I see life as a journey. On my journey, I am following Christ and going where He takes me. My faith is and always will be

in the forefront of everything I do, and it was no different in choosing my career.

In what area did you specialize in your practice, and was it as fulfilling as you imagined when you began your journey?

I began my career as a prosecutor. I dealt with some pretty heavy cases while prosecuting. It was rewarding being the voice for victims of crime, including child victims in a lot of cases. Later, I opened my own law firm and practiced in the areas of criminal defense, juvenile and family law, and immigration law.

Again, I felt fortunate that I was able to fight for my clients' rights, and to make sure they were properly represented in the legal system.

What motivated you to want to move from your private practice to serving on the bench, and how are the two similar/different?

It was always my dream to join the Superior Court bench. I am blessed that Georgia Governor Nathan Deal selected me for this post. As an attorney in private practice, I handled cases in the areas of

criminal defense, juvenile and family law, and immigration law. I have been fortunate in my career to sit on both sides of the aisle — first as a prosecutor, and then doing defense and civil work. As a judge, I will preside over some of the same types of cases I worked. Our courts are general jurisdiction courts, which means we handle both civil and criminal law actions. We preside over cases involving misdemeanors, contract disputes, and premises liability. We also preside over cases of divorce, title to land, and felonies involving jury trials, including death penalty cases.

You made history in two ways — by becoming the first female and the first person of color to serve on the bench in that circuit. What, if any, challenges have you experienced in the field of law because of your race or sex?

I am honored to have made history in Douglas County. My family and I have lived in Douglas County for about 14 years, and it is a great place to live and raise a family. I have also practiced in Douglas County and throughout the metro Atlanta area for over 14 years, and I have not encountered challenges because of race or gender. We have a strong legal community in Georgia, and I think it is reflected in the respect that we show each other as attorneys and jurists.

Of all the choices available to you for college, what led you to attend Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., and how did the experience there impact you spiritually and professionally?

For me, selecting Oakwood was about attending not just a Christian school, but an Adventist school. Before Oakwood, I had only attended public schools. Although I received a great education throughout, it seemed that most extracurricular activities were scheduled during Sabbath hours. I longed to participate, and found myself having to explain or justify to my friends and teachers why I could not participate in an event that was taking place on Sabbath. I chose Oakwood because I wanted to go to a school where others believe as I do. I did not want to go through four years of college feeling like I could not participate



Judge Adams stands with her husband, Dewayne, daughter, and son.

in extracurricular activities. Once I arrived, I fell in love with the atmosphere, the teachers, the campus.

Being surrounded by what I call “the religious experience,” of course I grew spiritually. Classes started with prayer; we were required to attend weekly chapel; and I was going to church because I wanted to, not because my parents were requiring me to go. I had found a place that allowed me to be myself without explanation. For me, that’s what was important at that stage in my life. Being in that nurturing environment helped me to excel academically.

Leaving Oakwood, I never felt unable to compete with others who had attended larger institutions. A young person needs that opportunity to become grounded on their own terms, and that is what I experienced at Oakwood.

One highlight that you are quick to mention about your Oakwood experience is about finding your husband there. What advice could you offer to young people,

especially young women, to balance their social life with their studies to stay on track with their professional aspirations?

I prayed really hard before heading off to college. I had visited Oakwood previously, and I had an idea of the distractions I would face once I arrived. I believe that no matter where you end up, you have to be standing on a strong foundation. You have to determine in your mind that you are there to attain a goal, and ask God to help you when it looks like you are about to fall short. But, you can do that and still have fun and enjoy life.

You’ve shared how your native language, Haitian Creole, became a talking point in your interview process for the judge appointment. Are there some ways that your Haitian background has impacted your life in other ways, like shaping your values and goals?

As a child, I was resistant to the idea of speaking Creole. Kids just don’t like being different. But, as I grew older, I realized being bilingual was a gift to be treasured. After the 2012 earthquake in Haiti, my dad told me that I needed to help my people. The Haitian community needed to hear from someone who knew the law, and could speak their language. We are committed to family and looking out for each other. These are the values that keep you going when it feels like things are too difficult to keep going.

What would your advice be for young people thinking about a legal career?

I tell any young person who expresses a desire to study law or be an attorney that, if it is truly what they want to do, then go for it. Sometimes people are overwhelmed by all that is involved with becoming a lawyer — the law school admission test, law school, and then of course the bar exam. It is important to take things one step at a time. They should start by taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and once that test is taken, it is easier to start applying to schools. ●

BY CARL MCROY

Janice Browne, Ph.D., Heather-Dawn Small Train Women’s Ministries Leaders, Conduct Evangelistic Meetings in Ukraine



Janice Browne, Ph.D. (left), and Heather-Dawn Small (fifth, from left), director of women’s ministries at the General Conference, are greeted by Ukrainian children, conference, union, and division officials.



Janice Browne, Ph.D., speaks during one of her evangelistic meetings with a Ukrainian interpreter.



Janice Browne, Ph.D., and Heather-Dawn Small (seated front row, center) are surrounded by 85 Ukrainian women’s ministries leaders.

The following is a personal account of ministry.

God will give you the desires of your heart! On February 1, 2017, I landed in Lviv, Ukraine, warmly received by beautiful Ukrainian children, and conference, union, and division officials to train 85 women’s ministries leaders from all over the Ukraine on “Principles of Effective Leadership” for three days, along with Heather-Dawn Small, director of women’s ministries at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Md. The training was Leadership Certification Level 1. After the training the women gave reports from each area in Ukraine, at which time a report about women and their husbands and children who lived in war zones, but remain because, as they said, “People need to know about Jesus!” Many eyes were filled with tears, and hearts were moved to greater compassion and passion.

After spiritually productive training and powerful reports, my next assignment was

to conduct an evangelistic meeting. For 14 nights, I was blessed by God to conduct an evangelist meeting, Revelation of Hope, at the 3rd Church. The churches are numbered instead of named, and there are four churches in Lviv. The meeting was held on the lower level of the church in the café, named Clubok.com, a typical European café that is open once a week to the public, where people can come inside, purchase a meal for a small amount of money, hear Scriptures, engage in Bible study, enjoy Christian music, and drink herbal tea.

At 3rd Church, the average attendance was 45 individuals nightly, including 15 to 17 visitors. After two weeks of meetings, there were eight joint baptisms that took place at the baptismal service held at 2nd Church, where Heather-Dawn Small was located. Three additional persons made commitments for baptism at the end of the baptismal service, and an additional 11 commitments for Bible study and baptism were made from 3rd Church.

Each night the Holy Spirit filled the room as the people listened intently to the Gospel. The atmosphere was spiritually electrifying! The program included heavenly Ukrainian music, quizzes, Bible giveaways, message reviews, lively group singing, and a question-and-answer segment. Herbal tea and pastries were served to everyone after the meeting. The meeting was viewed each evening on Facebook Live.

This meeting was one of the evangelistic meetings being held in February and March, at more than 4,300 sites in eight countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, as part of Total Member Involvement (TMI), a Seventh-day Adventist World Church initiative that encourages every church member to find a way to share Jesus in their communities. Pray that the Gospel of the kingdom will go into all the world for a witness unto all nations, so that the end will come. 📌

BY JANICE BROWNE, PH.D.

Tuskegee Church Members Promote Child Well-being



Ayanda Chakawa, a graduate student at Auburn University, is involved in mental health research with the Alabama Schweitzer Fellows Program.



Michael C. Mickens, M.Div., senior pastor of First Tuskegee, Tenn., Church, is actively involved in Community Health Leadership and Learning.

This past year has been an exciting year at the First Tuskegee, Tenn., Church, “The Church on the Hill.” The members have been engaged in several projects addressing concerns within the local community. Hence, the members have partnered with one of the university students, Ayanda Chakawa, in the Bridging the Gap program. “Bridging the Gap,” a grant-funded innovative initiative, involves training leaders within faith-based communities, and promoting activities with African-American parents of children ages five to 12. The program was designed by Chakawa to help parents strengthen their child’s health and overall well-being, and to increase access to needed services.

Chakawa believes that disparities in health and well-being in marginalized groups are among the most pressing health-related issues of today. When Chakawa approached First Tuskegee about this unique opportunity, the members thought it would be a great way to get involved in the community, and become active change agents in the area of men-

tal health. The project is part of a strategic partnership with six churches and multiple schools within the community. Chakawa is extremely passionate about this. She says, “I hope that the lasting impact of my project will be to directly empower African-American communities to utilize self-sustainable, culturally-relevant methods to promote child health and well-being.” She also reports that “it would have been impossible to provide this program without the support of several community stakeholders, including First Tuskegee Church.”

So far the members have been blessed to see this project take off and begin making a life-changing impact in the community. This program is already beginning to strengthen the overall health and well-being of the community, as parents are becoming more aware of their children’s mental health care needs and the services available to them. Several of the church members have been involved in the program, and have been deeply impacted by the difference they have been able to make

in the lives of the children. As a church family, they believe that every child is important in the eyes of God, and by caring for them they are demonstrating their love for God. In Matthew 10:13, Jesus was challenged by His own disciples who attempted to prevent the children from coming to Him. Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these,” NIV.

Jesus’ tender words to the disciples are a reminder to all of the eternal value that Jesus places on children, and the value that everyone — as His disciples — should place on those who are precious in His eyes. More than a year ago, when Chakawa first approached the members, they could never have imagined the impact they would be able to make in the lives of the children. The members are extremely excited to be a part of this unique ministry outreach, and pray that with God’s help they can make an eternal difference for the Kingdom of God.

BY MICHAEL MICKENS

Oakwood University Wins Third Honda National Championship

The 2017 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship ended with Oakwood University scholars emerging victorious and bringing \$75,000 back to the campus. After 24 nail-biting rounds of play, Oakwood secured its third national title without a single loss.

Previous wins were 2008 and 2009. Congratulations on an outstanding show and good sportsmanship are due the team of scholars.

HBCU National Quiz Championship was established 28 years ago to showcase the academic excellence of HBCU students. More than 125,000 students have participated in the College Bowl-style games. 📍



Oakwood University's 2017 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship winning team.

BY KENN DIXON, DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATED MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Oakwood Farms Bring “Healthy Food to Grow On”



It's back! Oakwood Farms opens as part of the University's Industry Recovery initiative to support students. With healthy options hand-picked by Oakwood Farm's knowledgeable and caring staff, the Oakwood Farms will be the largest organic “urban farm” in northern Alabama. The market for sharing the

Seventh-day Adventist health message wholesale gives Oakwood University the opportunity to promote a healthy lifestyle based on biblical principles to the community in a practical way.

Some of the seasonal produce that will be offered by Oakwood Farms are fresh winter and summer vegetables, berries,

figs and persimmons, pecans, beehive honey, and fresh well water, to name a few. Oakwood Farms will bring value to north Alabama, and most importantly, to Oakwood's students; this was the plan for Oakwood from the very beginning.

Ellen G. White, when speaking about the need for a school for blacks in the



Artis Sidney (left), Oakwood Farms manager, and Lesile Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University, hold freshly picked produce from Oakwood Farms.

South, shared God's plans for the land. "Wise plans are to be laid for the cultivation of the land. The students are to be given a practical education in agriculture. This education will be of inestimable value to them in their future work. Thorough work is to be done in cultivating the land, and from this, the students are to learn how necessary it is to do thorough work in cultivating the garden of the heart," *The Oakwood Manual Training School*, page 8.

"The vision for Oakwood Farms is rooted in our industry recovery initiative. The creation of Oakwood Farms signals

a return to our founding roots. Oakwood Farms will provide employment for our students, fresh produce for our cafeteria, academic exposure to agribusiness, and nutritional support for our community — especially underserved communities," said Lesile Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University. "We believe that God is leading Oakwood back to its blueprint through 21st century methods. Thanks for your prayers and support." 📌

BY KENN DIXON

Oakwood University Joins Tour de Youth Cycling Event

What do you get when you add a student from Oakwood University, a 73-year-old veteran, a 62-year-old mountain bike racer, a nurse anesthetist, two pastors, and a quiet 62-year-old? You have the 2017 Tour de Youth Cycling event. These seven cyclists rode six days more than 520 miles from Houston, Tex., to New Orleans, La., in April to bring awareness to youth and adult obesity and Adventist education.

This is the third year of the event, but the first year that Oakwood University has sponsored and made it part of its Healthy Campus 2020 movement. "Healthy Campus 2020 (HC2020) is Oakwood's organized initiative to empower students to make healthy choices," says Lesile Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University. "This program is a response to the problem of preventable diseases which affect our students."

The Tour de Youth was created in 2014 by Kenn Dixon, who now serves as the director of integrated marketing and public relations at Oakwood University, and is an avid cyclist. With 16 riders, the



The 2017 Tour de Youth Cycling Team begin their 533-mile ride from Houston, Tex., to New Orleans, La.



The team and support crew arrive in New Orleans, La., after six days of riding and wearing their Oakwood University cycling jerseys.

first Tour began in Dallas, Tex., and concluded in San Antonio, Tex., for the 60th General Conference session in 2015. Since then, there have been many local rides and two major cycling tours from Houston to New Orleans. Now that the Tour has moved to Oakwood University

and the Southern Union, the organizers are looking for more participants, routes, and continuing the message, "Making Healthy Bodies and Determined Minds a Priority." 📌

BY KENN DIXON

Students Learn Lessons in Spirituality, Safety with Unique Outreach Events



PHOTO BY:

Kevlon Kirkpatrick addresses the crowd of students and faculty at the Secure in Christ event.

As institutions that blend spirituality with healthcare, securing them presents unique challenges.

Kirkpatrick stated some interesting statistics about safety, including that “80 percent of violent acts perpetrated in hospitals are from patients.” The safety presentation addresses situations like this and many more. Churches, he also said, are considered “welcoming soft targets” due to their nature as open places of worship, often not locking their doors, and allowing anyone inside. For that reason, it’s important that church members find creative solutions to their safety gaps, which Kirkpatrick and Rigby’s team provide through their presentation. Kirkpatrick and Rigby are certified and highly experienced practitioners of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which is a focal point of their safety presentations. When these events are held, members of the OPD assess the church’s perimeter and interior, both at night and during the day, to offer their recommendations on how to improve safety gaps.

The initiative has received a great response from students, boasting a full house for one of their previous events at a church in Clermont, Fla. As a bonus, it has been a great way of extending ADU’s awareness to the community. Churches in the area have begun to reach out directly to the Crefts, offering to serve as a host location for future events.

Roche stressed the importance of higher education institutions having a close relationship with local police and firefighters, something that he says Steve Creft has done well in fostering during his past six years keeping ADU’s campus secure. ●

Going above and beyond the scope of their duties, Steve and Dawn Creft have organized and executed a highly successful outreach program for Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) students, faculty, and staff. “Secure in Christ” is an all-day event held biannually in the fall and spring and hosted at a local church.

The Crefts wanted to offer students a chance to worship and enjoy themselves in a setting off campus, where they could also indulge their interests in music and theater. What started as a community outreach day for ADU students has turned into an event that combines worship, song, and spiritual study with another important lesson for attendees — personal safety and campus security.

Steve Roche, senior vice president of student services, tasked the departments under his direction to come up with their own community initiative that would represent the University and support its mission. This prompted Steve Creft, ADU

security director, to formalize “Secure in Christ,” which would benefit the attendees both spiritually and practically.

Roche praised the Crefts, saying, “ADU is blessed to have this husband and wife team who care enough to give and provide opportunities for students to engage in a spiritual realm outside of school. Without that, we’re just another University.”

The event starts in the morning with a Sabbath School led by ADU students, followed by faculty-led lessons and study. The students break for lunch, hanging out nearby and relaxing with their peers until the afternoon session begins. Members of the Orlando Police Department (OPD), Kevlon Kirkpatrick and Audra Rigby, deliver a presentation on safety to the students, staff, and faculty, as well as to members of the host church.

According to Kirkpatrick, both hospitals and churches have an uncommon dynamic that other facilities don’t, so learning safety preparedness is especially important for members of ADU and Florida Hospital.

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Southern Biology Students Test Black Widow Defenses

Students in all fields of study at Southern Adventist University are encouraged to engage in research projects, with tools and mentorship provided. To highlight the results of these studies, each semester Southern holds a Research Day; this spring, 493 people presented their findings.

Two biology students, David Bonney, a junior, and Isaac Delote, a senior, shared their research experiment on the defensive behavior of western black widow spiders. Their goal is to determine whether or not a spider can assess risk, as evidenced by its conservation of defensive silk during various threatening situations. This defensive silk is different from web silk; it is extremely sticky, and the spider uses it when sensing danger.

Delote developed this experiment after reading several articles about black widows written by David Nelsen, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Biology. Delote found that not many published findings exist, and

this study is the first to analyze the correlation between defensive silk and threat level.

To gather data, Delote and Bonney are using a GoPro camera to record the spiders as they react to low, medium, or high threat levels. Then they review the video frame by frame and analyze the density of the droplets of defensive silk.

Southern provided the tools needed for this project, and Nelsen, along with Aaron Corbit, Ph.D., associate biology professor, has provided advice and mentorship.

“I have always enjoyed learning new things about nature, so to actually participate in the process of discovery is exciting,” Bonney said. “Although spiders would not have been my first choice, I am passionate about working with all creatures.”

While neither student has had prior experience with spiders, they hope to find that these arachnids have a greater level of cognition than most people assume.

“I believe that if spiders are shown to have some small form of cognition, it may change the way that people look at them,” Bonney said.

As Delote explained, “Proving this would give even more evidence of our Creator.”

Bonney and Delote plan to showcase their research at the American Arachnological Society conference this summer. 📍



Professor David Nelsen points out the spider's defensive silk as he and students analyze research footage.

BY ABIGAIL KING

LEGO Robotics Competition Leaves Lasting Impression



Young onlooker Jonas Pettibone watches a LEGO robot during the Adventist Robotics League: Southern Challenge.

After months of preparation, teams of middle school students converged at Southern Adventist University for the annual Adventist Robotics League: Southern Challenge. Each team, composed of three to 10 students, had conducted sci-

entific research, while also designing, building, and programming a LEGO robot, in preparation for the event. The robot's mission: complete as many assigned tasks on a 4-by-8-foot playing field as possible.

Every spring, numerous Southern faculty, staff, students, and alumni volunteer to make this event possible for more than 250 middle school students. For some Southern students, this event has been an influential part of their lives for many years. Christina Donesky, freshman management and international business major, participated in the Southern Challenge several times as a middle school student and thoroughly enjoyed it. Donesky volunteered at this year's event to provide the students with the same amazing experience that she had.

“One of the highlights of my childhood

was competing in LEGO robotics and winning three competitions at Southern, which led to eventually competing in the nationals,” Donesky said. “Those memories are irreplaceable, and I am very proud of all that my team accomplished.”

The event encourages middle school students to think about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a practical way.

“I really like how LEGO robotics stimulates young students' minds and gets them eager to engage in learning activities that are fun and fast paced at the same time,” said Tyson Hall, Ph.D., professor in the School of Computing. “Also, this is a great way to introduce some of our brightest prospective students to Southern.” 📍

BY MICHAEL STEINKE

commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. *Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and contact information for at least three references to: Dr. Brent Hamstra, bhamstra@southern.edu* [6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeking experienced *IT professional for Systems Analyst* position. Responsibilities include, but not limited to: managing escalated support tickets, tracking backlog items related to software defects and enhancements, and capturing new IT business requirements, documenting and implementing IT projects, providing end user training, and quality assurance testing. Qualifications: bachelor degree in IT/related field with relevant work experience, or equivalent in education and work experience. Knowledge of JitBit, agile software development concepts, T-SQL, MS SQL Reporting Services; and familiarity with Ellucian products preferred. *Send resumes to sarahshelburne@southern.edu* [6]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, *go to jobs.wallawalla.edu* [6-12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a **Faculty Instructor for Aircraft Maintenance**. The aviation maintenance instructor is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing, and operating within an FAA approved part 147 maintenance school, designed to prepare students for the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) career and related aerospace and technical fields. With commitment to Christian higher education, must integrate faith and learning in the aviation maintenance program. *For more information or to apply visit: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1348* [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a **University Archivist**. This administrative staff position is responsible for the operation of the Andrews University archives program including planning, education, promotion, acquisition, processing, organization, and disposition of University records. *For more information or to apply visit: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1311* [6]

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY School of Religion is seeking a **New Testament professor** (Assistant/Associate/Full) who will excel in teaching graduate and undergraduate students, services, research, and denominational leadership. PhD or equivalent. *Please e-mail a cover letter, CV, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Larson, dlarson@llu.edu* [6]

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LITTLE CREEK SANITARIUM, a self-supporting institution located in Knoxville, TN is seeking a dedicated Christian **maintenance worker** with knowledge of the major construction trades. Plenty of opportunity to use a myriad of talents. Management experience necessary as growth opportunity is available. *Please call 865-690-6727 for an application.* [6]

OUACHITA HILLS ACADEMY AND COLLEGE is accepting applications for the following positions: **Academy Girls' Dean, College Mens' Dean, Construction Manager, Auto Maintenance Technician, Bookkeeper, and Food Service Assistant**. Our website is www.ohc.org. *Contact Magda Rodriguez at info@ohc.org or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information.* [6]

PUT YOUR PASSION FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO WORK! Captain Gilmer Christian School is seeking qualified candidates for the following position: **First Grade Teacher**. This full-time salaried position (with benefits) is responsible for creating a flexible academic program and a class environment that favors learning and personal growth for each student. The successful candidate will establish effective rapport with students and parents, motivating students to develop skills, attitudes, and knowledge to provide the foundation for future education in accordance with each student's ability. Duties will include both teaching and staff duties at Captain Gilmer Christian School. Position requires cur-

rent basic NAD teaching certification. Ready for a new opportunity? Contact the Fletcher Academy, Inc. HR Manager at 828-209-6714! [6]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [6]

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: Share your home and the love of Christ with an exchange student attending an Adventist school in Florida, Georgia or Tennessee. Enrich your entire family as you learn about a new culture. For stipend information, email adventisthostfamily@gmail.com [6]

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MISSION-MINDED FAMILIES with young children greatly needed/wanted to join ver warm, caring church in Brevard, located in Transylvania County, "Land of Waterfalls", in western North Carolina. Very little SDA presence currently in this lovely county. Seventh-day Adventist school grades 1-12 withing 20-30 minutes. [6]

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN's Pastor C.A. Murray, and friends. Two trips this fall: November 12-20, \$2995; November 19-27, \$2,995. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864. [6-9]

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! AMEN free clinic, Ukiah, California, October 17-20. Need dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, physicians, ophthalmologists/optometrists, registration, hospitality, communication, and general help. Find out more at UkiahSDA.com and click on AMEN medical clinic or call 707-695-0432. [6]

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CAROLINA

ADVENTURE CAMP - June 18-25. NPR.
JUNIOR CAMP - June 25-July 2. NPR.
SHAREHIM BOOT CAMP TRAINING - June 25. Carolina Conference Office.
HISPANIC MASTER GUIDE TRAINING CAMP OUT - July 28-30. NPR.
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY - Aug. 18-20. NPR.
PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER LEADERSHIP - Aug. 25-27. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - FLORIDA CONFERENCE.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.

June 25. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

July 9. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

July 16. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Boynton Beach, Margate. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

July 23. Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

July 30. Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

SINGLE PARENT RETREAT - Aug. 4-6. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Programming for parents and children. Details: floridaconference.com/events/single-parent-retreat-0

17TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY - Aug. 18-20. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Cost: \$10, includes three meals. Housing at Camp Kulaqua additional. Questions: (407) 644-5000 x2425. Registration for event and food: conta.cc/2qhYEQ. Registration for housing: campkulaqua.com or (386) 454-1351.

CAMP KULAQUA FAMILY CAMP 2017 - Sept. 1-4. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Rates vary based on accommodation choice. campkulaqua.com/kulaqua-s-summer-camp/year-round-programs/family-camp

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP TRAINING - June 1-10. Crandall, GA.

OLDE TIME CAMP MEETING - JUNE 8-10. SPEAKER: DOUG JACOBS, PROFESSOR OF MINISTRY AND HOMILETICS AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY. MEISTER MEMORIAL CHURCH, DEER LODGE, TN.

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMPS June 11-18. Junior Camp I (ages 10-12), Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17), and Fit for Life I (ages 10-13). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

June 18-25. Junior Camp II (ages 10-12), Paintball Camp II (ages 13-17), and SIT Camp (ages 15+). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

June 25-30. Adventure Camp (ages 7-9). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

June 25-July 2. RAD Horse Trip (ages 13-17), Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17) Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17), CIT (Counselor in Training) Camp (ages 15+), and Fit for Life II (age 13-17). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

July 2-9. Teen Camp I (ages 13-17), Rock Solid Teen I (ages 16-18), Basketball Camp (ages 13-17), Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17), Gym Masters Camp (ages 13-17), and Gym Masters Day Camp July 3-7 (ages 7-17). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

July 9-16. Teen Camp II (ages 13-17), Rock Solid Teen II (ages 16-18), Golf Camp (ages 13-17), and Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

MONGOLIAN PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - July 9-20. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

WILL CLINIC WITH JEFF WILSON - July 15-16. Dayton Ogden Road Church, Dayton, TN.

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP - July 18-23. Family Camp (all ages). Register online at www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

Some events require pre-registration; details at registration.gccsda.com.

GULF STATES

REFORMATION TOUR - June 6-18.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP - July 15-30.

TREASURER TRAINING - July 23.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING - June 9, 10. Highland Academy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - June 20. Conference Office

CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE - June 25. TBA.

PASTORS' RETREAT - July 30-Aug. 2. Indian Creek Camp.

50+ CAMP - Aug. 8-Aug. 13. Indian Creek Camp.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER LEADERSHIP WEEKEND - Aug. 25-27. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS - June 5-7. Southern is hosting camps for high school students in chemistry, computing, creative writing, filmmaking, physics/engineering, Civil War history, graphic design/printmaking, social work/missions, photography, and an honors institute. Registration is \$150 for commuter students (\$200 if housing is needed). For more information or to register, visit southern.edu/camps or call 423-236-2781.

SUMMER SALT INTENSIVE - July 12-16. Designed for busy people looking for intense evangelism training in a short period of time, Summer SALT covers the basics of personal and public evangelism, the evangelism cycle, and tools for outreach in your local church and community. Families are welcome for this one-week intensive, coordinated in

partnership with It Is Written. For more information, visit southern.edu/salt.

SMARTSTART BEGINS - July 24. New students at Southern can earn three credit hours for free during the summer (a savings of more than \$1,950). To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING WHITECOAT MOVIE SCREENINGS - June 1. Visit <http://operationwhitecoatmove.com> for other screening locations.

“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>.

IT IS WRITTEN GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY - July 10. Collegedale, TN. Call 800-479-9056 for more information.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 6-8. FA Campus. Please update your contact information at agibbs@fletcheracademy.com, 828-209-6704. This weekend will honor the class years ending in 2's and 7's. The Class of 1967 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy gymnasts and Acroknights. Details at www.fletcheracademy.com.

CHATTANOOGA FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 6, 7. At the church at 7450 Standifer Gap Road, Chattanooga, TN. The celebration includes: Nostalgic Friday evening Vespers with It Is Written associate speaker, Eric Flickinger; Sabbath School program with an interactive lesson study by Pastor Fred Fuller; inspirational worship service with a message by Pastor Roy Caughron; fellowship luncheon; and a special Sabbath afternoon program. Past students from the old church school, come and reconnect with classmates. Former members and friends, please join us for a memorable celebration of 100 years in service to

God and the community. For further information call 423-400-6485.

ROSSVILLE (FORMALLY WALLACEVILLE) CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 7. This will be a homecoming celebration. John Strickland will be the speaker. Sabbath School begins at 9:30 a.m., with the worship service at 11:30 a.m., and a fellowship luncheon to follow. There will also be a program of music and reminiscing in the afternoon. For additional information, call 706-866-8214. Church address: 2524 North Highway 341, Rossville, GA 30741.

COVINGTON, KENTUCKY, CHURCH SCHOOL/TAYLOR MILL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 100TH ANNIVERSARY - 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 tmacademy.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.

GYC 2017 - ARISE: Dec. 27-31. Join thousands of young people from around the world at GYC Phoenix, as we spend four days looking at God's glorious vision for His people at the end of time from Isaiah 60. Engage in Bible study, prayer, witnessing, fellowship, seminars, and sermons. Visit www.gycweb.org for details and registration.

SUNSET

	JUN 9	JUN 16	JUN 23	JUN 30	JUL 7	JUL 14
ATLANTA, GA	8:47	8:50	8:52	8:52	8:51	8:49
CHARLESTON, SC	8:27	8:30	8:31	8:32	8:31	8:29
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:37	8:40	8:42	8:42	8:41	8:39
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:55	8:57	8:59	8:59	8:58	8:56
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:59	8:02	8:03	8:04	8:03	8:00
JACKSON, MS	8:07	8:09	8:11	8:12	8:11	8:09
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:06	9:09	9:10	9:10	9:09	9:06
MEMPHIS, TN	8:14	8:17	8:18	8:19	8:18	8:15
MIAMI, FL	8:12	8:14	8:16	8:16	8:16	8:15
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:51	7:54	7:56	7:56	7:55	7:53
NASHVILLE, TN	8:04	8:06	8:08	8:08	8:07	8:05
ORLANDO, FL	8:23	8:25	8:27	8:27	8:27	8:25
TAMPA, FL	8:25	8:27	8:29	8:30	8:29	8:28
WILMINGTON, NC	8:23	8:26	8:27	8:28	8:27	8:24

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